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MINISTRY AREA

District of Gelligaer Magazine:

Churches of
St. Catwg's, Gelligaer
St. Margaret's, Gilfach

*A welcoming Christian
community serving the people
of the District of Gelligaer.*



TRINITY

What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Mothers' Union.

Books of the Bible.

For the Children!

and More.....



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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

The summer is certainly moving on and I hope that you are able to enjoy some relaxation, enjoying the lovely weather. If you are going away I hope you have wonderfully relaxing time.



We are also now well into the Trinity Season. The focus of our worship has changed. From Advent to Pentecost the focus of our worship were the events of Jesus life from his birth to his death, resurrection and ascension. Now our focus is on his teachings and how they impact upon our lives. We reflect on his teachings, his words, which reveal how he should live if we are to be faithful disciples. By listening and taking his words to heart, by allowing Jesus by his words to mould us, by learning to see the world through his eyes we will move closer to receiving his promise of life in all its abundance both in this world and the next. Jesus calls on us to work with him – he is the tree, we the branches. Through us, his Body in the world, Jesus seeks to reach out in love to all who are in need, all who are sick, lonely, anxious or afraid. We ask and expect so much of Jesus but so often we risk frustrating his work by shutting him out of our own hearts, by not showing his love to others in our own words and actions. The readings throughout the Trinity Season give us an opportunity to reflect not only on the teachings of Jesus but also upon our own words and actions and to look honestly

at how close our words and actions actually align with and reflect his teachings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are ill or in need and especially those for whom we pray each week in our churches. Please keep Fr Gareth and his family in your prayers as he continues to recover from his cornea implant operation. The operation went well and we pray that he will be back among us soon. If there is anything that we can do for you or for someone you know please do not hesitate to ask.

I keep you all in my prayers.

**Every blessing from your friend and Priest,
Fr Gary.**

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A Prayer for August.

Lord, in a year of changes in our country and in the world, we thank You for the regular rhythm of each year.

We thank You for August, the month of holidays and rest for many, especially for families and those tied to termly timetables. We pray for Your blessing and restoration for all. As we take time out of normal routines, help us to still make space for You; to be refreshed spiritually as well as physically.

Feed us, Lord, by Your Word; revive us by Your Holy Spirit; encourage us by Your indwelling presence, so that we might naturally reflect Your love to all we meet, on holiday or at home or at work.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching.

Reader Writes.

I think it would ne fair to say that everyone has a favourite hymn or favourite hymns. One hymn that always appears in my list of favourites is Be Still for the Presence of the Lord but what do we learn from this hymn.



This hymn could be described as a proclamation that God will prevail over all forces that oppose both Him and us and also as a celebration of knowing that being in God's presence is a way of knowing that we are safe.

The presence of the Lord means that as God is omnipresent – he is always there and his Holy Spirit lives in believers at all times while God's manifest presence refers to something that occurs in our lives as he chooses to reveal himself.

One question we could ask ourselves is, how can we be still in the presence of the Lord?

We could begin with a few minutes of praise and prayer – perhaps reciting verses of God's goodness and fix our mind on God. Another idea is to meditate of a passage of scripture or recite a prayer of stillness.

In this busy world, there are very few times when we get to experience stillness and peace but it is important to remember that the goal is to allow the peace of God to rule both our hearts and minds by submitting all that we are to him and allowing his stillness to refresh our souls.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Ruth chapters 1 and 2

When famine came to Bethlehem, Elimelech took his family to the nearby country of Moab. The two sons married local girls.

But Elimelech and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah and Ruth as widows.



Naomi told her daughters-in-law she was returning to Bethlehem.

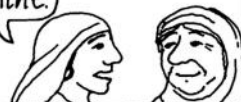


Go back to your parents' homes.

The girls cried, and Orpah left, but Ruth stayed.



I will stay with you. Your people and your God will be mine.



So Naomi and Ruth went back to Bethlehem.

Call me 'Mara' not 'Naomi' because God has made my life bitter.



*'Naomi' means 'Pleasant' 'Mara' means 'Bitter'

It was the start of the barley harvest. Poor people were allowed to glean - to pick up the ears of grain that had been dropped. Ruth went out to glean.



She picked a field, asked if she could glean, then worked hard



The field's owner, Boaz, arrived.

Who's that girl?



That's Ruth, who came from Moab with Naomi.



Boaz told Ruth she was welcome to work in his fields.

He told her to join his workers at lunch-time, and made sure she had more than enough to eat.



Ruth worked hard and took home a huge bag of grain.

I worked in Boaz's field.



He is a near relative!

Ruth worked all through the barley and wheat harvests in Boaz's fields.



St Joseph of Arimathea, the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries.

Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark’s gospel describes him as having been ‘waiting for the kingdom of God’ for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion.

When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone – Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind.

Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history – and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff.

The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn’t stay very long!

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Getting ready

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. “Why does she do that?” whispered one. “I expect she’s studying for her final exams,” came the reply.

Fairtrade Foundation calls for tea-drinkers to ‘brew it fair’

Tea-drinkers in the UK are being asked to help change the “woefully inadequate” wages and working conditions of the estate workers on tea plantations around the world.

The Fairtrade Foundation’s new ‘Brew It Fair’ campaign is based on the findings of a report which sets out just how many workers on tea plantations live in “chronic poverty”.

Much of the world’s tea is auctioned, which means that a few very large buyers end up able to dictate the prices of how much they will pay for it. This has a brutal impact on the workers: a recent survey of 260 tea-growers and pickers in Kenya found that only one in five earn enough to feed and support their families and then also send their children to school.

The report says: “As tea drinkers, we are now used to paying very little for, and putting little value on, our cup of tea.” But for the growers and pickers of tea, the “high levels of unstable work, low incomes and wages, gender discrimination and unsafe working conditions” continue.

Fairtrade calls on the UK Government to introduce a new law on human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD). This should be “centred on the needs of farmers and workers, with a focus on supporting living incomes and living wages...”

The report also urges UK tea-drinkers to buy Fairtrade tea, highlighting the Co-op, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury’s, and Waitrose as key supporters. The UK accounts for 61 per cent of all the Fairtrade tea sold in the world.

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Thomas More, Reformation martyr



These days, lawyers and politicians are held in the lowest esteem by the public, along with tabloid journalists and estate agents. St Thomas More was both a lawyer and politician, who is today much admired for holding steadfastly to his faith-based principles. He lived in dangerous times, when anyone, even queens, who

displeased King Henry VIII could find themselves in a condemned cell in The Tower of London.

Sir Thomas More held the office of Lord High Chancellor and at one time was the king's most trusted adviser. But when King Henry took personal control of the Church in England in order to divorce his first wife, More courageously opposed him.

Thomas More was a social philosopher and the author of 'Utopia'. This book described an imaginary republic governed by an educated elite who employed reason rather than self-interest for the general good of everyone. He was himself one of the pre-eminent scholars of his age. As a Christian theologian he supported orthodox doctrine, vigorously opposed heresy and argued strongly against the new Protestant ideas taking hold in Europe. Although holding the highest political and legal office he was far from being a pragmatic politician and opportunist lawyer. In every matter he was a man who held firmly to what he believed was right in God's eyes.

When Thomas More fell from favour with the king, as a result of his unflinching views, he was falsely accused of taking bribes. When this charge failed, his enemies accused him of supporting a celebrated seer of the times who was strongly critical of the king. This too failed. He was then required to swear to the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Henry's position as head of the Church of England. This he could not do in conscience. He was put on trial and condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered for his treason, a punishment later changed to beheading. He died in 1535 and on the scaffold his final words were 'I die the King's good servant, but God's first.' He has been officially declared a martyr saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

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Life choice

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

Notices!

100 Club Winners!

May 2025

Date:	No:	Winner	Church
6th	3	Rhian Williams	St. Margaret's
13th	67	Ali Shone	St. Margaret's
20th	75	Linda Bartlett	St. Margaret's
27th	89	Corinne James	St. Margaret's

Y CYMUN BENDIGAID - EUCHARIST IN WELSH

*Y Cymun Bendigaid / Welsh Eucharist
Gwasanaeth 11.00am 6 Medi 2025
Service 11.00am 6 September 2025
Eglwys S. Catwg's Church
Gelligaer*

Everyone is welcome to come along!!

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Celebration Praise

*A service of praise and thanksgiving for 30 years of ordained ministry
for
Fr Gary Powell
The Revd Judy Ford
Will be held in S. Catwg's Church
At 4.00pm on Sunday 21 September
Followed by refreshments in the Hall.
Everyone is welcome*

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2025 Glastonbury Pilgrimage –

This year we are arranging a Ministry Area Pilgrimage to Glastonbury which will be held on Saturday 6th September. The schedule for the day is as follows:-

12.00 noon:

Solemn Concelebrated Mass sung in the Nave of the Abbey Church. For 30 minutes after Mass there will be stations for the Sacrament of Anointing, and confessions will be heard in a suitable location. Locations will be announced on the day.

Lunch

3.00 pm

Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Abbey for Solemn Benediction in the Nave of the Abbey Church

If you are interested in attending, please add your name to the contact list in each of our Churches, or contact Carolyn on 07983 677360. Further information/details (i.e. Cost, timings etc) will be given near the date.

100 Club Winners!

June 2025

Date:	No:	Winner	Church
1st	56	Kath Llewellyn	St. Margaret's
8th	57	Pauline Emery	St. Margaret's
15th	69	Hilda Shorey	St. Margaret's
22nd	92	Sharon Porter	St. Catwg's
29th	102	Deilwen Arthur	St. Catwg's

Fish and chips

Some tourists touring South Wales stopped to visit a Priory. The Prior gave them a tour of the buildings, ending in the kitchen, where one monk was making fish and chips. One tourist said brightly: "You must be the fish friar," to which the monk gravely replied, "No, I am the chip monk."

God in the Arts

This year the Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist. '

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: John Martin’s ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau’

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all - to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore and visit new places. It might be the wild splendour of the Northumberland coast or the serenity of the Italian lakes, the vastness of the Grand Canyon or the magnificence of the Lake District.



This month’s artist had a gift for creating paintings that expressed this epic quality of landscapes. John Martin was born in 1789, and as an artist was drawn to religious and historical scenes on the grand scale. He illustrated the Bible and Milton, and his final works were on the theme of the Last Judgement. These are in the Tate Gallery in London, but for this July we visit the Art Gallery in Birmingham with its amazing collection of over half a million items, including many Pre-Raphaelite treasures. The entrance to this Victorian building is beneath the clock tower known as Old Brum.

The Art Gallery is home to John Martin’s watercolour of 1837, ‘Manfred on the Jungfrau.’ It is a large work, almost 5 feet by 3 feet, capturing the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau. Now a railway takes tourists to the summit in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. In the 19th century climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices. John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two characters: Manfred, tortured by guilt and about to throw himself off the edge, and the mysterious hunter who leads him to safety.

Byron’s poem ‘Manfred’ inspired the music of Tchaikovsky and Schumann, as it inspired John Martin. They were each attracted by the romanticism of man and nature in the poem. Like Manfred and the hunter in the watercolour, we look at this grace and nobility and feel humble and insignificant. Byron wrote:

'How beautiful is all this visible world!

How glorious in its action and itself!'

Manfred seeks redemption, but, sadly, finds only the solace of death. As we look at this painting, we see reflections of the landscapes we shall visit on our holidays. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Bernese Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

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God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wonder and Worship:

Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest

It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.



I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for - thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of Creation?

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With Sea Sunday in mind, and also people's pending holidays on water this summer, this seemed a good hymn to offer for July... we have run all the original verses of the hymn, but of course you can cut the length to whatever suits you best.

The story behind the hymn: Eternal Father Strong to Save

*Eternal Father, strong to save
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

The author of these words, William Whiting, was an Anglican clergyman in Winchester, which is hardly a seaside town. Yet Whiting had not only grown up by the sea, but had nearly died in it. As a young man he had been on a ship that got caught in a violent storm, and afterwards he felt certain it was only God who had saved the ship from sinking that night.

Some years later, as headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School, Whiting was approached by a student in distress. The student was due to sail to the USA and was simply terrified at the thought of 3,000 miles of ocean. To try and reassure the student, Whiting decided to share his experience. And so, he wrote this poem, basing the description of the power and fury of the sea on Psalm 107.

It is not known if it helped the nervous student or not, but within a year the poem had become a hymn, and soon sailed into the influential first edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern of 1861.

Another Anglican clergyman, John B Dykes, wrote the music for it. He was already a successful composer, with 300 hymns to his name. Dykes named this tune 'Melita', after an old name for Malta, where St Paul was once shipwrecked. Whiting released two more versions of the lyrics, in 1869 and in 1874.

During the rest of the 19th century the hymn became a favourite with the Royal Navy and the United States Navy. Other Services adapted it, including the Royal Marines, the Royal Air Force, the British Army, and the United States Coast Guard. Above all, it became known as the Royal Navy Hymn.

Well into the 20th century, it was the favourite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had served as Secretary of the Navy during the Second World War. In 1963 Eternal Father was played by the Navy Band, as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state. (Kennedy had been a PT boat commander in World War II.)

More recently, Eternal Father made a 'guest appearance' in the Hollywood blockbuster Titanic, and is also often chosen by ship's chaplains for use in civilian services at sea.

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Mothers' Union



I have heard from Jean Stark that she will be coming to our meeting in September to officially close our branch. I don't think it is a long ceremony but would like as many members as possible to be there.

We had a friend of Linda Trollope come to speak to us in July. Although there were only 12 of us there it was an entertaining evening. Her name is Jacky and she talked about growing up in Liverpool, in an unhappy home environment. Her memories of her childhood resonated with a lot of us who are probably of the same age group – though not the unhappiness and violence in her home. She talked of her older sister who got married at 17 and who had been her protector all her childhood. She is still very close to her. Jacky contracted TB when she was an infant, caught from her father, and she spent a long time in hospital recovering. When she started school she was not allowed to play with the Catholic children, and because of her illness had been prevented from making friends, so it was a very lonely time.

Jacky left home and joined the Navy, where she met her husband who was from Cardiff. When they got married and left the Navy she came to live here. I have asked her to come back when she has time to talk about her time in the Navy. Jacky was very nervous to start but thanked us for a lovely warm reception. She had lots of photos of Liverpool, then and now, and lots of our members knew the city very well. Jacky's father had been a stonemason when building the cathedral and her knowledge of both cathedrals in Liverpool was excellent as was her experience of the Adelphi hotel.

We are continuing with our meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, coffee morning on the second Tuesday and the quiz afternoon on the fourth Tuesday. Everyone is very welcome at any of these. We are considering a VJ Day celebration in August, similar to our VE Day one and we will let everyone know when and what time as soon as it is decided.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Jenn who has been in hospital, and another knee operation performed. Hope you will soon be back with us. We still remember Marion and Dorothea in our prayers. Thanks to everyone who came to hear Jacky and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

God Bless **Kath**

The ‘father’ of modern British policing

It was 175 years ago, on 2nd July 1850, that Robert Peel, who was Prime Minister from 1834 to 35 and from 1841 to 46, died. He founded the Metropolitan Police Service and is seen as the father of modern British policing.

Peel, born in Bury, was one of 11 children of the first Sir Robert Peel, who as well as being a textile manufacturer was also an MP and moved his family down to London. He had his son educated at Harrow and Oxford, where he got a double first; he then entered Parliament and married Julia Floyd: they had seven children.

Home Secretary twice in the 1820s, Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829, reforming criminal law to emphasise rehabilitation and creating a new kind of police officer, nicknamed a ‘bobby’ or a ‘peeler’ for obvious reasons.

A committed Christian and member of the Church of England, Peel became involved with the dispute about employment of Roman Catholics (and non-conformists) in public office – initially supporting the status quo but later changing his views and backing legislation such as the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, partly in order to avoid what he called “civil strife”.

He is also known for – in 1846 – repealing the Corn Laws, which had imposed high tariffs on imported grain; and for being one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party. He held old-fashioned views, however, on the function of ministers of the crown, who he regarded as primarily servants of the state.

Peel was an outstanding debater, but rather shy and could be autocratic, which may have been why Queen Victoria allegedly found him difficult. Having survived a failed assassination attempt by a paranoid stalker in 1843 (his personal secretary was killed by mistake), Peel died at the age of 62 after injuring himself when falling from his horse.



District of Gelligaer Website

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<https://www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk>

Looking at God.

Praying With the Prayers of the Bible: the Prayer of National Confession

Daniel 9:5, 'We have sinned and done wrong ... turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.'

In this chapter the prophet Daniel, an exile in Babylon, prays one of the Bible's truly great prayers of national repentance.

Knowing that Judah and Jerusalem had fallen to the enemy and that 70 years of exile lay ahead (v.2), Daniel set himself to seek God on behalf of his own people. With fasting and sackcloth and ashes (v.3) he turned to God in fervent prayer. Our nation, wherever we live, is in need of intercessors like Daniel. His praying has much to teach us.

For Daniel, prayer was a daily habit. Earlier, in chapter six, we read the well-known story of how he was thrown into the lions' den. This happened because nothing could stop him having his daily devotions! When King Darius decreed that no one in the land should pray to any god except him for 30 days, Daniel ignored the order. As he had always done, he opened his window facing Jerusalem and prayed three times every day. For this disobedience he was sent to the lions' den. So here in chapter 9 the great prayer of national intercession is prayed by a man whose prayer life is sustained by daily devotion.

We also see that Daniel knew the character of his God. He is great and awesome, keeping covenant and steadfast love (v.4). To him belongs righteousness, mercy and forgiveness (vv.7, 9); He confirms His word (v.12) and He is the Lord who brought His people out of Egyptian slavery (v.15). Across the years, even in exile, Daniel's consistent prayer life has revealed to him Who God is. With this confession of His glory and majesty and power is the glad acknowledgement of a personal God. Note 'the Lord my God' (v.4); five times 'the Lord our God' (vv. 9, 10, 13, 14, 15,); 'my God' (v.19).

Daniel's knowledge of the one, true God is matched by his love of God's people, his own nation. He identifies himself with his people, facing national judgement because they have forsaken the Lord. 'We have sinned and done wrong' (v.5). 'We have not listened to Thy servants the prophets' (v. 6). 'To us, O Lord, belongs confusion of face'(v.8). 'We do not present our supplications before Thee on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of Thy great mercy' (v.18). Daniel makes himself confessor and spokesman and intercessor for his whole nation.

It is not surprising that this great prayer of intercession, grounding its confidence in God, received a speedy answer. Even while Daniel

prayed, the angel Gabriel was sent to him with a message from God (vv.20-23). What an encouragement for all of us to become Intercessors for the nation!

The Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle, is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester

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Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible, which will run until the end of 2025.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Romans

‘Paul’s letter to Rome is the high peak of Scripture...all roads in the Bible led to Romans, and all views afforded by the Bible are seen most clearly from Romans’ (J I Packer)

Paul probably wrote his letter to the Christians in Rome around AD 57 at Corinth, on his third missionary journey. The original recipients of the letter were predominantly Gentile, although Jews would have constituted a substantial minority of the congregation.

Paul set out to explain the relationship between Jew and Gentile in God’s plan of salvation, as the Jewish Christians were being rejected by the larger Gentile group in the church. Paul begins by showing that both Jews and Gentiles are sinners in need of salvation. He shows how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus eternally affects both world history and every person.

This salvation, secured by Jesus, must be received by faith, as the example of Abraham shows. As salvation is not just about starting the Christian journey, Paul goes on to show how believers are freed from sin, law and death. This is made possible both through their union with Christ in His death and resurrection and by the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The theme of the book centres on the Gospel of Christ, which brings us into a right standing with God through faith:

‘I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."' (Rom. 1:16,17).

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

Services and Holy Days

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:

St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.

St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Services and Holy Days</i>
3rd July	* Thomas, Apostle
6th July	THE THIRD SUNDAY after TRINITY
13th July	THE FOURTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
20th July	THE FIFTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
22nd July	* Mary Magdalene
25th July	* James, Apostle
27th July	THE SIXTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
	* <i>Saints Days</i>

Prayer for July 2025

Lord, in this month, we, your church, remember Thomas. Thomas, who asked questions and doubted when he didn't see You with his own eyes. And Lord, You walked through those locked doors of his questions and doubts specifically to meet his needs.

Help us to come to you, honestly, with our questions and doubts, knowing that You understand and will meet our needs too. Help us to recognize You with eyes of faith – the only One who can help us.

May we declare, with Thomas, in humility, devotion and thankfulness, 'My Lord and my God!'. We pray in your powerful name, Lord Jesus.

BRINGING FAITH TO YOUR INBOX

Sign up to Llandaff Matters and receive inspirational stories of faith in action from across the diocese. Use the following link:

<https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/>

then sign up to the mailing list, found half way down the page.

Sudoku Challenge

						3		
4					9			1
7			2				5	
				2		8	4	
	4		3		6		1	
	7	6		5				
	6				7			3
3			5					2
		5						

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Solution can be found on page 39

Quotes for July 2025

Some thought on 'living well' in difficult times...

There is a way of winning by losing, a way of victory in defeat, which we are going to discover. – **Laurens van der Post**

Thou, O God, dost sell us all good things at the price of labour. – **Leonardo da Vinci**

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. – **2 Timothy 4:7**

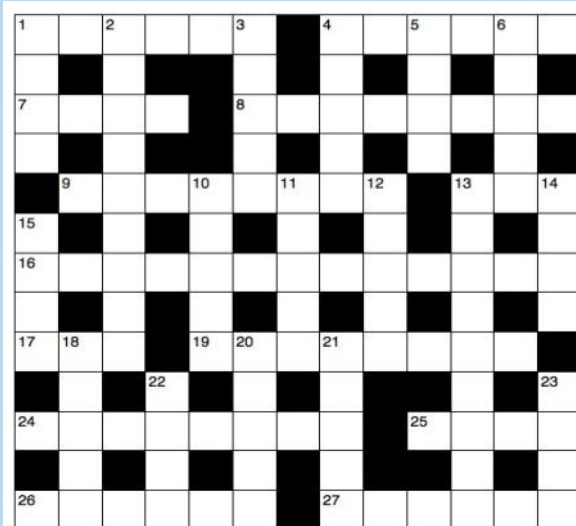
Make the least ado about your greatest gifts. Be content to act, and leave the talking to others. – **Baltasar Gracian**

The quality of life is determined by its activities. – **Aristotle**

No great achievement is possible without persistent work. – **Bertrand Russell**

Shattered dreams are a hallmark of our mortal life. – **Martin Luther King**

July's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
- 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
- 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm 103:1) (4)
- 8 See 5 Down
- 9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)
- 13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)
- 16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)
- 17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)
- 19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)
- 24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)
- 25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)
- 26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)
- 27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across
The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus:
'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me" (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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September's Magazine 2025

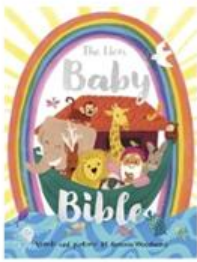
Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 25th August, for inclusion in the September's edition.

Many Thanks Chris (email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com)

Book Reviews

The Lion Baby Bible

By Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £11.99



This beautifully illustrated first children's Bible for the very young (0 to 2-year-olds) would make the ideal gift for a newborn baby as a Christening, Dedication, or Baptism present.

The Lion Baby Bible includes 45 stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each story is simply and beautifully retold in a very few words, with a biblical truth about God's love for the world and our special relationship as His children.

This book will help you to share precious moments with your young child, as you enjoy showing them the illustrations, and introducing key events, people, and Jesus' teaching from the Bible.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

All Shall Be Well:

Visions of Salvation with Julian of Norwich

By Emma Pennington, BRF, £12.99

How can all be well in the world in which we live? What does 'All shall be well' mean when all is not well? Through revelations 10 to 16 of her Revelations of Divine Love, Julian of Norwich returns time and again to the idea that 'all is well'.

In her latest book Emma Pennington examines this popular mantra and explores what Julian really means by it, bringing depth and relevance to these words for the reader who lives in an age of pandemic, war and climate crisis which closely echoes Julian's own.

Through deep engagement with Julian's visions, we are encouraged to reflect in prayer and devotion on our own personal relationship with God.



Church Reading / Cleaning Rotas

If anyone wishes to be on either the readers rota for either church, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant church wardens.

St. Catwg's Readers Rota

July 2025		August 2025		September 2025	
6 th	Janeve Manca	3 rd	Cheryl Pugh	7 th	Janeve Manca
13 th	Christine Harvey	10 th	Janeve Manca	14 th	Christine Harvey
20 th	Pat Davies	17 th	Christine Harvey	21 st	Pat Davies
27 th	Paul Thomas	24 th	Pat Davies	28 th	Paul Thomas
		31 st	Paul Thomas		

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

July 2025		August 2025		September 2025	
6 th	June Phillips	3 rd	Kath Llewellyn	7 th	June Phillips
13 th	Lynne Thomas	10 th	Audrey Powell	14 th	Huw Thomas
20 th	Neil Hazell	17 th	Chris Ball	21 st	Jenn East
27 th	Alex Ball	24 th	Christine Thorpe	28 th	Jennette Jones
		31 st	Enid Mayne		

Should you wish to be on the St. Margaret's cleaning rota please contact the relevant Church Wardens.

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

July 2025			August 2025			September 2025		
6	Jennette	Audrey	3	Jennette	Audrey	7	Kath	June
13	Kath	June	10	Kath	June	14	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
20	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	17	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	21	Lynda Trollope	Enid
27	Lynda Trollope	Enid	24	Lynda Trollope	Enid	28	Jennette	Audrey
			31	Jennette	Audrey			

For the Younger Generation.

The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!



"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"

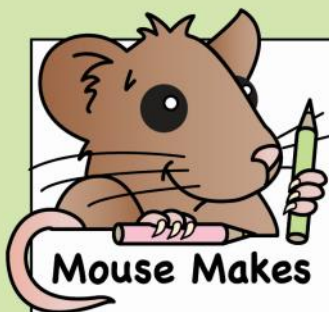


"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"

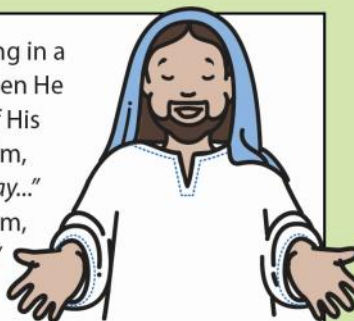


"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...' And He said to them, 'When you pray, say....'"



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen



D T E O P R G O D
F E E B R E A D I
O M G T O P P G S
R P W R T E O L C
G T L E E N W O I
I A O S C T E R P
V T R P T A R Y L
E I D A I N A M E
N O S S O C D A S
E N P S N E V F W
S K P E V I L A I
S I R S I N S T L
Y N A E A R T H L
G Y H E A V E N
I D E L I V E R E
F O R G I V E V E
A M E N W O R L D
I L F L J E S U S



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE

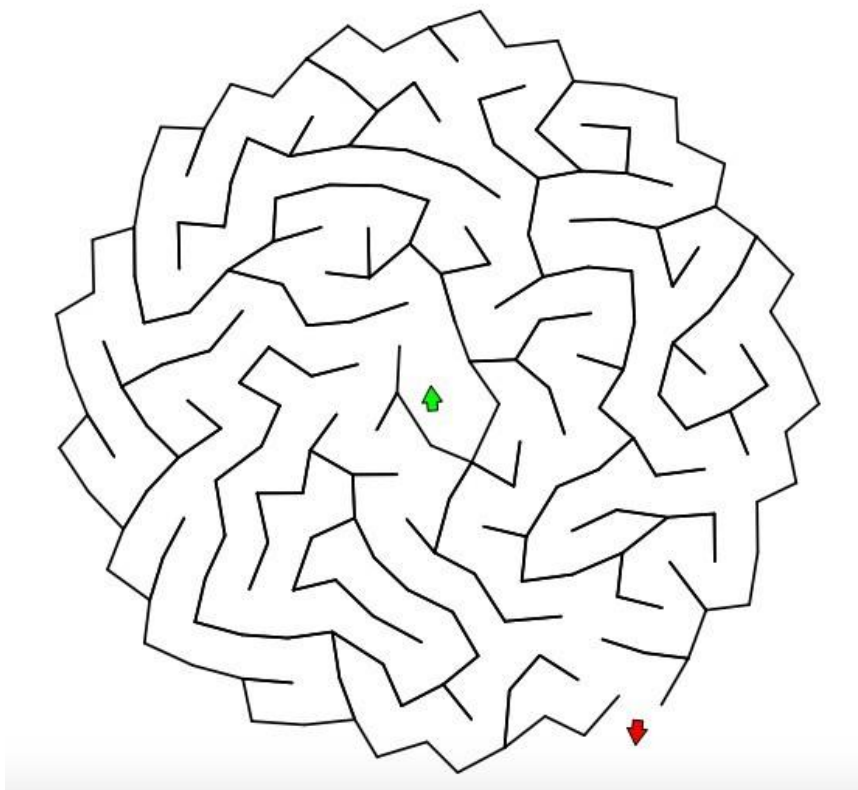
The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



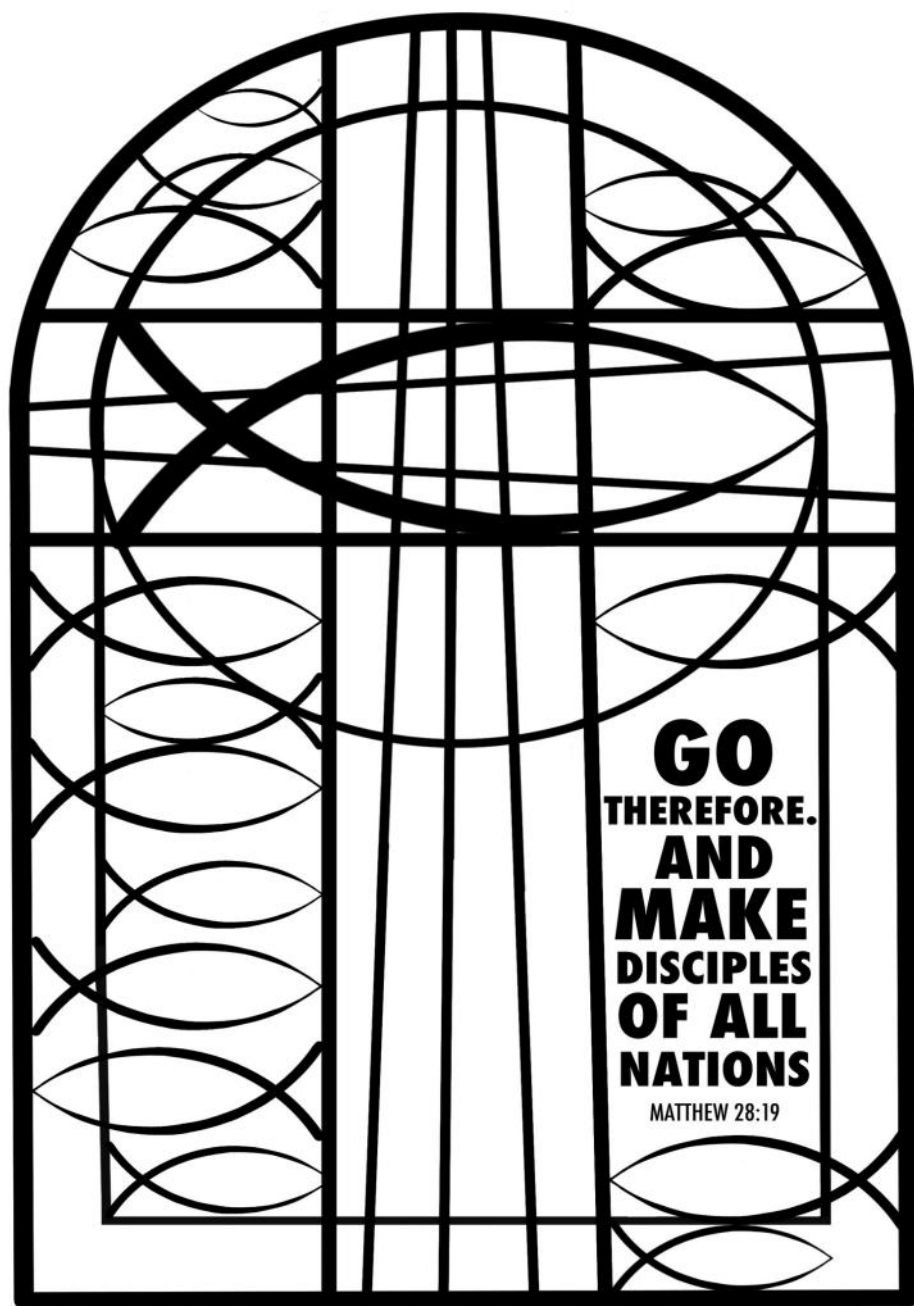
Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



Complete the Maze!



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

June 2025

10th

Ann Ellis RIP

11th

Linda Williams RIP

14th

Gethin Vaughan Jones RIP

July 2025

29th

Kevin Waters RIP

***May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.***





Gone yet not forgotten,
Although we are apart,
Your spirit lives within me,
Forever in my heart.
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Author Unknown

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Prayers for the Bereaved

*May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.*

*May Almighty God bless you, and look after you at this
difficult time. **Amen.***

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

*Lord, in our time of grief we turn to you. God of love
hear our cries. Listen to our prayers for whom
you have called out of this world. Lead them to
your kingdom of light and peace. **Amen.***

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Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



Christine Harvey 01443 833123 / Booking Secretary.
Facebook Page: <https://facebook.com/Neuadd St Catwg Community Hall>

Service Times

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:

*St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am and
St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am.*

Both of our Churches have a friendly and welcoming atmosphere where you can worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Everybody is welcome to attend any of our services listed below. If it is your first visit to the Parish and you are new to our Church please do not hesitate to make yourself known to us.

SUNDAY

9.30 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church

1st Sunday of each Month - Family Services

11.00 am. Sung Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

WEDNESDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church,
followed by Tea and Coffee

THURSDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Catwg's Church

General Disclaimer

The appearance of comments, articles, advertisements, hyperlinks, or statements made within our District magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the District of Gelligaer Wardens and Committee. While we aim to include accurate and up-to-date information at the time of publication, we make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy. We therefore assume no liability or responsibility for any error or omission in the content.

Directory of Contacts

Should you wish to contact a specific group that meets in our churches, please use the relevant telephone number from the list below.

Thank You!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Family History Research: Carolyn Corbin Tel: 07983677360
Email: carolyncorbin63@aol.com

Mothers' Union:

Branch Leader Kath Llewellyn. Tel: 01443 829658
Branch Secretary
Branch Treasurer June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Community Dance Group: June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Flower Arranging Group: Nesta Williams. Tel: 01443 831009

Arts and Crafts Group: June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall: Christine Harvey. Tel: 01443 833123
(Bookings and Enquiries)

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Solutions to this month's puzzles.

6	2	8	1	4	5	3	9	7
4	5	3	8	7	9	6	2	1
7	9	1	2	6	3	4	5	8
5	3	9	7	2	1	8	4	6
8	4	2	3	9	6	7	1	5
1	7	6	4	5	8	2	3	9
2	6	4	9	1	7	5	8	3
3	1	7	5	8	4	9	6	2
9	8	5	6	3	2	1	7	4

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

R	I	C	H	E	S		A	B	N	E	R	S
E		O			A		R	O		O		
S	O	U	L		D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S
T		R		H	H	E		N				
	S	T	A	T	U	T	E	S		A	D	D
E	Y		U	I		E		S		I		
C	R	A	F	T	S	M	A	N	S	H	I	P
H		R	O		I		S	B				
O	L	D		R	E	D	E	E	M	E	R	
	H		F		X		R			L		M
W	A	L	L	S	A	R	E		W	I	S	E
S		O		C		C		T	E		D	
T	A	R	G	E	T		T	H	I	E		

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22

*This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area,
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