



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
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MINISTRY AREA

District of Gelligaer Magazine:

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

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



**The Feast of the
Ascension of our Lord**



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.....



Edition No:24

May 2026

Cover Price: £1.00

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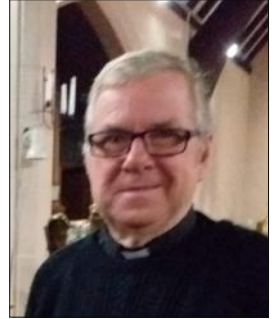
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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

This month we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. It is the occasion when Jesus was raised from the earth before his Disciples eyes to take his place at the right hand of the Father in heaven where he continues to intercede for us. From his throne he rules over all creation, the Lord of our lives. We thank God that we live our lives under his care and protection and in the light of his love. Whatever we face in our daily lives, whatever we see happening in the world we can be sure that Jesus is at our side, praying for us and supporting us. Sometimes it may be difficult to sense his presence, sometimes our faith will be challenged but the promise of the resurrection is that Jesus will never abandon us and his love will never be withdrawn from us.



As Jesus intercedes for us and for all his people from his throne in Heaven we continue to remember in our prayers the people of the world, for all who live in fear or war, violence, poverty of

disease. We remember especially the people of the Middle East and the people of the Ukraine. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time.

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

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**While he was
blessing them,
he withdrew from them
and was carried up
into heaven.**

Luke 24.51

Prayer:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who ascended into heaven in glory, I adore You and praise You and beg You to ask Your Heavenly Father to look down in mercy upon us who still struggle here on earth.

Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, may Your Kingdom come!

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.

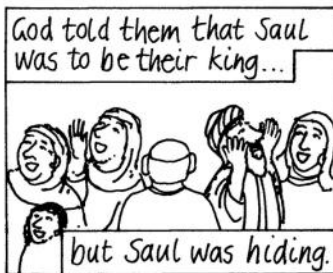
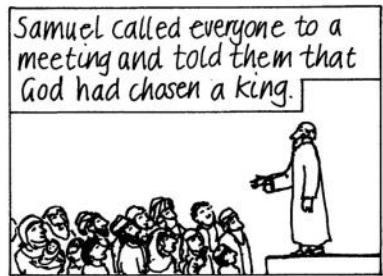
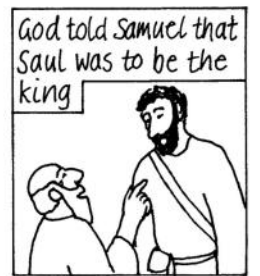
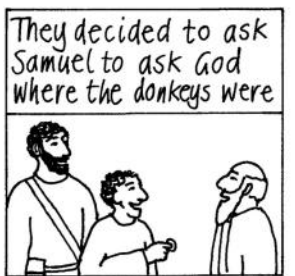
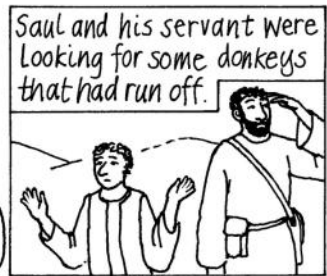
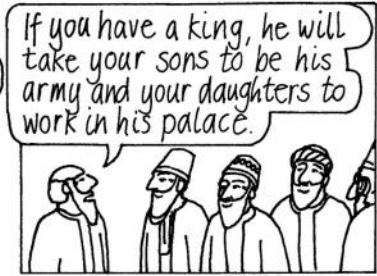
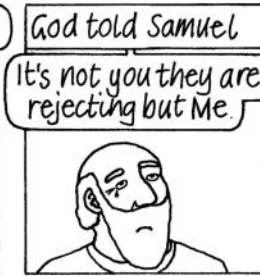
Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...



Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him – and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

John & Charles Wesley, evangelists & hymn-writers

John and Charles Wesley were the founders of Methodism. Two of 19 children born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley of Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703 and 1707, their father was the local rector, while their mother was a spiritual inspiration to her many children.

Both John and Charles went to Christ Church, Oxford (1720 and 1726). John was ordained, and Charles and some friends formed a ‘Holy Club’ while still at college. It consisted of men who dedicated themselves to Bible study, prayer, fasting and good works. Such regular disciplines soon earned Charles the nickname ‘Methodist’. The name stuck.

Both Charles and John felt called to the mission field, and so in 1735 they sailed to Georgia. Their time among Indians in America was not a success – they struggled for any real spiritual authority in their ministries. Feeling failures, they returned to England in some depression. John summed it up: “I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?”

Then the Wesley's made friends with some Moravians. They stressed that salvation cannot be earned, but must be received by grace through faith in Christ. Charles was the first to experience this ‘true’ conversion, when on Pentecost Sunday, 21st May 1738, he wrote that the Spirit of God ‘chased away the darkness of my unbelief.’

Only three days later, on 24th May, 1738, it was John’s turn. As he wrote in his journal:

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed.”

John and Charles Wesley then devoted the rest of their lives to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. In doing so, they turned England upside-down. When the established Church threw John out, he took to the fields, preaching to coal miners and commoners.

His itinerant evangelism took him 250,000 miles on horseback and to preach over 40,000 sermons. His small ‘societies’ attracted some 120,000 followers by the time of his death.

Charles became the most prolific and skilled hymn-writer in English history, writing hymns that are sung widely today, such as ‘Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.’ In all, he wrote more than 6,000 hymns.

The legacy of the two brothers lives on. As well as Methodism, their teaching has widely impacted the holiness movement, the Pentecostal movement, and the charismatic movement.

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The hymns of the Wesley's

The Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John’s great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He wrote over 6,000, most of which aren’t sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – ‘Love divine, all loves excelling’, ‘O for a thousand tongues to sing’. ‘Jesu lover of my soul’, ‘Hark the herald angels sing’ – and scores more.

40 years ago, almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that’s no longer true. Traditional hymns aren’t usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for ‘Songs of Praise’ on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are older people.

Nowadays, with only about five per cent of the population going to church, there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘Amazing Grace’, because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing ‘Bread of heaven’! It seems a pity to lose it.

It’s not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn – ancient or modern doesn’t matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

Notices!

100 Club Winners!

April 2026

Date:	No:	Winner	Church
6th			
13th			
20th			
27th			

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



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
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Y Cymun

Bendigaid Holy Eucharist

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, Pontlottyn
7th	Tachwedd/November	S. John's Church, Nelson

The power of Pentecost

The celebration of Pentecost this month could be described as a birthday party for the church, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples (Acts 2:1-13). What are we celebrating?



God's Promise:

The disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions as they gathered in the Upper Room: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised' (1:4). They met expectantly in prayer for God's promised gift. Just as we look forward to birthday presents, how eager are we to receive more of the Spirit in our lives?

God's Power:

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (4). The disciples needed the power of the Spirit to be different: not fearfully gathered behind locked doors, but instead energised to make Christ known. The Spirit can transform our lives into the likeness of Jesus and give gifts to equip our witness. Although the disciples' experience of this power was overwhelming, it was essentially an encounter with God's love. For us, this can be equally emotional or quiet, but all of us are included, and nobody is excluded from this experience.

God's Purpose:

The disciples 'began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (4). The Spirit empowered their witness, so that everyone heard them speaking in their own 'native language' (lit: dialect, v8). We all have a story to tell of God's activity in our lives, and the Spirit will translate our words and actions into a language that those around can understand! At Pentecost, 3000 people were added to the Church in one day! What do we expect of the Spirit in our day?

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

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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’ – Stained Glass windows



You may know the story of the little girl with her family during a guided tour around a cathedral. As the bright sun streamed through one of the windows, she asked the guide who were the people depicted there. “Those are the saints,” he replied. Later that evening the girl told her mummy, “I know who the saints are.” “Do you, dear? Who are they?” the mother asked. The little girl replied: “They are the people who let the light shine through.”

When the summer sun rises, its light catches the east window of a church I look after. It shines through the figures and colours of the Annunciation scene to bathe the chancel in a warm glow. Later as the sun sets, it shines once again through the west window showing Christ surrounded by angels, with the same wonderful effect. They are two stained glass windows by the Victorian designer, Kempe. But in St Mary’s Church, Fairford in Gloucestershire, there are an incredible 28 windows of medieval glass that have survived the centuries and continue to astonish the visitor.

As the sun catches this array of windows, the colours take on a new, vibrant life. We see scenes in the life of our Lord and our Lady, Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles and the communion of saints. The eye moves round and we reach the west window portraying Christ in majesty and the day of judgement. This great work has been attributed to the royal glazier, Barnard Flower, who was influenced by the late medieval illuminated prayer books. The windows are a living witness to his skill and faith.

George Herbert has a poem that calls us to shine out like the church windows. It is easy, he says, to be “brittle crazy glass”, but in God’s good grace we can become like a window where colours and light, belief and life can combine and mingle to radiate out into the world.

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.

Humility

A few years ago I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth. Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an

equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival - not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

**For resources on this question, try the Faraday Institute, BioLogos, and Christians in Science.*

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Not forgetting Ukraine...

The crisis in the Middle East has distracted world attention from Ukraine. But the country is still at war, and its people are still needing help.



Numerous Christian relief agencies are active now in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, providing emergency aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict.

If you would like to send some support, you might choose to send it through key organisations who mostly work through partners on the ground, channelling humanitarian assistance and long-term care to displaced families, the elderly, and children. These are:

Blythswood Care; CAFOD; Christian Aid; Mission Without Borders; Operation Mobilisation; Salvation Army; and Ukraine Christian Ministries

These organizations work directly with local churches to ensure aid reaches those in the most need, often providing both physical relief and spiritual support.

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Friends of Gilfach



In March Rhian gave us another talk on the Romans, which was very interesting, regarding miscarriages during the Roman Empire and the statistics for today.

In April we had Steve Wornham from Llamau to give us a talk about how we could help them. He gave us the background of how Llamau originated and many stories of domestic abuse and homelessness, especially among the young people. He promised to send me a contact for us to help out with toilet bags etc. for them, but I am still waiting for this to come. I will text him again. We said we wanted to help with practical things and not give money.

In May we had a get-together where I told everyone about a local girl who has started chemotherapy for breast cancer. She is a single mum of two and has always worked since leaving school. As she is too ill to work she is struggling with her bills and food. We agreed to help her out by buying Morrison vouchers to help with her shopping. It was agreed to give her £150. She was absolutely delighted with this unexpected gift and said it would see her through until the middle of June when her sick pay will be reviewed. Everyone felt that this is the kind of help we want to give when we raise money with our continued coffee mornings and quiz afternoons. It is very satisfying to know that we can help someone local who would never ask for anything.

We hope to be able to support her or anyone like her in the future. She won't be able to work for at least a year. So thanks to everyone who continues to attend our meetings and community events. It's surprising how the money from the coffee morning and quiz afternoons enables us to help someone in this situation as they seem to be small amounts each week but soon add up to a good amount. Thank you everyone.

We will be welcoming Keiran back to give us another talk on his time in the army and security, which I am sure will be as interesting as his last talk, and opens our eyes to how some people live their lives. Please join us if you can.

God Bless
Kath

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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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...”



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>

National Biscuit Day – 29th May



Did you know that Britain is the country with the highest biscuit consumption in the world?

According to industry research, we each eat about 500 biscuits a year. And the great biscuit dunking debate - over which biscuit

holds up best when dipped in tea – can spark surprisingly passionate discussion.

Biscuits have been part of our daily lives for centuries. Their dose of sweet, tasty comfort is loved by 2-year-olds and 90-year-olds, and every age in between.

And so National Biscuit Day is held each year to honour this beloved snack. Our national favourite seems to be the chocolate digestive, followed by shortbread and chocolate fingers. But don't underestimate the appeal of custard creams, hobnobs, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies!

The McVitie's Digestive, first produced in 1892, is one of the most iconic biscuits in British history. Today, it remains a bestseller alongside other classics like the Rich Tea, the Bourbon, and the Jammie Dodger.

The word 'biscuit' comes from the Latin panis biscotus, meaning 'twice-cooked bread'. In Roman times, flour-based provisions were baked twice, to remove moisture, making them durable enough for long journeys. Ancient Egyptian sailors and Roman soldiers relied on these early biscuits as a portable, long-lasting food source.

The transformation from practical sustenance to sweet treat began around the seventh century, when Persian bakers added eggs, butter, cream, and eventually sugar and honey to their recipes, creating some of the earliest cookies in history. By the Middle Ages, biscuits had spread across Europe, with each region developing its own favourite.

The Industrial Revolution brought mass production to the biscuit world. British firms like McVitie's, Huntley and Palmers, and Carr's produced biscuits on an unprecedented scale. In 1831, Huntley and Palmers even invented the decorative biscuit tin, which not only kept biscuits fresh but also made them an attractive gift item.

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Books of the Bible.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a prophet who proclaimed judgment to God's people in the 6th century BC. He was among the group of Jews exiled in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel received his call when he was 30 years old through a vision of the glory of God. His ministry finished 22 years later with a vision of the restored Temple in Jerusalem.



Ezekiel spoke to a community forced from its home, who had broken faith with God. He presents a God who rules over all people and history. He is a God who desires to be known and acknowledged ('then they will know that I am the Lord'). As a priest, Ezekiel was deeply concerned with the holiness of God. This call to holy living includes an emphasis on individual responsibility (chapter 18), which is a significant milestone in biblical thought.

Ezekiel offers a vision of true hope for those who have undergone judgment. He promises a restored Temple as a sign of God's presence among his people. He also promises a future 'prince' who will rule with justice and restore God's relationship with his people (34:23-4).

In restoring them morally and spiritually, God promises to use them to bring light to the Gentiles. They will demonstrate the holiness of God's name, because they will know him from the heart. This is the promise that is fulfilled in Jesus and made possible for us:

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.' (36: 26-27).

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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."

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>3rd May</i>	THE FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
<i>10th May</i>	THE SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER: ROGATION SUNDAY
<i>14th May</i>	ASCENSION DAY
<i>17th May</i>	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER - Sunday after Ascension Day
<i>24th May</i>	THE DAY of PENTECOST - Whitsunday
<i>31st May</i>	TRINITY SUNDAY

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!!*



BRINGING FAITH TO YOUR INBOX

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

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

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

Quotes for May 2025

Rogation Sunday (25th May) is about asking for God’s protection and blessing

Pure prayers have pure blessings. – **Thomas Goodwin**

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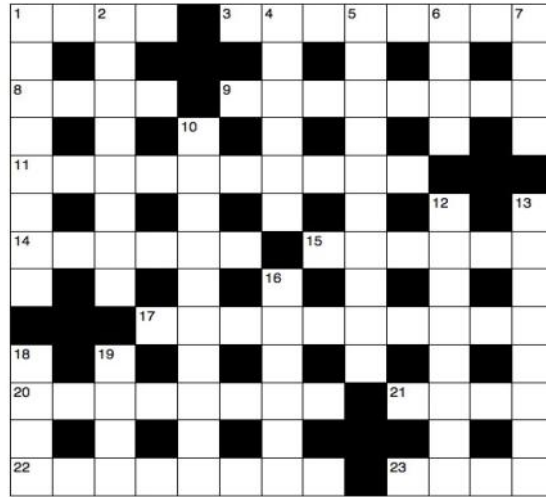
We should believe that nothing is too small to be named before God. What should we think of the patient who told his doctor he was ill, but never went into particulars? – **Anon**

Miscellaneous musings on life.

Only one petition in the Lord’s Prayer has any condition attached to it; it is the petition for forgiveness. – **Archbishop William Temple**

Inanimate objects are classified scientifically into three major categories: those that don’t work, those that break down and those that get lost. – **Russell Baker**

Stars may be seen from the bottom of a deep well, when they cannot be discerned from the top of a mountain. So are many things learned in adversity which the prosperous man dreams not of. – **CH Spurgeon**



Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 ‘My God, my God, why have you — me?’ (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 ‘Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ’ (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 ‘[Jesus] said to them, “ — here and keep watch”’ (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 ‘I am God, and there is none — me’ (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 ‘And how can they preach unless they are — ?’ (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 ‘About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land’ (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 ‘According to your great compassion — out my transgressions’ (Psalm 51:1) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

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Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down. The banker replied: “I’m a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression.”

June’s Magazine 2026

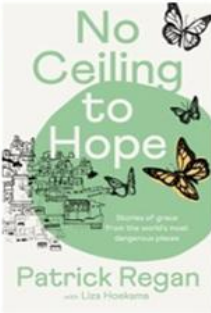
Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 25th May, for inclusion in the Junes edition.

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

Book Reviews

No Ceiling to Hope: Stories of grace from the world's most dangerous places

By Patrick Regan and Liza Hoeksma, SPCK, £10.99



Here are some real-life stories from across the world to show how Christians are helping the most vulnerable in society with God's love.

In Bolivia, Christians are backing education projects to help families to find a way out of poverty. In London, XLP is mentoring young people to turn aside from violence. In Los Angeles, a new future is being offered to gang girls. In high security prisons in the UK and US, the Spirit is turning lives around. In Belfast's Shankill Road area, a group of elderly ladies is cooking meals for men who sit all day in local pubs . . . The list is extensive, and inspiring. The common element is that, in all circumstances, Christ is offering hope.

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Grandparenting for Faith: Sharing God with the children you love the most

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Part of the joy of being a grandparent is to help your grandchildren learn to have confidence in God's love for them.

This book will encourage grandparents to be a unique voice, speaking into their grandchildren's lives, and helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.



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.

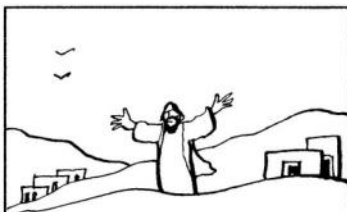
St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

May 2026			June 2026			April 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 Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE
VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT
A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

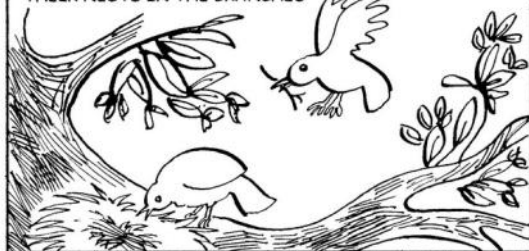


IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST
OF SEEDS....



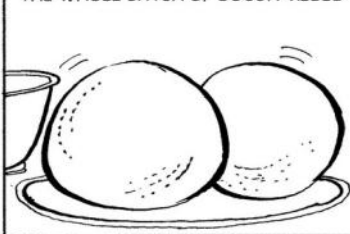
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS
THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES

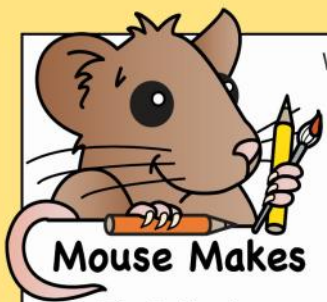


JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT,
WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR,
THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE
HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A
HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES
OF OTHERS.



Mouse Makes

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of _____
Genesis 1:2

The _____
of the Father.
Acts 1:4

The Spirit of _____
A _____
Romans 8:15

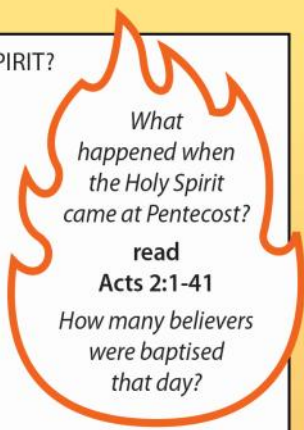
H _____
John 14:26

The Spirit of _____
John 16:13

The Spirit of _____
Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

___ O ___
___ Y ___
___ C ___
___ T ___
___ I ___
___ N ___
S ___
___ N ___



What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

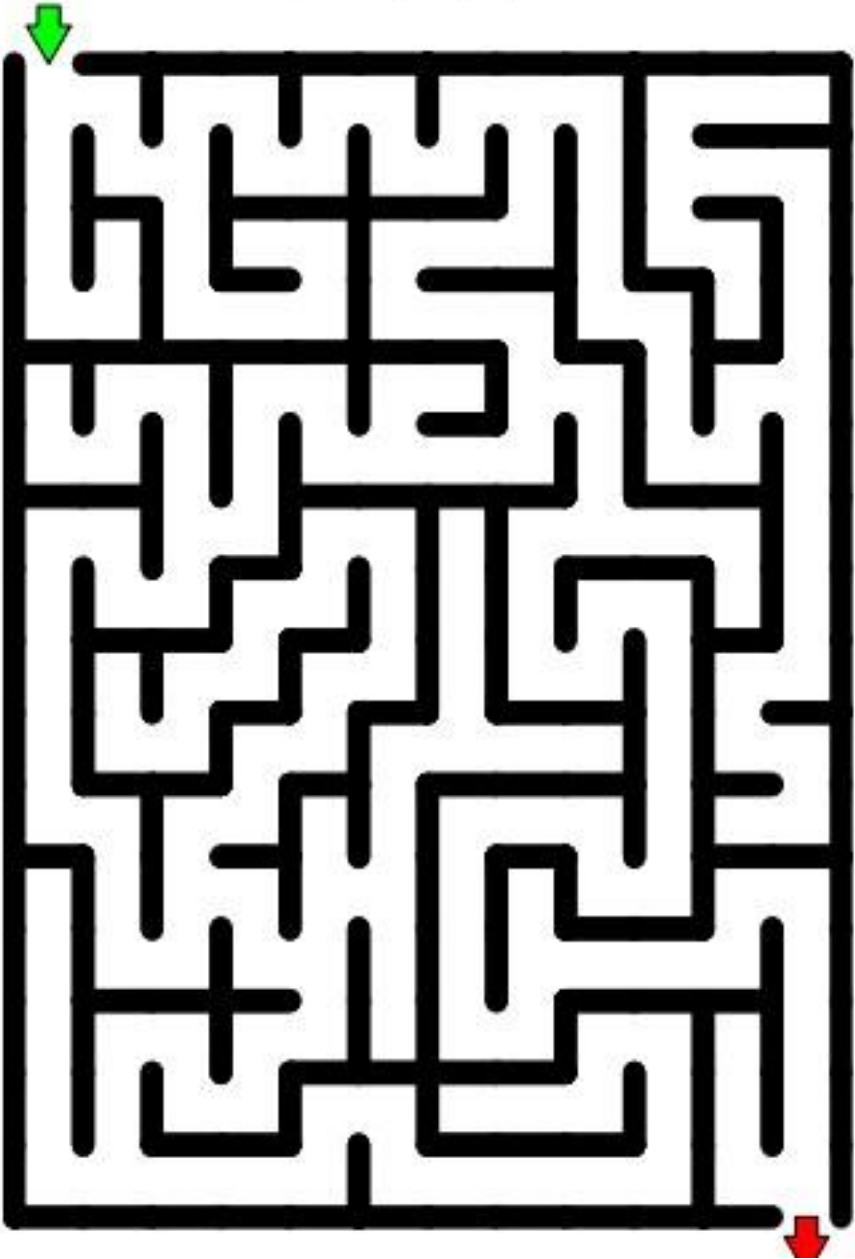
read Acts 2:1-41
How many believers were baptised that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

- HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
- ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
- GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Complete the Maze!



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

April 2025

<i>2nd</i>	<i>Perry McIntosh RIP</i>
<i>30th</i>	<i>Maragret Partridge RIP</i>

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





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

Author Unknown

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Prayers for the Bereaved

*May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe away every tear from your eyes.
May Almighty God bless you, and look after you at this
difficult time. Amen.*

-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.

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

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

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 21

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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