



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
TÂF RHYMNI
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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.*

THE DAY of PENTECOST

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.....



Holy Spirit,
sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children
with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with
the breath of love, and
renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Paul Judson

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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

It seems difficult to believe we are already almost half way through another year, time is moving forward so quickly. For the last six months we have been celebrating the life of Christ from his birth in Bethlehem to his arrest, death and resurrection in Jerusalem, to his eventual return to Heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit.



This month we celebrate the Feast of the most Holy and glorious Trinity which marks a major turning point in our keeping of the Churches year. From now until the beginning of Advent we will no longer be focussing on the events of Jesus life we will be focussing upon his teaching and the example he sets before us of Godly living. We will consider his words and actions in order to see how we can better order our own lives. As his disciples we are called to make his words our own, to treat others as we see Jesus treating all those who came to him. As we listen to the Gospel readings for the next sixth months we are called to ask ourselves how does what we are hearing help us to order our lives. Are Jesus' values really our values? Do we always see others as Jesus sees them? When we find ourselves challenged we should stop and ask ourselves what would Jesus do? What would Jesus want us to do or say in this situation?

Over the last few weeks our Gospel readings have concentrated on Jesus' prayer for his disciples – that they be one. As we reflect on our lives as Christians we are reminded that we are called to be one family, united with our brothers and sisters across the Ministry Area, united in faith and united in purpose and our determination to share the Good News of the Jesus Christ, the good news of God's love for all people with those among whom we live.

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

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The Feast of the Holy Trinity, is a Christian liturgical celebration on the first Sunday after Pentecost, which is the fiftieth day after Easter.

It commemorates the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the belief that God exists as three divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Reader Writes.

This month we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost with the name coming from the Greek word pentekoste which means fiftieth. Pentecost is celebrated on the 8th June and is observed fifty days after Easter marking the end of the Easter season. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. We realise that the same people who abandoned Jesus during his arrest and crucifixion are now the people who were given this transformational gift as they went from broken people to people who proclaimed that Jesus is Lord.



One hymn that expresses the phenomenal power of the Holy Spirit more begins:

“Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart.”

The Spirit of God is at work in each of our lives as he guides and leads us in all we do. He breathes new life into each of us and encourages us to be the body of Christ in this broken world, to tell people of Christ and not to be ashamed of our faith. As Christians, we pray for the Spirit’s help to display the fruit of his work in our lives – with the fruits of the Spirit being love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. So now, let us allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into living out our faith each and every day.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 2:1-12, Mk 9:1-8, Lk 5:17-26

The Pharisees had come to Jesus' home in Capernaum to make sure he wasn't breaking any of their religious rules...

So many came to hear Jesus speak that they filled his house...



and the streets outside.

Four men brought their paralysed friend to Jesus for healing



But the crowd wouldn't let them get close



so they climbed up to the roof and took off some tiles.

They lowered their friend down, right in front of Jesus



Jesus was so impressed by their faith, he said to the paralysed man



Your sins are forgiven.

The Pharisees were shocked!



Only God can forgive sins...so this fellow is insulting God!

But Jesus knew what they were thinking.



Why are you thinking such wrong thoughts?

Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?

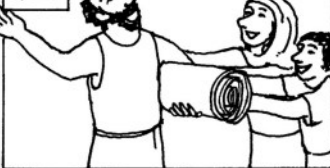


But I want you to know that I do have the authority to forgive sins...

Get up, take your mat and go home!



He got up, picked up his mat and walked home, praising God



The crowd was amazed...



We have never seen anything like this!

Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of First fruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

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Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: ‘Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’

Isaiah 45:22: ‘Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.’

Genesis 1:1-2: ‘In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...’

Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

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Fathers’ Day, a time to celebrate male role models

In the UK, USA and Canada, the third Sunday in June is Father's Day. It's usually a good time for sons and daughters to take their father to

his favourite restaurant, or to watch a favoured sport, or whatever else he enjoys doing.

How will you celebrate it this year? If your own father cannot be with you, how about a Zoom meeting?

How do these special days ever get started, anyway? Well, Father's Day began because way back in 1909 there was a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19th, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

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Nays and Ayes

Beware of the new Amazon scam. I asked my husband to order me some expensive jewellery, but motorcycle parts came instead! Thankfully, they fit his bike.



Notices!

100 Club Winners!

April 2025

Date:	No:	Winner	Church
6th	82	Christine & David Harvey	St. Catwg's
13th	44	Pat Davies	St. Catwg's
20th	59	David Britton	St. Catwg's
27th	43	Linda Hall	St. Catwg's



Bargoed Community Choir Concert

Bargoed Community Choir, joined by Students of Heolddu School, and Ali Shone (Soloist) are in concert at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach on Thursday 19th June, start 7.00pm. Further details from Audrey, Jenn or Lyn, or any members of the choir. Everyone is welcome.

MINISTRY AREA PENTECOST PRAISE

(no evensong at Holy Trinity)

Come and celebrate the birthday of the Church, on 8th June at 4.30pm St Gwladys Church, Bargoed; a time of worship and praise, including the release of a dove; children's activities
Please bring something to eat and share and encourage others to come along.

MINISTRY AREA WALSINGHAM CELL

On 5th June - Mass at 6:30pm at St Mabon's Church, Llanfagon

We would like to reintroduce a Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham as a group who meet regularly once a month in order to pray for the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk and to support and embody the mission and work of the shrine in daily life. The cell will share details about pilgrimages to Walsingham and help foster devotion to Our Lady in local congregations.

Y CYMUN BENDIGAID - EUCHARIST IN WELSH

Father Gary would like to offer the opportunity for Welsh speakers and learners to come together in worship and fellowship.

We will be holding our first of what we hope will become a regular celebration of the Holy Eucharist in Welsh on *Dydd Sadwrn – Saturday 5th Gorffennaf/July am/at 11.00am in/yn Eglwys S. Catwg's*

Church, Gelligaer, to serve the Welsh speakers and learners of our Ministry Area and wider community.

Everyone is welcome to come along!!

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Bargoed Male Voice Choir,

*will be holding their **ANNUAL CONCERT** in S. Margaret's Church
on Friday 13th June 2025 Tickets £5 available
from Fr Gary or on the door.
Everyone is welcome.*

Strawberry Tea

The social committee will be holding their annual strawberry tea on Saturday 21st June at 2.30pm, at Neuadd St Catwg, Gelligaer. The cost of a ticket will be £6.00 and will be available from both church.

All are welcome!! Many thanks, June .

My Jesus

I looked around and I could see,
someone was following with me.

I searched for love in a gown,
now my Jesus wears a crown.

I saw him in the light of love,
he sits right into my heart above.
The wonderful smiling, a ray of light,
I look around and I can see what's bright.

In the afternoon I know what I saw,
I look and I seek for more.
Being looked after I can see,
What my Jesus means to me.

I play him songs, the words so right,
I can see him day or night.
A love so pure a heart of gold,
my Jesus will never grow old.

Jane Carpenter 2014

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: El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.



But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite: ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now – he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him ‘I make all things new’ and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco’s painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter, we know Him as our crucified and risen Lord.

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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.

Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

Why aren’t dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn’t written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn’t even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it’s not just dinosaurs that aren’t mentioned in the Bible, it doesn’t talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn’t mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren’t important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and

animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about how God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website (www.faradaykids.com). For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)

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Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that God is Trinity.

The Nicene Creed: Who is God?

‘We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.’

2025 sees the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. We use it at Communion services, but how much notice do we take of the words? In this new series we are looking at what it means to believe in God as Trinity.

We believe: In Greek, the Creed begins ‘we believe’ (in Latin, ‘I believe.’). It was formulated at the time of Arius, who declared that Jesus was the first and greatest of God’s creatures, but not the same as God the Father. His teaching proved so damaging that the Emperor Constantine called an ecumenical council in Nicaea (AD 325) to clarify the core beliefs for all Christians.

in one God: We believe in a God who is both one and Trinity: ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one’ (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the Old Testament God, who we know through the life and work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are to worship Him alone and not people or things.

the Father, the Almighty: God is both the almighty Creator and loving Father: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name’ (Matt 6:9). Although the Father of all that exists, He is specifically Father to those who His children through their faith in Jesus.

maker of heaven and earth: God comes before anything that was created, and Creation is His alone: ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty’ (Genesis 1:1,2). The implication is that He created ‘ex nihilo’ i.e. out of nothing. He is one God who is unchangeable, lacking in nothing and the source of all that exists.

of all that is, seen and unseen: God did not just create the physical universe, but also the spiritual powers: ‘For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him.’ (Colossians 1:16). Reality is more than what we can see, smell, taste, touch or measure.

The Creed establishes the ‘big picture’ of who God is and challenges our commitment to Him. How do these opening words of the Nicene Creed speak to us today?

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Mothers' Union



We continued with our usual meetings, coffee morning and quiz afternoon. All attended by our regulars. Lowrie phoned to ask whether we had closed our branch and suggested that because we hadn't officially closed it that we keep it dormant until next year in the hope that someone in our branch would take it over and also a new treasurer. She said she will inform me of what is happening in the Mothers' Union.

I have received a phone call stating that we must have someone to come and officially close our branch. I said that our bank account was now closed but Jean Stark wants to close our branch so I told her we meet every first Tuesday of the month and to let me know when she is coming. She told me that Lowrie and Sue Rivers had come up with a few suggestions in order to keep the branches open, such as the clergy taking it over and also the church paying the subscriptions, but personally I don't think either of these options would work. I would like to thank everyone who is continuing to attend our meetings and support us. We have £200 in money after paying for the cheese and wine evening, which is excellent and we still have wine left for the next evening party. If anyone has any suggestions for the money raised please put them forward for discussion.

A little while later I received a few forms for any members who would like to remain a Diocesan member. Anyone who wishes to have one of

these forms please let me know. They are still keen to keep us a branch as we had the most members but realise that it is best for them to have a few members not associated to a branch rather than lose everyone. I know some members wish to remain as it has been a large part of their life for many years.

Instead of our meeting for May we had a cheese and wine evening for the community to celebrate VE Day. It was a great success with approximately 70 people attending. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was plenty of food and wine. We had several people who remembered VE day and the celebrations and it was good to hear their stories. Since we celebrated VE Day perhaps we might consider a VJ Day evening in August. Thanks to everyone who helped with our VE Day evening. It brought the community together and there was much laughter and catching-up, which is what we had hoped.

God Bless

Kath

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Trinity Sunday, celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

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Judges 14:6: ‘The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...’

John 1:1-3: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.’

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: ‘I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.’

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

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Mini is named the best-ever British car

What is your favourite British car? Think of the Land Rover, Aston Martin, McLaren, Bentley and Rolls Royce. Then think of the Mini. That is what a group of judges for the Auto Express did recently, and they chose the Mini. Their verdict? “Put simply, we reckon no other British- built vehicle better represents the relevant, innovative and pioneering UK automotive industry quite like the world’s original small car.”

Phil McNamara, editor at large, Auto Express, adds: “there was only ever going to be one winner of our Top 50 Brit cars rundown. The Mini was crowned undisputed champion.” It was in the late 1950s that the British Motor Corporation (BMC) asked car designer Alec Issigonis to come up with a sub-three-metre compact car that could accommodate a family of four. The result was the Mini, soon beloved of the public, celebrities and even (in a modified version) racing drivers. The modern version of a Mini Cooper is nearly 90cm longer than the original, and prices starts at about £25,000.



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.parishofgelligaer.org.uk>

Looking at God.

John the Baptist

Preparing the way for the Messiah

John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman. He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan c27.

John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: he lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request. When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.

John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.

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Praying with the Prayers of the Bible - Praying with Penitential Tears

Psalm 51:2; 'Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.'

Psalm 51 is the most personal, the most passionate and the most profound prayer for forgiveness found anywhere in the Bible.

Without any introduction, explanation or excuse, the Psalmist cries out, 'Have mercy on me, O God.' Jewish and Christian scholars have almost been unanimous in seeing this Psalm as David's personal

prayer for pardon, following his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and then scheming to have her husband Uriah killed (2 Samuel 11).

As we go through the Psalm, its various stages take us from deep contrition to joyful testimony. First, the confession; vv.1-4. As David bares his soul to God, there is no blaming other people, no excuses made, no pleading special circumstances.

‘Have mercy on me, O God.’ Notice the personal pronouns. ‘My transgressions,’ twice (vv.1 and 3); ‘my iniquity;’ ‘my sin,’ twice (vv.2 and 3). And David knows that while he has sinned against his own family and against the murdered Uriah, all sin is ultimately against God. ‘Against Thee, thee only, have I sinned’ (v.4).

Second, the condition; vv.5-6. While David alone is responsible for the sins he has committed, he recognises that he is part of fallen, sinful humanity. Both Judaism and Christianity have a doctrine of original sin. So deep and all pervasive is the condition of fallen humanity that he speaks of being ‘conceived’ in sin and ‘brought forth’ in iniquity (v.5).

Although some commentators have tried to dismiss this teaching here by saying that David was conceived out of wedlock, its implications are far more profound. In v.6 he speaks about ‘the inward being’ and ‘my secret heart.’ David knows only too well that behind the sins he has committed lies a human heart prone to sin, attracted by sin and enticed to sin.

Third, the cleansing; vv. 7-12. With this deep, penitential confession of his transgressions, his iniquity and his sin, David now cries out for the only remedy – God’s power to conquer human sin. The prayer began with a plea for mercy (v.1) and then followed the repeated petitions for the ‘blotting out,’ the ‘washing’ and the ‘cleansing’ from sin. Now the plea is for something deeper still; ‘Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.’ (v.7).

But David wants still more, and so we have the prayer in v.10; ‘Create in me a clean heart.’ And still David prays, ‘Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.’

Resulting from this sincere confession and heart-felt prayer for forgiveness and cleansing, comes the assurance of God’s gracious answer. When David is spiritually restored, he will teach others the way of God’s salvation (v.13) and praise God for his own deliverance (v.14).

So Psalm 51 promises forgiveness, cleansing, restoration and a place to serve God when we, in true penitence, make the same unqualified confessions of our sins.

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>
1st	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER - Sunday after Ascension Day
8th	THE DAY of PENTECOST - Whitsunday
15th	TRINITY SUNDAY
19th	* Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
22nd	THE FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY
24th	* The Nativity of John the Baptist
29th	PETER, APOSTLE or PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

Bargoed Community Choir.

The choir will meet each Thursday, during term time, at
St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach – 10.00 to 11.30 am.
All are welcome!!

Community Dance Group

The dance group will meet each Monday at 10.30am at
St. Margaret's Church. *All are welcome!!*



Materion Llandaf
Rhannu strawn llawen

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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/>

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

Quotes for June 2025

with Pentecost in mind:

To be filled with the Spirit is to have the Spirit fulfilling in us all that God intended him to do when he placed him there. – **Lewis S Chafer**

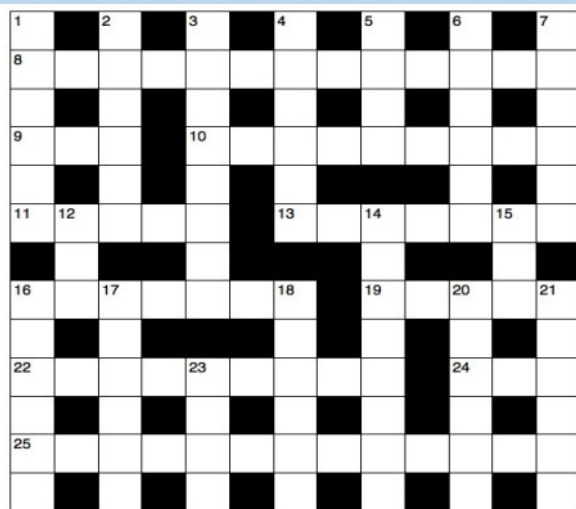
With Trinity Sunday in mind:

Thousands of the ablest minds of the centuries have pondered this problem and no one has been able to explain it; who then invented it? What man can invent, man can explain: what man cannot explain, man cannot have invented. It must be a revelation. – **G H Lang**

The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action. – **J I Packer**

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. – **John Wesley**

June's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)
- 9 In favour of (3)
- 10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)
- 11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)
- 13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)
- 16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)
- 19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)
- 22 Holy Communion (9)
- 24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)
- 25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

- 1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)
- 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)
- 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)
- 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)
- 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)
- 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)
- 12 Ate (anag.) (3)
- 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)
- 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)
- 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)
- 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)
- 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)
- 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)
- 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)
- 23 Diva (anag.) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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June's Magazine 2025

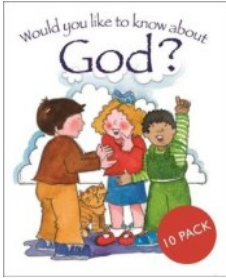
Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 26th May, for inclusion in the Junes edition.

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

Book Reviews

Would you like to know about God

By Tim Dowley, SPCK, £25 (for a pack of ten)



How do you explain the importance of God to a child? This early learning book may be helpful to you. It helps children explore their spiritual understanding of who God is, in a relatable and accessible way.

It covers questions such as Who is God?, What does God Look Like? What does God do? and ends with a reminder that 'We can be safe in His love forever. God is for always.

It comes in packs of 10 copies, which can serve as a gift-giving book for a group of children to take home, or shared in a discussion time with young children.

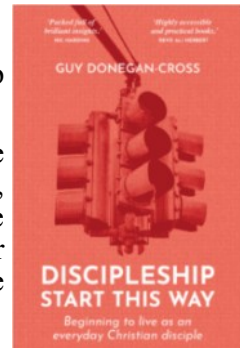
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Discipleship: Start This Way: Beginning to live as an everyday Christian disciple

By Guy Donegan-Cross, BRF, £9.99

This book emphasises the difference that discipleship can make in our day to day experience.

Both a resource for the enquirer and a tool for anyone wanting to support someone in their faith journey, this book provides an accessible and grounded route into the beginnings of discipleship, with a clear explanation of what it looks and feels like to become a disciple and to start to live as one.



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

May 2025			June 2025			July 2025		
4 th	Christine Harvey		1 st	Janeve Manca		6 th	Janeve Manca	
11 th	Pat Davies		8 th	Christine Harvey		13 th	Christine Harvey	
18 th	Paul Thomas		15 th	Pat Davies		20 th	Pat Davies	
25 th	Cheryl Pugh		22 nd	Paul Thomas		27 th	Paul Thomas	
			29 th	Cheryl Pugh				

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

May 2025			June 2025			July 2025		
4 th	June Phillips		1 st	Kath Llewellyn		6 th	June Phillips	
11 th	Chris Ball		8 th	Huw Thomas		13 th	Lynne Thomas	
18 th	Christine Thorpe		15 th	Jenn East		20 th	Neil Hazell	
25 th	Enid Mayne		22 nd	Jennette Jones		27 th	Alex Ball	
			29 th	Linda Bartlett				

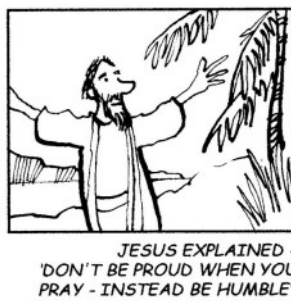
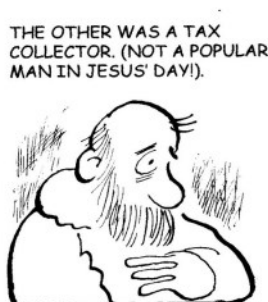
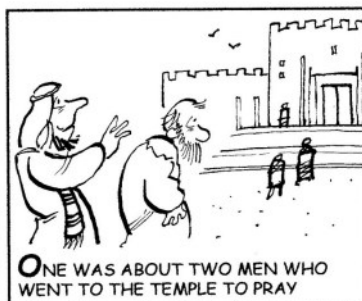
Should you wish to be on the St. Margaret's cleaning rota please contact the relevant Church Wardens.

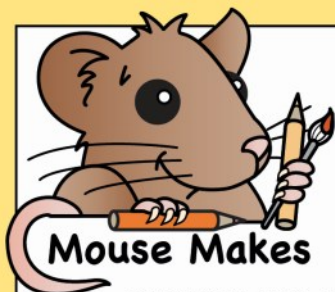
St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

May 2025			June 2025			July 2025		
4	Lynda Trollope	Enid	1	Lynda Trollope	Enid	6	Jennette	Audrey
11	Jennette	Audrey	8	Jennette	Audrey	13	Kath	June
18	Kath	June	15	Kath	June	20	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
25	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	22	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	27	Lynda Trollope	Enid
			29	Lynda Trollope	Enid			

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 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD

READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

P	H	R	Y	P	G	E	W	I	N	D	H	A	T	L	J	E	W	S	G	C	H	P	A	O	E	H	J	L	S	A	E	U	C	I	T	R	G	P	P	A	L	I	B	Y	A	J	L	G	R	E	E	K	P	R	E	L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	T	T	R	I	C	R	E	T	A	N	S	O	R	H	U	A	C	U	J	C	L	A	S	I	A	T	I	S	L	R	G	R	P	A	M	P	H	Y	L	I	A	A	H	A	J	E	M	P	P	H	Y	L	F	O	N	L	S	M	E	S	O	P	O	T	A	M	I	A	S	E	H	P	A	R	T	H	A	N	S	G	L	R	O	P	M	O	I	I	J	E	E	D	T	C	Y	R	E	N	E	L	R	C	U	D	L	O	U	H	E	B	R	E	W	Y	I	A	D	O	A	C	S	W	B	G	O	D	L	T	D	E	B	M	I	A	E	E	K	M	A	R	A	B	I	A	N	S	E	J	E	G	Y	N	O	T	O	N	G	U	E	S	M	E	D	E	S	Y	P	A	R	E	S	S	H	M
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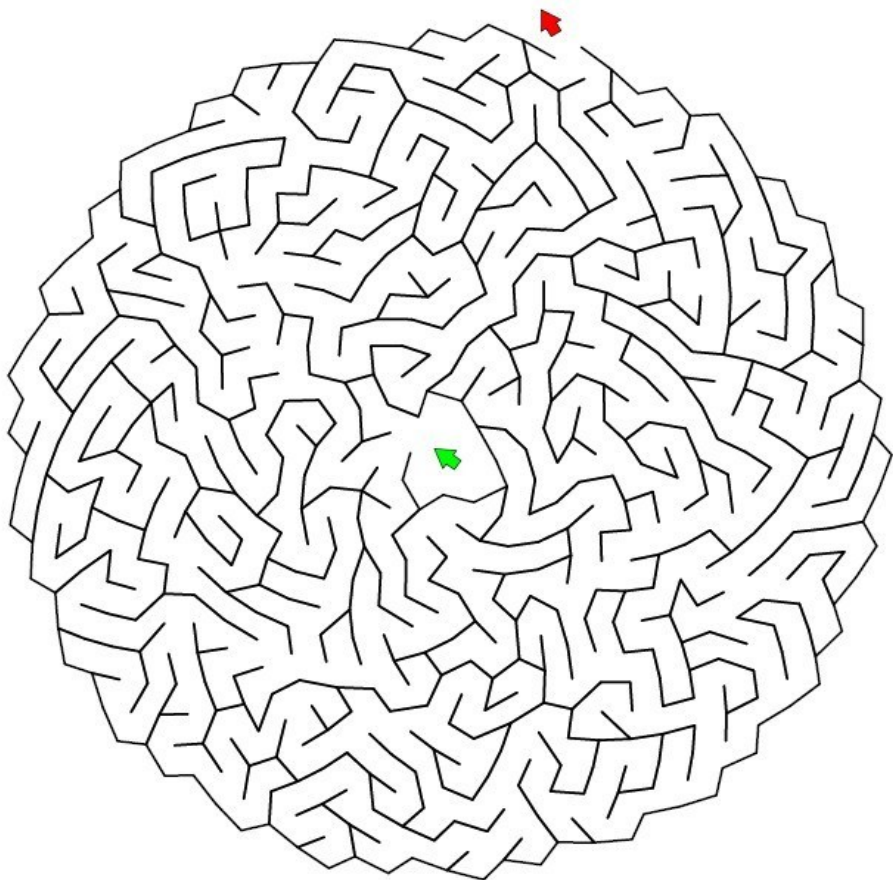
It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them. The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Complete the Maze!



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

May 2025

8th	<i>Brian Bradfield RIP</i>
9th	<i>Odette Short RIP</i>
15th	<i>Ian Cox RIP</i>
19th	<i>Jean Osbourne RIP</i>
28th	<i>Maureen Davies RIP</i>
<i>May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.</i>	





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.***

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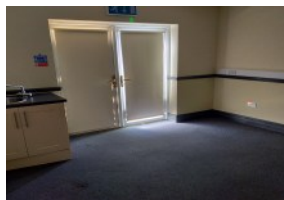
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Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



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!

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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.

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

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

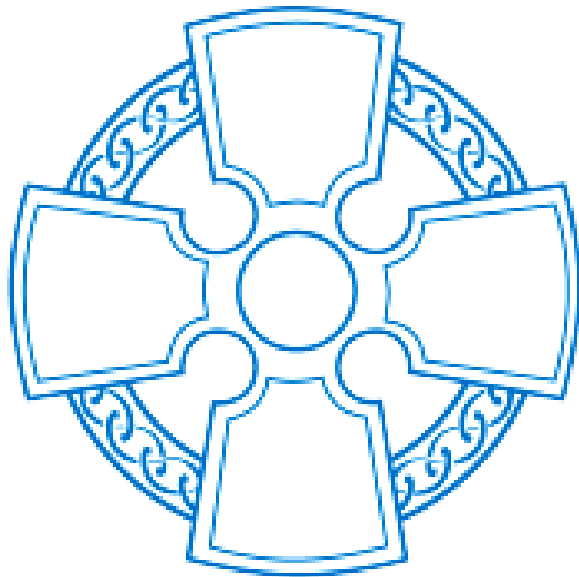
E	F	E	T	B	A	O
G	R	A	N	D	C	H
Y	V	O	O	U	M	E
P	R	O	M	A	R	V
T	U	I	N	E	G	
S	T	R	U	T	S	T
E	E	E	D	O		
B	A	B	Y	S	I	T
R	E	E	H	P	R	X
E	U	C	H	A	R	I
A	O	V	S	I	I	O
C	O	M	M	I	S	S
H	E	D	O	N	S	E

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22

*This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area,
District of Gelligaer. 2025*



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