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MINISTRY AREA

District of Gelligaer Magazine:

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

*We are a welcoming Christian
community serving the people of
the District of Gelligaer.*

The Season of TRINITY

What's in this edition!

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Reader Writes.

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Friends of Gilfach

Books of the Bible.

For the Children!



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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

If you are a sports lover then this summer will be one to savour. There is a feast of sport to enjoy from the FIFA world Cup to the Rugby Nations Cup, Wimbledon and the Commonwealth Games. If you are not particularly a sports love (like me), my condolences, we can look forward to the autumn. However, even I can see some welcome signs of hope in the various sporting competitions currently taking place. In a world which seems to be becoming more and more divided it is good to see that through sport nations can still come together friendly rivalry. It is good to see the power of sport to bring nations together at work.



As we travel forward through the Trinity Season, we can take inspiration from the example set before us by the incredible athletes we see. They have trained long and hard to reach the top of their sports who relish in the opportunity to represent their countries on the world stage. As Christians the Season of Trinity is a season of training for us. Throughout the Trinity Season we are called to reflect on how we live our lives. In our interactions with others do we always reflect the teachings, the love of Jesus, in our own

words and actions? The season of Trinity gives us an opportunity to practice the art of love and charity in our dealings with others, to encourage the fruits of the Spirit, love, peace, gentleness, and generosity to grow within us. For just as the various sportsmen and women we will watch this summer relish the opportunities given to them to represent their countries we should relish the opportunity to represent the Kingdom of God to the world around us whenever the opportunity presents itself.

I keep you all in my prayers.

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

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Trinity, the unity of Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit as three persons in one God.

Reader Writes.

In June's Reader Writes I mentioned the book "The Burnout" by Sophie Kinsella and how the main character Sasha was so fed up of chasing work emails, attending meetings and other work-related issues that she decided to leave the company. Following on Sasha travels to a hotel at the seaside that she visited as a child with her family. As she is on a type of retreat, she meets someone who is also taking time out from work and through their conversations they are able to help each other. Later in the book, her previous boss tracks her down and asks why she left as he valued her as an employee but was not aware of what had been happening in the department in which she was employed. After writing twelve pages of why she was unhappy and the various incidents that happened, he asks her to return to the company at a higher position and help the company to not only move forward but to create an improved environment.



In both of these scenarios, the key to each situation was conversation, not texting, What's App or Social Media but conversation. This is the same for each of us. We need to be able to spend time with people, even if it is only to make sure that they are ok or if we see someone looking lost or lonely. A few kind words could make the difference to their day as perhaps that is the only conversation they will have that day. When we need help or guidance we can turn not only to friends but to God who is always there to listen and guide and who will respond when the time is right.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 24

God chose Saul to be the King of Israel, but Saul chose to disobey Him. God said that the next king would not be Saul's son.

Saul didn't know that God had chosen David to be the next king.



David was very successful as a fighter and very popular.



David had to go on the run and hide.



One day, Saul and his army were in En-Gedi. Saul needed to pee, so he went into a sheep fold built next to a cave...

David and his men were hiding at the back of the cave!



David crept over and cut a piece off Saul's robe.



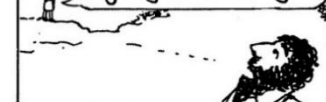
Then David felt bad.



David waited until Saul was far enough away then he shouted to him.



Your majesty, I could have killed you today, but I knew it was wrong. I want to prove to you I'm not trying to harm you.



David, you are better than me. I would have killed you but you were kind.



Now I know you will be the next king, but please look after my family.

David promised, and Saul and his army went home.



St Ignatius Loyola – founder of the Society of Jesus

Ignatius came from a noble Basque family in north-east Spain. Born in 1491 in his family's castle near Loyola, he was sent to serve as a page at the court of King Ferdinand V of Castile. Ignatius entered military service, but was wounded in 1521, at the French siege of Pamplona. While convalescing, he read the life of Christ, as well as the biographies of various saints. Like those saints, Ignatius felt the call of Christ on his life and responded. He made a pilgrimage to Montserrat (near Barcelona) where he firmly hung up his sword over the altar. He exchanged his clothes with a beggar, and settled in nearby Manresa, where he helped care for the sick in the hospital there. Then he spent some time as a hermit in a local cave, praying and studying Thomas a Kempis's book '*The Imitation of Christ*'. It was probably during this time that Ignatius wrote his famous '*Spiritual Exercises*' on Christian prayer and meditation. It has been valued by Christians of many traditions for centuries.

Ignatius then went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem, studied at the universities of Barcelona, Alcalá and Salamanca, and ended up in Paris to continue studies. It was there, in 1534 that Ignatius and a group of six student (including Francis Xavier) vowed to go as missionaries to Islamic Palestine. They were prevented from travel by a war in Europe, and so, in 1537, the group, now ten in number, offered their services to the Pope. By 1540 they had been ordained, and with papal approval, formed the Society of Jesus, with a vow of personal obedience to the Pope, in addition to the traditional three monastic vows. Ignatius became the first general of the order, and in the following 15 years the order grew hundred-fold, to become the vanguard of both the Counter Reformation and the missionary work of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ignatius died on 31st July 1556, but even today his famous prayer is treasured by Christians of all traditions: Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve.

*To give and not to count the cost.
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labour and not to ask for any reward;
Save that of knowing that we do Your will;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

The 16th century Bible that may have saved the Welsh language

The Spanish Armada may have indirectly helped save the Welsh language.

For at the time when the Spanish were threatening England, Queen Elizabeth 1 decided to commission a Welsh Bible, to help to secure the Church of England's diocese in Wales.

She chose to ask William Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff in 1595 and then of St Asaph in 1601. He spent ten years at the task, and in the end one thousand copies were printed, and then distributed to every church in Wales.

Nowadays Bishop William Morgan's 16th-century Welsh-language Bible, *Y Beibl Cyssegr-lan*, can be found in a farmhouse at Ty Mawr Wybrnant, near Penmachno, in north Wales. The copy at Ty Mawr attracts hundreds of pilgrims and visitors every year and has now been featured in a BBC series *Hidden Treasures of the National Trust*.

Fflur Medi Owen, programming and partnership officer for the National Trust, says that the translation of the Welsh Bible was pivotal for the preservation of the Welsh language. Not only that, but the timing of the translation was significant, because the language had become "very dialect-heavy".

"I do think we would have been able to understand each other, but things were falling out of shape," says Ms Owen. "The green light to commission the Bible into Welsh by William Morgan came at a time that meant the language could be given a form and structure."

She goes on: "Welsh is an old, old Brittonic language — it's like an umbilical cord. Had it not been for William Morgan, our Welsh language would have gone like Manx and Cornish."

*We continue our series looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns.
We have run the first two verses of the hymn, but of course you can use just a few
lines to illustrate it if you are short of space in the magazine.*

HYMN: The story behind ‘Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken’

*Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?...*

The year was 1800, and Vienna was under bombardment by Napoleon's troops. The great Austrian composer, Haydn, then old and frail, asked to be carried to his piano. There he made his own defiance of Napoleon, by solemnly play through his composition 'Emperor's Hymn'. Haydn had composed it for the Austrian Emperor, Franz II's birthday on 12 February 1797. Haydn never touched his piano again, and died a few days later, aged 77.

That is where the tune for this well-loved hymn came from. It quickly became the tune of the Austrian national anthem. It was later even adopted by the Germans, as the tune for August Heinrich Hoffman von

Fallersleben's (1798 – 1874) anthem Deutschlandslied , which began with the famous words: 'Deutschland uber alles' (Germany before everything). In the ensuing political upheavals, the tune survived in the German national anthem but was abandoned by the Austrians in 1946.

In the meantime, the tune had also reached England, as early as 1805. It was then that the words of a hymn by John Newton were first paired up with it. This meant that when the Austrian Emperor Franz visited his grandmother Queen Victoria, at Windsor Castle, he most likely would have sung his own national anthem tune to English words written by a converted slave trader turned country vicar!

John Newton's inspiration for this hymn comes from Psalm 87: 'Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God' (vs3) and also a text from Isaiah 33:20-21: 'Look on Zion... there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...'

John Newton's hymn celebrates the joy of knowing that the Church is the new Jerusalem (Zion) where God abides. He rejoices that God protects his people and promises to supply their needs. He leads them into the Promised Land, just as long ago he led the Israelites through the wilderness to their Promised Land. Back then, he led them with a fiery and cloudy pillar; now we have his very Spirit within us, to guide us each step of the way home.

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

170 Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

JOHN NEWTON

FRANCIS J. HAYDN

1. Glo-rious things of thee are spo-ken, Zi-on, cit-y of our God;
2. See, the streams of liv-ing wa-ters, Springing from e-ter-nal love,
3. Round each hab-i-ta-tion hov'-ring, See the cloud and fire ap-pear

Notices!

100 Club Winners!

June 2026

Date	Number	Winner	Church
7th	98	Christine & David Harvey	St Catwg's
14th	101	Val Gabriel	St Margaret's
21st	15	Tresa Cox	St Catwg's
28th	35	Jeni Davies	St Margaret's

Strawberry Tea

Our annual strawberry tea was a great occasion held on a beautiful day. It was a friendly get together with 30 of us present and everyone enjoyed themselves. I have many people to thank for the success of the event, apologise if I miss anyone out.

Hannah and Marc, for their donation of homemade scones, the jam and also the serviettes, and 2 delicious raspberry and white chocolate sponges. Jean McCutcheon for her donation. The people who donated the raffle prizes (I don't know what I'd do without you lot) and the ones who stayed to help clear up afterwards, you are amazing. Thank you, Sheila, and Rob for delaying your trip by a few hours to help. Last but not least, the Social Club Team for their hard work ensuring that all went smoothly. Thanks, Jenn, for the quiz and the song it was a load of fun .

We on the social team enjoy arranging these events, getting to know one another through our fellowship . If there is an event you would like to see take place, let one of the team know and we will see if we can make it happen.

The next date for the diary is September 11th, and it will be a themed Italian night. More details and menu will be announced at a later date.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Love as always.....**June x**

God in the Arts

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church pulpit. (There is a photograph from St Mary's Whitby to go with this article. If you use it, please credit: Chris06, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons)

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Church Pulpits

It is a steep climb of 199 steps that leads the visitor to Whitby from the streets below to the church of St Mary's that stands near the ruined abbey. Having negotiated the climb, the visitor enters the church and is greeted by a glorious array of Georgian furnishings: box pews and a triple decker pulpit with candlesticks and cushions. The clerk would sit at the bottom level to give out the notices, the parson would lead the service in the middle, and then he would ascend to the third level to expound the Word of God.



George Herbert says that for the country parson the pulpit should be ‘his joy and his throne.’ Sydney Smith had a different slant when he wrote on going into the pulpit of All Saints Church in Foston in 1806: ‘When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation.’ Not so at Whitby where the church is cared for and well loved.

Today preachers often remain at ground level, the better to interact with their congregations, but here at St Mary's Church the pulpit is a sign of the importance of teaching the Word: not because the preacher stands eight feet above contradiction, but to allow people to see and hear.

The word ‘pulpit’ means a platform or raised area to address the gathered family of God. As we look on in the pews, it stands often on

on our left. But God looks at us from the east end of the church, and the pulpit stands at his right hand: a sign that the sermon can be the divinely inspired message of prophet and teacher and so become living and active in the minds and hearts of its hearers.

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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.

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

Since the cost-of-living crisis in 2021/22, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions: from relief, happiness and hope, through to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of Creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the potential for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world

if our relationship with God hadn't broken down, and evil hadn't been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God's help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God

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Who's been good?

A father of five young children won a toy at a raffle. Back home, he called his children together to let them determine which one should have the present. “Who is the most obedient?” he asked. “Who never talks back to Mother? Who does everything she says?” Five small voices answered in unison: “You, Daddy!”

Friends of Gilfach

We are continuing with our coffee mornings and quiz afternoons as usual and are consistent in those who come to enjoy the companionship and laughter each time. We are having our usual monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month and are always open to suggestions for speakers or just someone who wants to talk about their lives.

We are welcoming Keiron back this month. He was excellent last time he came, and we are all looking forward to hearing more of his stories.

We are grateful to all who give up their time to talk to us and give us an insight into lives we would never know about or understand without their experiences.

Thank you to all who have done this and please let anyone who would be interested to join us and hear about others' lives. Thank you all for your support and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

God Bless

Kath

Hot and humid – what to do with those amber and yellow health alerts

Here are some simple safety tips....

This year the UK Health Security Agency has issued a series of amber and yellow health alerts across the UK. Heatwaves can kill people, the Met Office has issued advice on how to keep safe in extreme temperatures.

Stay hydrated – drink plenty of water. Avoid any exercise between 1am and 3pm, when the sun is strongest. Close curtains in rooms that face the sun. Wear sunscreen and a hat when outside. Remember that even on very hot days, the water in lakes and the sea is still very cold. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution warns that entering it suddenly “can lead to cold water shock, causing a sudden increase in breathing and heart rate, which may trigger panic.” If you find yourself in trouble in cold water, remember to Float to Live.

1. Tilt your head back, so that your ears are submerged
2. Relax and control your breathing
3. You may need to gently use your hands to help you stay afloat
4. It's OK if your legs sink — everyone floats differently.

Books of the Bible.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Bible: 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters, written when he was in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1–18) in 49–51 AD. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, as well as being a flourishing centre for trade and philosophy. After founding the church (Acts 17:1–9) Paul was forced to leave, when he was falsely accused of speaking against Caesar. As the new Christians were left with little spiritual support, Paul wrote this letter to encourage them. Paul addresses a number of issues throughout this letter. As they weren't expecting persecution, Paul reminds them that this is normal Christian experience (3:3–4). He also challenges those in the church who were living off wealthier Christians rather than earning their own living (4:9–12; 5:14).



However, the most prominent theme in letter is the second coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter of the book (1:10; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11, 23–24). The Thessalonian were unclear about the timing of the day of the Lord (5:1–2). Some church members had died (4:13), and people weren't sure what would happen to them at Christ's return (3:10; 4:13). However, Paul assures them that when Jesus returns, the dead in Christ will rise to meet the Lord with the living (4:15–17). Therefore, believers don't need to fear God's wrath but rather are assured of inheriting his salvation. Living in the light of Christ's return calls for holy and blameless lives (3:11–4:8; 5:23). *'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.'* (5:23).

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.***

Date		Services and Holy Days
5th July		THE FIFTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY (Proper 9)
12th July		THE SIXTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY (Proper 10)
19th July		THE SEVENTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY (Proper 11)
26th July		THE EIGHTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY (Proper 12)

Below is a list detailing the dates, time and locations for the Welsh Eucharist services, for the coming year (2026).



Bendavid Holy Eucharist

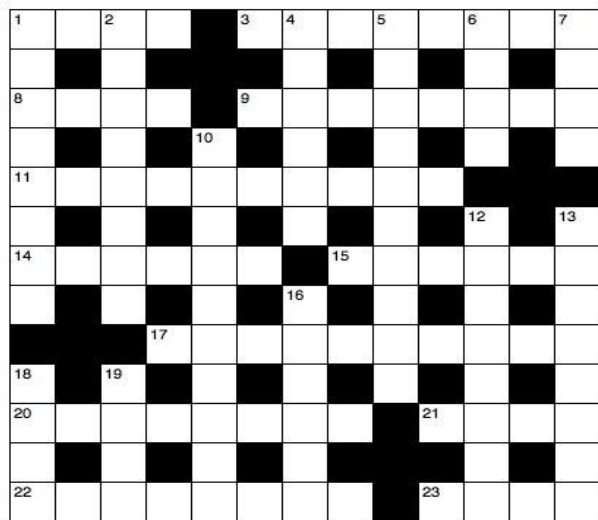
31st	Ionawr/January	S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer
7th	Mawrth/March	S. Matthias' Church, Treharris
11th	Ebrill/April	S. Gwladys' Church, Bargoed
2nd	Mai/May	Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach
6th	Mehefin/June	S. Margaret's Church, Gilfach
4th	Gorffennaf/July	Llanfabon, Nelson
Awst/August		Dim Gwasanaeth / No Service
5th	Medi/September	S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer
3rd	Hydref/October	S. Tyfaelog's Church, Pontlottyn
7th	Tachwedd/November	S. John's Church, Nelson
5th	Rhagfyr/December	TBA

DYDD SADWRN 11.00AM SATURDAY

yn Gymraeg – in Welsh gyda te, coffi ac amser i gymdeithasu / with tea, coffee and fellowship.

Croeso cynnes i bawb / A warm welcome to everyone!

July's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamite's, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31) (10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.) (6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)

23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

Down

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)

Crossword solution - Page 30

On Sunday, 7th June, I had a most amazing experience, one that I have never had before. I was singing a hymn, and I saw the Holy Spirit.....yes, you read it right. I saw him with a blue robe on. It was incredible because I have never known that the Holy Spirit showed himself to anyone before. I felt I was honoured and privileged.

I know God loves green but his favourite colour is blue. The colour blue universally symbolizes trust, tranquillity and stability. Why did Jesus wear blue? Byzantine mosaics from the 4th century show, Jesus in gold and blue. Gold, used in icons, is a colour of divinity. Blue in Eastern church icons represents heaven. So, the two together represents the divine, heavenly power of God revealed in Jesus.

Jane Carpenter



District of Gelligaer Website

Scan the QR code on your smart phone, then open in browser to visit our website or visit us on
<https://www.narishofgelligaer.org.uk>

Sudoku Challenge

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

Solution can be found on page 39

Quotes for July 2026

July is a time for visiting beautiful country churches and reflecting that....

Holy people have a sense of inner peace. In their presence, it is the God of the still, small voice that one perceives. – ***T Harrison***

The name of Jesus is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world. – ***Ralph Waldo Emerson.***

Prayer is the rope up in the belfry; we pull it, and it rings the bell up in heaven. – ***C Evans***

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. – ***Isaac Newton***

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. – **Richard Rolle**

If we are intended for great ends, we are called to great hazards. – ***John Henry, Cardinal Newman***

Book Reviews

My Story – a spiritual and intellectual autobiography

By John C Lennox, SPCK, £24.99

John C. Lennox is widely regarded as one of the greatest Christian apologists of modern times, having devoted a lifetime to showing how faith in God and faith in reason can stand together.

In My Story, he invites readers into his remarkable journey: growing up in Northern Ireland, studying at Oxford and Cambridge, teaching mathematics at the highest level, and boldly defending the Christian faith in lecture halls, debates and the public square for more than sixty years.

With warmth, wit and disarming honesty, Lennox reflects on the ideas, people and pivotal moments that shaped his life – from the hunger for Bibles in Soviet Russia to encounters with Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens, to his ongoing belief that rigorous science and deep faith are not enemies but allies.

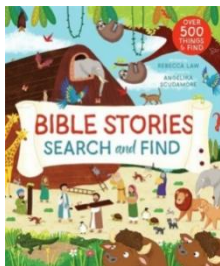
Part memoir, part intellectual adventure, My Story is a must-read for anyone curious how a brilliant mathematical mind can hold fast to the gospel – and how one man's faith has helped millions find a reason to believe in an age of doubt.

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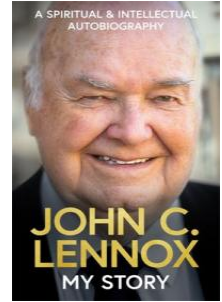
Bible Stories Search and Find

By Rebecca Law, SPCK, £9.99

The book is a helpful introduction to the Bible for children ages 6-9. Youngsters will have fun searching for the more than 500 hidden objects across 20 fantastically illustrated scenes, while learning key stories from God's Word.



This interactive Bible storybook could be an exciting way for your children to engage with the Bible while developing concentration and biblical knowledge.



Church Reading Rotas

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

St. Catwg's Reading Rota

June 2026		July 026		August 2026	
7 th	Cheryl Pugh	5 th	Paul Thomas	2 nd	Pat Davies
14 th	Janeve Manca	12 th	Cheryl Pugh	9 th	Paul Thomas
21 st	Christine Harvey	19 th	Janeve Manca	16 th	Cheryl Pugh
28 th	Pat Davies	26 th	Christine Harvey	23 rd	Janeve Manca
				30 th	Christine Harvey

St. Margaret's Reading Rota

June 2026		July 026		August 2026	
7 th	Kath Llewellyn	5 th	June Phillips	2 nd	Kath Llewellyn
14 th	Lynne Thomas	12 th	Alex Ball	9 th	Enid Mayne
21 st	Neil Hazell	19 th	Christine Thorpe	16 th	Jenn East
28 th	Mark Jones	26 th	Chris Ball	23 rd	Jennette Jones
				30 th	Linda Bartlett



July's Magazine 2026

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Sunday 28th June, for inclusion in the July's edition.

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

June 2026		July 2026		August 2026	
7 th	Kath / June	5 th	Jeannette / Audrey	2 nd	Jeannette / Audrey
14 th	Lynda Bartlett / Sue	12 th	Kath / June	9 th	Kath / June
21 st	Lynda Trollope / Enid	19 th	Lynda Bartlett / Sue	16 th	Lynda Bartlett / Sue
28 th		26 th	Lynda Trollope / Enid	23 rd	Lynda Trollope / Enid
				30 th	Jeannette / Audrey

Sundays Bible Readings for the Month of July 2026

The Season of TRINITY

		Continuous	Related
Week 1	Sunday 5th July	Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45. 10-17 or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2. 8-13 Romans 7. 15-25a Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30	Zechariah 9. 9-12 Psalm 145. 8-14 Romans 7. 15-25a Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30
Week 2	Sunday 12th July	Genesis 25. 19-34 Psalm 119. 105-112 Romans 8. 1-11 Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23	Isaiah 55. 10-13 Psalm 65. [1-8,] 9-13 Romans 8. 1-11 Sea Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23]
Week 3	Sunday 19th July	Genesis 28. 10-19a Psalm 139. 1-12, [23, 24] Romans 8. 12-25 Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43	Wisdom 12. 13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44. 6-8 Psalm 86. 11-17 Romans 8. 12-25 Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43
Week 4	Sunday 26th July	Genesis 29. 15-28 Psalm 105. 1-11, [45b] or 128 Romans 8. 26-39 Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52	1 Kings 3. 5-12 Psalm 119. 129-136 Romans 8. 26-39 Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52

*The monthly readings are taken from the Church in Wales – Word of the Lord 2011 copyright ©
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For our Younger Generation.

The tale of
the
Two Sons



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.

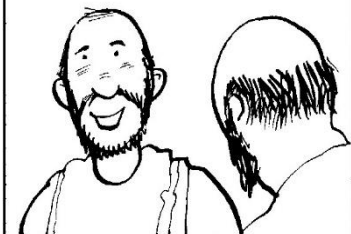
THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



.'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE
OLDER SON...

....BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.



'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

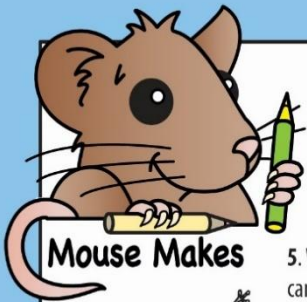
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes its nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

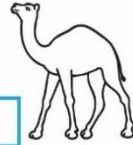
7. Which animal was Jesus compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague came out of the River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would go through the eye of a needle easier than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.
In what creature's mouth was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.
What lives in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird did the Holy Spirit appear as?
Luke 3:22



13. Which animal did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the "mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



Complete the Wordsearch.

p	h	i	l	i	s	t	i	n	e	s	y
m	u	i	m	c	h	o	i	c	e	e	k
c	j	e	a	l	o	u	s	i	b	c	i
k	h	o	j	r	u	i	i	o	k	h	n
a	n	o	e	o	t	f	s	u	t	a	d
f	r	o	s	b	e	i	a	r	w	n	i
o	c	m	t	e	d	g	u	m	a	c	p
l	a	d	y	i	n	h	l	p	i	e	y
d	v	t	h	j	c	t	e	o	t	l	l
b	e	k	i	l	l	e	d	n	e	n	y
t	c	a	t	c	h	r	f	x	d	p	f
k	i	n	g	s	d	a	v	i	d	j	r

choice

robe

family

king

Israel

shouted

kind

army

chance

sheep

disobey

fighter

Saul

waited

catch

killed

chosen

David

notice

jealous

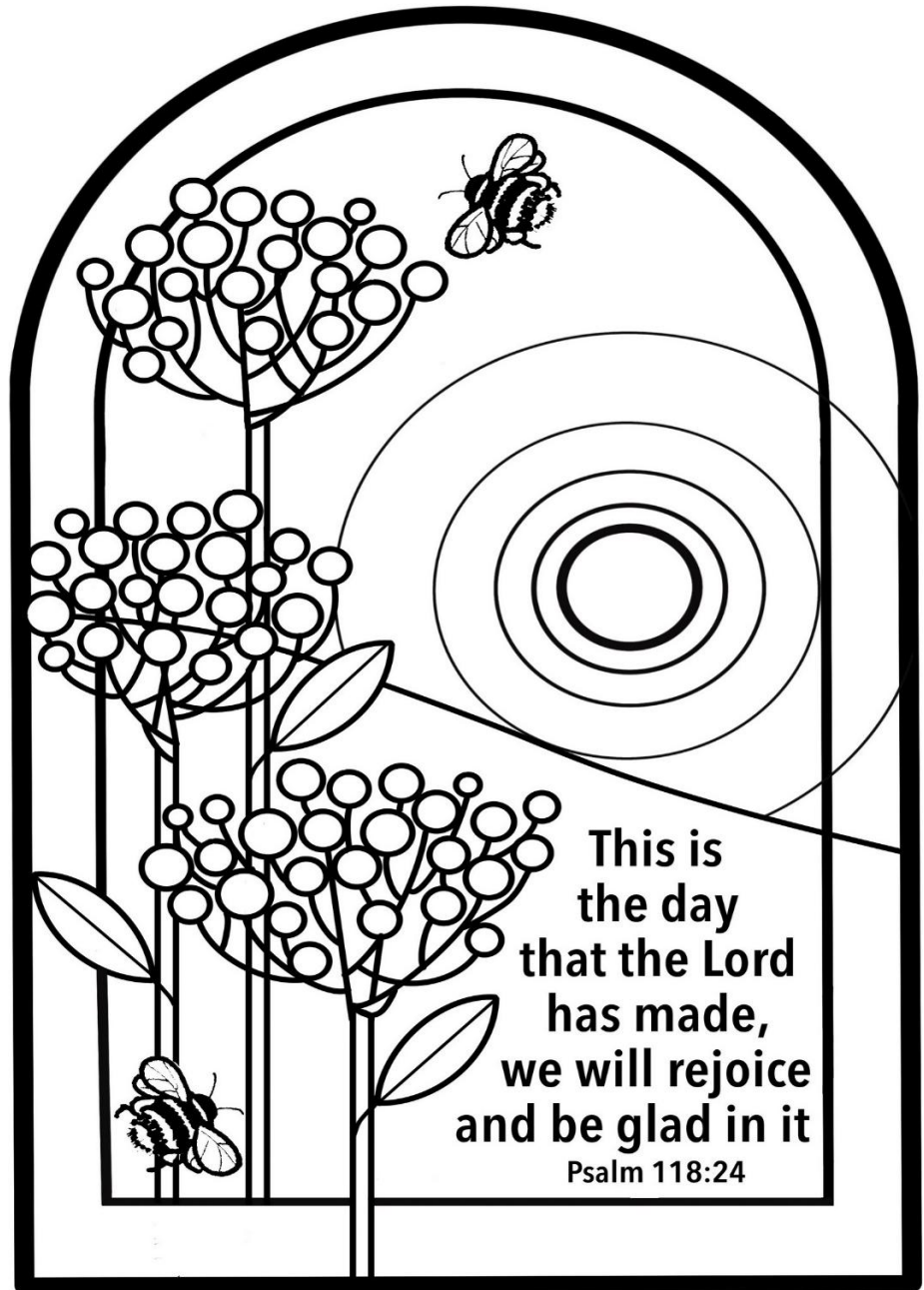
Philistines

majesty

fold

cave

Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

June 2026

2 nd		<i>Douglas Carey RIP</i>
4 th		<i>Melvyn Payne RIP</i>
22 nd		<i>John Owen RIP</i>
26 th		<i>Maureen Cushing RIP</i>
30 th		<i>William Thomas RIP</i>

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.***

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*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.***

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!

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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.

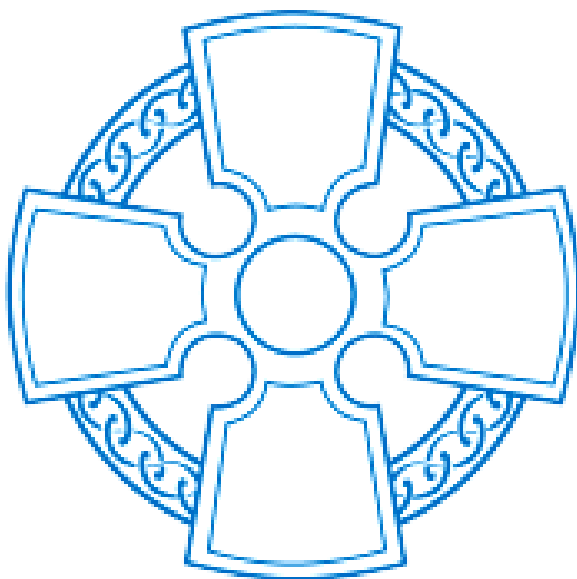
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4	3	6	5	2	9	1	7	8
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8	9	2	6	7	5	3	4	1
5	6	1	3	9	4	8	2	7
6	1	7	9	4	8	2	3	5
2	8	5	7	6	3	9	1	4
9	4	3	2	5	1	7	8	6

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

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 19

Answers to **Crossword** on page 17

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