



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH  
TÂF RHYMNI  
TAFF RHYMNEY  
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!**

*Greetings from the Rectory.*

*Reader Writes.*

*District News/Messages.*

*Mothers' Union.*

*Books of the Bible.*

*For the Children!*

*and More.....*



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## Who's Who (*District of Gelligaer*)

| <u>Priest</u>                           | <u>Reader</u>                            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fr. Gary Powell</b>                  | <b>Mrs. Carolyn Corbin</b>               |
| Tel: 01443 832119                       | Tel: 07983 677360                        |
| <b>Email:</b><br>GaryPowell@cinw.org.uk | <b>Email:</b><br>carolyncorbin63@aol.com |

*For general enquiries please do not hesitate contact Rev. Gary Powell or one of our wardens.*

### **Ministry Area Leader's Wardens:**

Vicar's Warden: ..... Pam Morgan. Tel: 07952 101179  
 People's Warden: ..... Angela Treherne. Tel:

### **Church Wardens**

#### **St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer:**

Vicar's Warden: ..... Cheryl Pugh Tel: 01443 837961  
 People's Warden: ..... Linda Hall Tel: 01443 833961

#### **St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach:**

Vicar's Warden: ..... Enid Mayne, Tel: 01443 268988  
 People's Warden: ..... Jeanette Jones, Tel: 01443 838908

**Gift Aid Secretary** ..... Huw Thomas. Tel: 01443 836613

**Safeguarding Officer** ..... Fr Gary Powell Tel: 01443 832119

**District Treasurer:** ..... Jenn East Tel: 01443 839385

**Magazine** : ..... Chris Corbin, Tel: 01443 833452  
 Email: chriscorbin1961@gmail.com

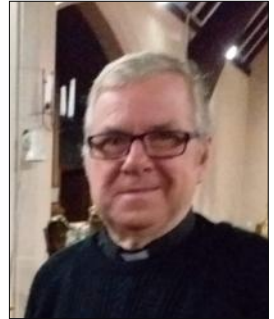
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**Facebook Page:** ..... <https://facebook.com/GelligaerParish/>

## 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.



On the last day of May 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 teachings and the example he sets before us of Godly living. In Jesus' life we have seen the depth of God's love for us revealed to us. In his death and resurrection Jesus has opened the way for us to share the love of God, to live our lives in the light of God's love for us. Throughout the Trinity Season we will consider how this wonderful news informs the way we live our lives. We will consider Jesus' 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?

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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## Reader Writes.

The past few days have seen me looking at my bookcase and boxes containing books. I found books that I would not read again and what I thought would be an easy task proved quite the opposite and I realised that I would have to be ruthless.



Once the hard work of sorting them out had been done, I picked up a book I read last year and decided to revisit it. How glad I am I did as it is the basis for this Reader Writes.

One of my favourite, easy read authors is Sophie Kinsella and the book I picked up is “The Burnout.” In the first chapter, we learn that the main character, Sasha works for a travel app “Zoose” as Director of Special Promotions.

The job sounds exciting but for Sasha, she seems to be spending all her time chasing e-mails, sending e-mails, attending meetings and wondering what have I missed, how will I cope and what am I going to do? By the end of chapter two, Sasha has left the company and decides that she needs to take time out.

In some ways, this sounds much like our lives – social media, e-mails taking up time. As Sasha realised she needed to remove herself from this hustle and bustle perhaps we could find time in our daily lives to have conversations with God, read our Bibles so that we like Sasha, may find our days are more pleasant and rewarding.

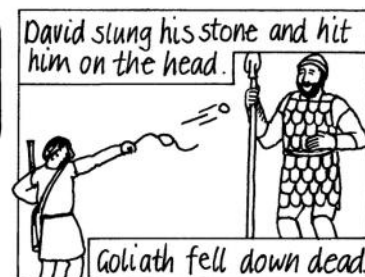
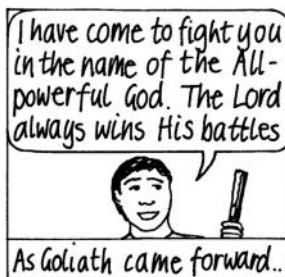
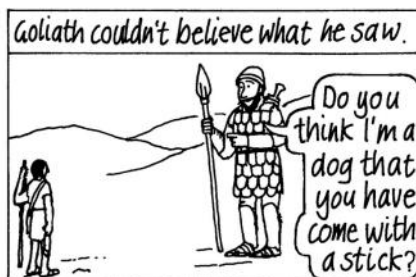
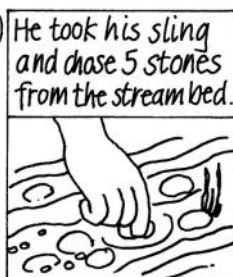
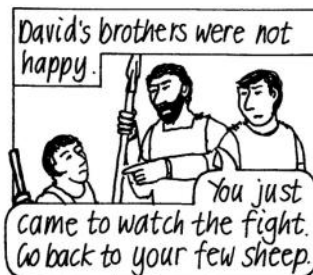
**Carolyn**

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies  
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic  
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..





## Mary, the Blessed Virgin, visits Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.



In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

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## The story behind the HYMN: Lord, for the years

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.*

*Lord, for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim;  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name. ...*

By Timothy Dudley Smith

This well-loved hymn was written in 1967 by the Revd Timothy Dudley Smith, who later became Bishop of Thetford. He later confessed: "I wrote it on a train when I was very pressed for time. I'm thankful if something I write gets picked up, but I suspect anyone who does something in a rush later regrets that they didn't find time to apply the sandpaper a bit more!"

Dudley Smith had been asked to write a hymn for the centenary service of the Children's Special Service Mission, now Scripture Union, in St Paul's Cathedral. His commission was to write words that could be fitted to Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*, as it was to be accompanied by an orchestra with this tune in their repertoire. And so – 'Lord for the years' was written.

Dudley Smith need not have worried about lack of time – his lyrics were a 'hit' in the cathedral on the day, and went on to become so well-loved that George Carey chose the hymn to be sung at his consecration as Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then again later, in 1991, on his consecration as Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral.

The hymn continued to be widely sung and loved, until in 2002 Timothy Dudley Smith was asked to write an extra verse for it so that it could even be sung around the time of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Many of the words in the hymn were true for Queen Elizabeth herself. She would have celebrated her 100th birthday this April, and her



‘official’ birthday on the second Saturday in June. She did indeed thank God ‘for the years Your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way’... And so indeed the ‘extra’ verse added for the Queen also held true:

*Lord for our hopes, the dreams of all our living,  
Christ and his kingdom one united aim,  
Rulers and peoples bound in high thanksgiving,  
Lord of our hopes, our trust is in your Name.*

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## **Jacob: the man who encountered the holiness of God**

Have you ever had a dramatic turning point in your life? Was there an incident, a meeting or something you saw or read which profoundly changed you? The Old Testament character Jacob had a dream, which changed his life.

One night, in the region of Luz, a Canaanite city, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder, on which were angels, linking earth with heaven. The dream revealed to him that God is continually connected with this world. When Jacob woke up, he knew he was in a special place. He became a changed man and changed the place name from Luz to Bethel, which means House of God. Many years later Jacob changed his name from Jacob to Israel. Bethel became a holy place.

How might we define a holy place? We could say it’s a place where God has touched earth with something of heaven e.g. with a miracle or a vision. Venues such as Lourdes (France), Lindisfarne (England), St Peter’s in Rome or Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulchre are considered Holy Places. The Garden of Gethsemane was a special place for Jesus.

Jacob certainly wasn’t faultless or impeccable. His encounter with God didn’t completely change the way he behaved, but it gave him a fresh perspective on life and where he fitted into God’s plans. Like Jacob we too may encounter God at a particular time and grow slowly with God and His plans for us. God doesn’t wait until we are perfect before He can use us. Sometimes we too may need a Holy Place to make or to return to, to help us remember we are in God’s hands.

Dear God, in my busy life, find for me a place where I can be still; a place to meet with You. I am weak and need your strength for each situation. Give me a holy place where I know your arms are embracing me, always safe and secure. Amen.

## *Notices!*

### 100 Club Winners!

#### *May 2026*

| <b>Date:</b> | <b>No:</b> | <b>Winner</b> | <b>Church</b>  |
|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 6th          | 85         | Cheryl Pugh   | St Catwg's     |
| 13th         | 80         | Megan Roach   | St. Margaret's |
| 20th         | 50         | Hannah James  | St. Margaret's |
| 27th         | 47         | Ann Green     | St. Margaret's |
| 31st         | 90         | Audrey Powell | St. Margaret's |

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



### **Y Cymun**

#### **Bendigaid Holy Eucharist**

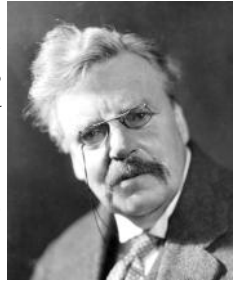
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|------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 31st | Ionawr/January  | S. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer   |
| 7th  | Mawrth/March    | S. Matthias' Church, Treharris |
| 11th | Ebrill/April    | S. Gwladys's Church, Bargoed   |
| 2nd  | 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, Pontlloctyn |
| 7th | Tachwedd/November | S. John's Church, Nelson          |

## Remembering G K Chesterton

Ninety years ago, on 14th June 1936, G K Chesterton died at his home in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. Novelist, short story writer, journalist, essayist, poet, social/literary critic and theologian, he is remembered for his stories about the priest-detective Father Brown.



Gilbert Keith Chesterton was born in Kensington, London, to an estate agent father and a Swiss-French mother. He was educated at St Paul's School before studying art at the Slade School and literature at University College, London. He did not get a degree, and his earliest ambition was to be an artist.

A conspicuous figure in both height and girth, he eventually took to writing, producing in all about 80 books, several hundred poems, 200 short stories, 4000 essays (mostly newspaper columns), and several plays. His literary preoccupations were initially journalism and social commentary, then literary criticism and lastly religion.

He was an apologist who spoke out for orthodox Christianity, initially from an Anglican standpoint, but after 1922 as a Roman Catholic. Using paradox, a sense of wonder and imaginative wit, he described the Christian faith as the one logical answer to life's mysteries. His seminal book, *Orthodoxy*, written when he was an Anglican, was a key factor in the conversion of C S Lewis.

Chesterton married Frances Blogg in 1901, but the couple were unable to have children. A writer herself, Frances encouraged her husband and acted as his personal assistant. He survived a life-threatening illness in 1914 affecting his heart and kidneys and was unconscious for a long period before recovering, though he never regained full vitality.

His most widely known invented character was Father Brown, kindly protagonist of a series of detective novels later televised and recently rerun. Father Brown is an unprepossessing figure with a sharp mind who understands the intricacies of evil through hearing many confessions.

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### Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The shopkeeper explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

## 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’ – Church Monuments**



This month as we continue our walk through the church building, we focus on monuments. George Herbert has a poem on this theme which contrasts the body we see represented in marble, but now consigned to dust, with the soul released to perform its eternal devotions. Such monuments are often a reminder of the

frailty of life and the certainty of death, symbolised by an hourglass or a skull or classical urns.

In St Cuby's Church, Duloe in Cornwall there is a fine slate memorial of an Elizabethan lady, Anna Coffyn, depicted in a richly embroidered dress with gloves and a prayer book, ready for church. Underneath are the skull and crossbones, a memento mori, a reminder that death has visited even this elegant lady. That sign of death can come as a shock to us when we are committed so much to living and getting the most out of life today. Death intrudes violently into the world we would like.

But in St Bartholomew's Church, Much Marcle in Herefordshire, there is a monument that tells us something of the serenity of death. It is the effigy of Blanche Mortimer, who died in 1347. The church is filled with superb monuments, but this one has its own distinct and moving beauty. The carving of her dress shows buttoned sleeves and a wimple, while one hand holds a rosary. She impresses us with her loveliness, even in the midst of her death.

Leonardo da Vinci wrote, 'While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.' As we dedicate ourselves to God in this life, we can trust with Blanche Mortimer in the 14th century that His will is for us to be with Him forever. This life is not just our preparation for death: it is our schooling for heaven, and life in heaven means life with God.

# God in the Sciences

Editor: This is written by Dr. Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

## **Re-joining the Choir: Why people are the helpers, not priests, of Creation**

Urbanisation has taken us away from the rest of Creation, often reducing it in our eyes to a resource that we draw on when we feel like it, or need it. But Jesus said the stones would start praising Him if people didn't (Luke 19:40), and in the Psalms and Job, all of Creation is praising God. There is no hint here that people are needed to enable Creation's praise to happen. The singing is metaphorical, but it draws attention to fact that all creatures praise God by being themselves. They don't only praise with their 'voices', but with everything else they do as well: eating, running, hopping, grooming, reproducing, and so on (which is a reminder to us that our whole lives can be an act of praise to God).

Our isolation from Creation's praise can add to our sense that the whole world revolves around us and our needs. In reality, Creation is God-centred and 'His name alone is exalted' (Psalm 148:13). The value of Creation for God is not necessarily linked to its value for us – it is of value to God because He made it, He cares for it, and it praises Him.

Genesis 1:28 says that we must “rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground”. To rule wisely we need to get hold of the fact that, although we have a special responsibility, we are creatures alongside all the other creatures. One way to ground ourselves in this idea is to re-join the choir and worship God together with every other living and non-living thing on earth.

Rather than being needed to help Creation praise God, we can actually rely on it to help us in our worship. Sharing God's delight in Creation, we can learn to delight in God. In return, the best thing we can do is to

let living things recover their full fruitfulness as much as possible so they can praise God fully. We are called to a life of humble service, taking care of each other and everything else on this planet. In this way, we can choose to see other creatures as they are, pointing our attention away from themselves towards God – until we are caught up in their praise of Him.

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## **Giving thanks for fathers**

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you ‘daddy’, or ‘dad’!

And as we look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children’s lives than when I was a child. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their kids with all their hearts.

Unfortunately, too many kids grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives over the whole of their childhood and beyond. No prizes for guessing the outcome; when they reach fatherhood, their kids often grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives.

The month of June brings Fathers’ Day – this year on the 21st June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never before! If it’s a fine day, it may be a case of ‘Stand back everyone- dad’s going to bar-b-q’. But before we get carried away, let’s spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn’t be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where ‘Dad’ should be.

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as ‘Father’- we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord’s Prayer, and it was Jesus’ custom to talk to God as ‘Father’. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of

fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.

Because that it what the experience of countless Christian would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to him to embrace him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning no-goods who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never! Jesus has turned that on its head. We can be sure that a welcome awaits us; we turn to God, or return to God, and find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.



## Friends of Gilfach



At this month's meeting we were fortunate enough to have Linda just returned from her trip to Japan and so asked her to give us an account of her holiday. She had booked a tour of Japan with her friend Cheryl, and so they were escorted from start to finish. She kept her itinerary and made notes on each day in order to remember where she was and what she had visited. She visited numerous shrines and temples and all the main attractions in Japan. She flew to Tokyo and loved it. The weather was kind with only a little rain, but not too hot to enjoy the sights. She went on the bullet train several times, as well as on a rickety one, and of course lots of bus tours. She had a lesson on tea making, but wasn't too keen on the taste as their green tea doesn't taste like it does here - even the demonstrator's tea wasn't too nice. By her account neither was the saki so they just had to drink the flavoured wine!!

She visited Mount Fuji and was very fortunate to have a good day for the views, as there are only about 80 to 90 days a year when visibility is good. The views were stunning. She saw Geisha girls dancing and they had a visit to Hiroshima, which was totally the opposite to the other attractions, but a necessary one. She had sent a lot of the photos on the WhatsApp group, which most of us had seen, so if anyone wants to see them they are available from most of us. A lot of her spare time was spent finding a restaurant where her and her friend could eat as Linda is celiac and Cheryl is pescatarian. They didn't find



a sushi restaurant which would have been ideal for them both.

She thoroughly enjoyed her trip and we thoroughly enjoyed hearing all about it. She commented on how clean everywhere was and how polite the people are. Not many spoke English but she had a translator card for her diet. There was no eating or drinking on the streets and restaurants closed at 9.00 p.m. It sounds a perfect place to visit and is very safe to wander. So glad she enjoyed it and thanks for telling us all about it, especially since we didn't give her much notice. Well done.

Next month we have Keiron coming back to give us more stories of his army life and protection office after the war. We look forward to his talk as it is so interesting and takes us into a life we could not imagine living. Everyone is welcome to come and hear him at 6 p.m. on Tuesday July 7th. Meanwhile our coffee mornings and quiz afternoons continue as normal, which are lovely community events still well attended in order to raise money for local needs. Hope to see as many as possible at any of these occasions.

God Bless

**Kath**

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### **Flight path**

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"



### **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>

## 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: Colossians**



This month we return to look at the books of the New Testament. Many today are asking: *'How does Jesus uniquely reveal God to us?* This question lies at the heart of Paul's letter to the Colossians. The church in Colossae was a fruit of his three years ministry in Ephesus (52-55 AD). Paul went on to write this letter while in a Roman prison around 61 AD.

Paul was dealing with gnostic false teachers who denied that Jesus was fully God and man. They taught that enlightenment could be reached through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.

Paul attacked this false teaching by focusing on the supremacy of Christ: *'in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have this fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority'* (2:9-10).

He affirms that Jesus is:

Lord of all Creation, who sustains everything. As the exact representation of God, He is first-born over all creation (1:15-17) and there is no place for worshipping angels or any other power (2:18).

Head of the Church (1:18), to whom the Colossians should submit (2:6, 7) and not be seduced by vain speculations (1:16-18).

Supreme Saviour (3:11), who has defeated all spiritual powers on the cross (2:15), allowing them to share in the power of His resurrection (2:20). All are adopted into His family and so there are no special qualifications needed to experience God's favour (2:8-20).

In chapters 3&4 Paul demonstrates the practical implications for the Christian's daily life. We are challenged to abandon the old life and cultivate our new life in Christ (3:5-4:6). If we maintain Jesus as our Lord, He will prove truly sufficient for all our needs.

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# 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>             |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <i>7th June</i>  | <b>THE FIRST SUNDAY after TRINITY</b>     |
| <i>14th June</i> | <b>THE SECOND SUNDAY after TRINITY</b>    |
| <i>21st June</i> | <b>THE THIRD SUNDAY after TRINITY</b>     |
| <i>24th June</i> | <b>* The Nativity of John the Baptist</b> |
| <i>28th June</i> | <b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY after TRINITY</b>    |
|                  |                                           |

## **Installation ceremony at Llandaff Cathedral**

The afternoon of Mothering Sunday saw a large congregation at Llandaff Cathedral attending the installation of Fr. Gary as Area Dean of Eglwysilan and also Fr. Rajiv Sidhu as the new Leader of our Ministry Area. Bishop Mary presided and gave the Address.

The ceremonies were held during Choral Evensong, a service which is held a number of times each week in the Cathedral. The singing by the Cathedral Choir was superb, as was the splendid organ voluntary at the end.

The Deanery of Eglwysilan, which Fr. Gary now leads, covers a wide area, comprising of the Ministry Areas of Caerphilly, Taff Rhymney and Merthyr.

Fr Rajiv. comes to us from the Pontypridd Ministry Area. He and his wife and their family will be living in the Vicarage in Bargoed.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Fr. Gary and Fr. Rajiv and we are very glad that Fr. Gary's new position does not affect his work with us and he remains our Parish Priest.

**Mike Phillips**

### Sudoku Challenge

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

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*Solution can be found on page 39*

### **Quotes for June 2026**

All but God is changing day by day. – C Kingsley

We trust not because ‘a god’ exists, but because THIS God exists. – C S Lewis

Our life is scarcely the twinkle of a star in God’s eternal day. – B Taylor

God’s gifts put man’s best dreams to shame. – Elizabeth Barrett Browning

God loves His children as well in adversity as in prosperity. – T Watson

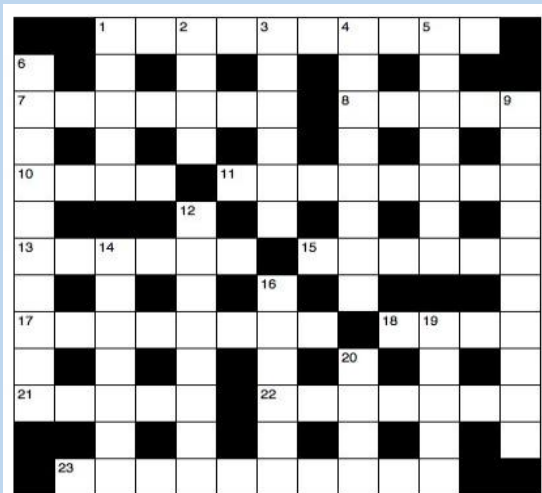
Grace is the sum and substance of New Testament faith. – J I Packer

### **Trinity Sunday**

The divine nature is really and entirely identical with each of the three persons, all of whom can therefore be called one. ‘I and the Father are One’. – St Thomas Aquinas

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

# June's Crossword



# Challenge

## Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, — us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—'(2Corinthians4:8)(4)
- 11 Fraud (2Corinthians6:8)(8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and — around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers,I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling(Genesis26:25)(4)
- 21 'As for man, his days are like—,he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.)(7)

23 Those guilty of 1 Across(Romans13:4)(10)

## Down

- 1 ‘God so loved the — that he gave his one and only Son’ (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 ‘Away in a manger, no — for a bed’ (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 ‘Each — group made its own gods in several towns where they settled’ (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10) 12 Put in jail(Acts22:19)(8)
- 14 Aceturn(anag.)(7)
- 16 Discharge(Acts21:3)(6)
- 19 ‘All these—come from inside and make a man “unclean”’ (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 ‘Let us rejoice and be glad and — him glory!’(Revelation19:7)(4)

***Crossword solution - Page 39***

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### **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](mailto:chriscorbin1961@gmail.com))

## Book Reviews

### **My Story – a spiritual and intellectual autobiography**

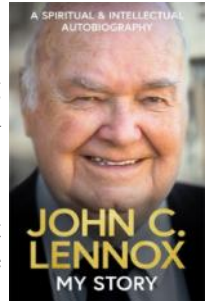
By John C Lennox, SPCK, £24.99

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.

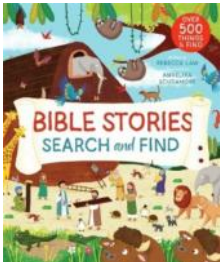
Part memoir, part intellectual adventure, My Story is a must-read for anyone curious how a brilliant mathematical mind can hold fast to the gospel – and how one man's faith has helped millions find a reason to believe in an age of doubt.



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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 / 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 2026 |                  |  | June 2026 |                  |  | July 2026 |                  |  |
|----------|------------------|--|-----------|------------------|--|-----------|------------------|--|
| 3rd      | Cheryl Pugh      |  | 7th       | Cheryl Pugh      |  | 5th       | Paul Thomas      |  |
| 10th     | Janeve Manca     |  | 14th      | Janeve Manca     |  | 12th      | Cheryl Pugh      |  |
| 17th     | Christine Harvey |  | 21st      | Christine Harvey |  | 19th      | Janeve Manca     |  |
| 24th     | Pat Davies       |  | 28th      | Pat Davies       |  | 26th      | Christine Harvey |  |
| 31st     | Paul Thomas      |  |           |                  |  |           |                  |  |

## St. Margaret's Readers Rota

| May 2026 |                |  | June 2026 |                |  | July 2026 |                  |  |
|----------|----------------|--|-----------|----------------|--|-----------|------------------|--|
| 3rd      | June Phillips  |  | 7th       | Kath Llewellyn |  | 5th       | June Phillips    |  |
| 10th     | Enid Mayne     |  | 14th      | Lynne Thomas   |  | 12th      | Alex Ball        |  |
| 17th     | Jenn East      |  | 21st      | Neil Hazell    |  | 19th      | Christine Thorpe |  |
| 24th     | Jennette Jones |  | 28th      | Mark Jones     |  | 26th      | Chris Ball       |  |
| 31st     | 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 2026 |                |        | June 2026 |                |      | July 2026 |                |        |
|----------|----------------|--------|-----------|----------------|------|-----------|----------------|--------|
| 3        | Jennette       | Audrey | 7         | Kath           | June | 5         | Jennette       | Audrey |
| 10       | Kath           | June   | 14        | Lynda Bartlett | Sue  | 12        | Kath           | June   |
| 17       | Lynda Bartlett | Sue    | 21        | Lynda Trollope | Enid | 19        | Lynda Bartlett | Sue    |
| 24       | Lynda Trollope | Enid   | 27        |                |      | 26        | Lynda Trollope | Enid   |
| 31       | Jennette       | Audrey |           |                |      |           |                |        |



# For the Younger Generation.

## The tale of the Salt and Light



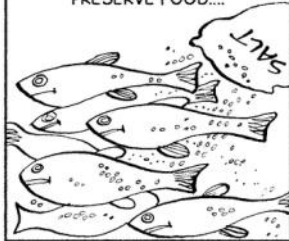
JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS



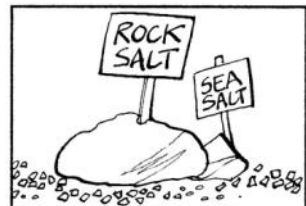
HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS  
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A  
BIT LIKE SALT!



IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS  
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED  
PRESERVE FOOD....

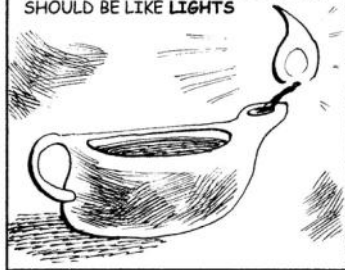


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.  
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



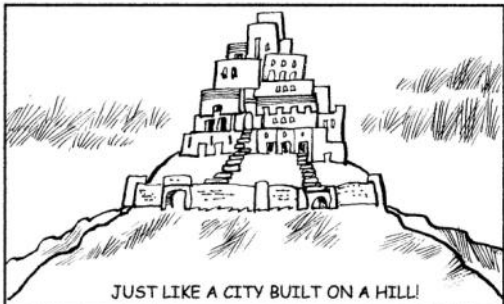
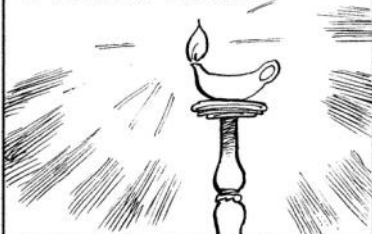
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE  
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP  
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE  
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS  
SHOULD BE LIKE **LIGHTS**

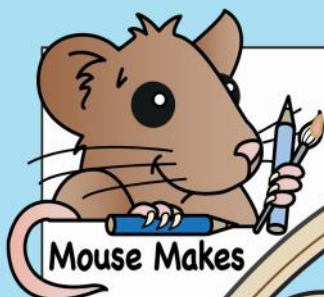


'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS  
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS  
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE  
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!



"May the grace of the Lord  
**JESUS CHRIST** and the  
love of **GOD** and the  
fellowship of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be  
with you all."

2 Corinthians  
13:14



|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>V<br/>HIW<br/>VENLR<br/>SLAEPLG<br/>HALDOOR<br/>EMEWOR<br/>PBREADW<br/>HLALPHA<br/>EEMCGJY<br/>RMEHOEK<br/>DMIRSS<br/>SAVIOUR<br/>PNESNSU<br/>OUNTLOT<br/>MESSIAH<br/>RLGBFIS<br/>KEOMEGA</p> | <p>O<br/>ISD<br/>JYIAM<br/>ACGODJM<br/>LROCKUA<br/>MELORDJ<br/>IABBAGE<br/>GTDEBES<br/>HOYRFET<br/>TRAHATY<br/>YGHOIEF<br/>VSWLARA<br/>OHEYENT<br/>JEHOVAH<br/>IKINGLE<br/>SHIELDR<br/>SAVIOUR</p> | <p>V<br/>UDE<br/>TRUTH<br/>THAHSRI<br/>OSPOWER<br/>ULFLIFE<br/>POWYNDR<br/>AWISDOM<br/>DBEPBVC<br/>VWTIREO<br/>OIEREFM<br/>CTRIAI<br/>ANNTTRO<br/>TEACHER<br/>ESLGIFT<br/>DSGUIDE<br/>THELPER</p> |
| <p><b>JESUS • CHRIST</b><br/>SON • SAVIOUR • LORD<br/>EMMANUEL • MESSIAH<br/>SHEPHERD • LAMB • WAY<br/>TRUTH • LIFE • DOOR<br/>BREAD • WORD • HEALER<br/>VINE • ALPHA • OMEGA</p>                | <p><b>GOD • FATHER</b><br/>ABBA • LORD • JEHOVAH<br/>YAHWEH • ALMIGHTY<br/>HOLY ONE • SAVIOUR<br/>ETERNAL • CREATOR<br/>KING • MAJESTY • JUDGE<br/>SHIELD • ROCK • I AM</p>                        | <p><b>HOLY SPIRIT</b><br/>GIFT • HELPER • WITNESS<br/>COMFORTER • GUIDE<br/>ADVOCATE • WISDOM<br/>POWER • TRUTH • BREATH<br/>LIFE • ETERNAL • DOVE<br/>WIND • FIRE • TEACHER</p>                  |



# Complete the Wordsearch.

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

soldier  
 insulting  
 army  
 cowards  
 lions  
 food  
 Goliath  
 Saul

heard  
 stone  
 armour  
 brothers  
 stick  
 David  
 chance  
 battles

watch  
 Israel  
 chased  
 believe  
 slung  
 Philistines  
 slaves  
 head

Colour in!



May  
the  
*Lord*  
of  
*Peace*  
himself  
give  
you  
*Peace*  
at all  
*times*  
in  
*every*  
way

2 Thessalonians 3:16

# From the Register

## Christian Funerals

*May 2025*

|                                                                                                    |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>                                                                              | <b><i>Mr Robert John Powell RIP</i></b> |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>                                                                             | <b><i>Mary Salmon RIP</i></b>           |
| <b>19<sup>th</sup></b>                                                                             | <b><i>Mr William Leon Trew RIP</i></b>  |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup></b>                                                                             | <b><i>Mr Ivor Meranghi RIP</i></b>      |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup></b>                                                                             | <b><i>Patricia Adams RIP</i></b>        |
|                                                                                                    |                                         |
|                                                                                                    |                                         |
| <b><i>May the souls of the faithful departed,<br/>through the mercy of God, rest in peace.</i></b> |                                         |





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.***



# 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.**

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

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

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

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22



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



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH  
TÂF RHYMNI  
TAFF RHYMNEY  
MINISTRY AREA



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