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MINISTRY AREA

District of Gelligaer Magazine:

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

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



Remembrance Sunday

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For the Children!

and More.....



Edition No:19

November 2025

Cover Price: £1.00

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Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,

It is good to be back among you after my break last month. I enjoyed a lovely time in Venice before enjoying a cruise around the Adriatic Sea, taking in Dubrovnik, Corfu, Kotor, Bari (Italy) and Zadar. It was a wonderfully relaxing time and I visited some places I hadn't visited



before. I enjoy travelling, as you know. It is good to go away but it is always good to come home and I am pleased to be back among you

One of the first things I enjoyed on my return was our annual Autumn Fayre. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Fayre such a successful event. We raised over One Thousand Pounds which is a wonderful achievement especially given the current economic difficulties we are experiencing at the present time. It was lovely to see so many people there, all enjoying themselves.

This month we celebrate the last season of the Churches year – the Kingdom Season. We celebrate the Kingship of Jesus Christ over all creation and the Kingdom of Heaven. We give thanks that Jesus has called us to live as citizens of his Kingdom and to help build his Kingdom in this little part of his creation that he has entrusted to us. Finally we look forward to the time when he will come again in glory and his Kingdom will be established in all its glory

throughout the world.

As we celebrate the presence of the Kingdom of God in the world today we are reminded of the first coming of Christ at Christmas which is not too far away. December is nearly upon us and it is always a busy month. I would ask you to keep a close eye on our church magazine and newsletter and our church website and Facebook page to see all that is happening. We will be holding our usual services of "A Candle to Remember", Nine Lessons and Carols. Christmas services will be confirmed shortly. I look forward to welcoming you to our various celebrations. Please invite family members, friends and neighbours to join us at this very special time of the year.

Please take care and keep safe.

I keep you all in my prayers.

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

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Leviticus 23:22

“ When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God. ’ ”

Reader Writes.

School have just returned following their half term break and are now learning songs and lines for their Christmas concerts. Last September, some children and teachers may have started studying or working in a new school and beginning a new chapter in their lives. Some of the younger nursery or reception age children may have been shedding a few tears as they arrived at the school gates and along with their families who are leaving them at the school gate! This reminds us how hard it can be for people of all ages when placed in a new situation.



By the beginning of November, the children and parents who shed those tears may now be feeling differently as children will have made friends and their families will be happier for seeing their children happy. Seeing these changes says a lot about the school and the people who make up the school – the headteacher, teachers, teaching assistants, dinner ladies, secretary and caretaker and anyone I have left out!!! – these are the people that make things happen. These are the people who see each child develop, gain confidence and independence – not just socially but in their work, see their achievements, encourage them and care about them and in a few years see them leave the security and friendliness of that school family to move to pastures new. The tears of the children at the beginning of their school years may last only momentarily but the memories they have will last a life-time.

In our lives whether we are happy, sad, upset, fraught, frustrated, these are the times when we may have cried. On losing a loved one, memories can trigger tears from no-where and take us by surprise. In the same way, there may have been occasions when we have cried tears of happiness. In the same way that the teachers can calm the children when they are upset – perhaps ask the children to wipe away their tears, listen to what they need to say and then somehow find a way to put a smile back on their face, God does that for everyone, young or old. God helps us to ease our pain, to dry our tears and to give us peace to regain our calmness and inner strength. We need to find the silence in our lives and minds and to listen to God when he speaks words of comfort to us.

Carolyn

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:5-13

To teach about praying, and God's good gifts, Jesus told this story - 'If you have a visitor arrive in the middle of the night..'

Oh no! I have no bread to feed him! I am so ashamed! What can I do?... I know!



'You would go round to a friend's house.'



I really, really need some bread for a visitor.



I need that bread!



Jesus concluded...

So keep on asking and it will be given, seeking and you will find, knocking and it will be opened... And parents, if your hungry child asks for bread,



'..would you give them a stone?'



'And if they asked for a fish...'



'..would you give them a snake?'



'Or if they asked for an egg...'



'you'd give a scorpion?'



If you, who aren't perfect parents, give good gifts to your children, then don't you think that gifts from your perfect Father, God, will be even better?



Remembrance Sunday



In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.



Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book *Christianity and Social Order* (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His

radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

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Songs of Praise and the nation's favourite school hymn

This autumn the BBC has been in the process of discovering our favourite school hymn. It gave the public a shortlist of 50 hymns to choose from. The vote was organised by the BBC's Songs of Praise team, with an accompanying programme, The Big School Assembly Singalong, hosted by singer and presenter Aled Jones.

Aled Jones well remembers his school hymn days. "Every morning, we sat cross-legged on an uncomfortable wooden floor, which doubled up as our gym and school canteen.

"We would sing the songs that don't get sung in cathedrals, where I ended up, because they're perhaps seen as child-like, but actually that's what brought me into religious music in the first place.

"There's a joy in being able to sing these hymns that uplift you and make you feel out of this world, but back at school, it was even better to do it with mates. I think that these hymns and this collective singing just takes you back to an easier, simpler, safer time."

The vote was cast on 20th September, but at the time of this going to press, we do not yet have the results.

The results were due to be announced on 11th October, during the The Big School Assembly Singalong, held at the Victoria Hall in Bolton. On the night, a choir led by music teacher and TikTok star James B Partridge will present a range of school assembly classics.

Partridge said: "I think the school assembly songs that we sang as children have a special place in our heart. Having that experience of singing together as a community really brings back the joy of those childhood days."

Notices!

100 Club Winners!

October 2025

Date:	No:	Winner	Church

Celebration praise

A service of praise and thanksgiving for 30 years ordained ministry for Fr Gary Powell and Rev'd Judy Ford was held in St, Catwg's Church, Gelligaer . Congratulations to you both.

A beautiful service from start to finish, poignant yet joyous throughout . The church was full to capacity. The choice of readings and hymns chosen by Fr Gary and Rev'd Judy, was a reflection of their faith and very moving. Ten hymns were chosen and the organ playing from Mike Phillips was amazing, as was the singing from the congregation . Thank you Mike ,you never let us down. After the service we all went to the hall, I think everyone came as the hall was packed. That again was a joyous social occasion, the food and drinks were plentiful and supplied by all the churches. Thank you all for your support and generosity. The cakes were baked and decorated by Carolyn and Chris Corbin, thank you they were awesome.

Behind the scenes were the social club team and helpers from within the church. Well done, Diolch.

Fr Gary, we are so blessed to have you in our lives and also Rev'd Judy , the turnout on Sunday proves how much you are thought of throughout the District. We give thanks to God for you, for your care and commitment to us all. God Bless.

With love June

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the true King of peace.
In you alone is found freedom.
Please free our world from conflict.
Bring unity to troubled nations,
unity amongst all people.
And let Your glorious peace
reign in every heart.



Smile Lines

I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

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Somebody just threw a handful of Omega 3 tablets at me!
It's okay, I only suffered super fish oil injuries.



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>

God in the Arts

Editor: 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. If you use the graphic supplied, please credit: 'Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve, public domain'

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Zubaran’s ‘Jacob and his twelve sons’



In the Old Testament the story of Jacob is a vivid saga of struggle and conflict: Jacob vies with his brother Esau, he has a difficult time with Laban, there are tensions in his family, and finally he wrestles with a divine stranger. And yet in the book of Genesis his days end with promises from God: he will be blessed with descendants, a land, fruitfulness and the assurance of God’s presence with him. He is given a new name and a new destiny as ‘Israel.’ We sense all this struggle and blessing in a remarkable series of thirteen paintings, ‘Jacob and his twelve sons’ by the Spanish artist, Francisco Zubarán.

They hang in the dining room of Auckland Castle at Bishop Auckland. Bishop Auckland grew as a thriving market town and then in the industrial age became the centre of the Durham coal industry. It was also the site for the prince bishop of Durham’s palace. In the medieval period the bishop was as powerful as the monarch of the land, with an army that rivalled the king’s own forces. Auckland Castle became the country seat for the prince bishops, and in the 18th century Bishop Richard Trevor made the palace more Gothic and imposing than ever before. To mark the 1753 Act that allowed Jews to be naturalised in England, he purchased the portraits of Jacob and his sons by Zubarán for £124.

Zubarán normally painted monks and saints, and this particular series was meant for the colonies. But they were seized by pirates and then sold to a London merchant. The one depicting Benjamin was bought by Lord Ancaster, and so Bishop Trevor was only able to buy twelve. He commissioned Arthur Pond, a jobbing painter, to make an exact copy of Benjamin to complete his set. The series of canvases, each eight feet tall, was in the news recently when there was a possibility they might be sold. They were saved by a Trust, now dedicated to developing the

site of the Castle, which includes not just the dining room, where the paintings hang, but a very fine chapel of St Peter, a throne room, and beautiful gardens.

Jacob and his sons are each painted against the daylight sky, and each has its individual characteristics. Judah for instance is clad in a brown and gold garment with a gold circlet crowning his head as the ancestor of King David and Joseph, the husband of Mary. Gad is a strong soldier. Jacob, the father of these twelve sons, is a bearded old man, bowed down with the weight, not just of his years of struggle, but perhaps also the burden of destiny laid on his shoulders as both a blessing and a responsibility. For in the Old Testament, we learn that God often chooses the ones overlooked by the world: the young boy David above his more likely brothers, Isaac above Ishmael, and in the saga behind these impressive paintings of Zubarán, Jacob, the second born son, but here blessed as the father of God's people.

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God in the Sciences

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

Wonder and Worship

“I was travelling, and out early in the morning: at first there was a vast fog; but, by the time that I was seven or eight miles from home towards the coast, the sun broke out into a delicate warm day. We were then on a large heath or common, and I could discern, as the mist began to break away, great numbers of swallows (*hirundines rusticae*) clustering on the stunted shrubs and bushes, as if they had roosted there all night. As soon as the air became clear and pleasant they all were on the wing at once; and, by a placid and easy flight, proceeded on southward towards the sea”.

How many church leaders today have time to enjoy their surroundings? Gilbert White was a vicar who became famous for his observations about the flora and fauna of his parish. His letters about the local wildlife through the seasons were so beautifully written that they are still in print today, more than 200 years after they were first published as *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selbourne*.

White is a great example of someone who saw science and faith in harmony. He writes that he hopes his readers will be inspired to “pay a more ready attention to the wonders of the Creation”. His stories are often so vivid that he gets away with packing in quite a bit of scientific detail, painting a more accurate picture of the wonderful events he observed as he travelled around the countryside. White’s book is one of the classics of nature writing, and there’s even an apocryphal story online that this is one of the most printed books in the country, after the Bible and Shakespeare.

White may have been one of those people with a capacity for endless activity, or perhaps he took rather more care over natural history than his vocation. Either way, I do think that anyone - from the parish priest to the youngest member of the congregation - could learn from his appreciation of creation. It is well worth spending ten minutes every now and again staring into a bush, pond or tree - especially in winter when it’s easy to hurry indoors and put the kettle on. Experiencing wildlife first-hand is wonderful fuel for our worship of God and care for His creation. As Psalm 111 says, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them” (NIV).

**(White’s book can be downloaded for free at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1408>)*

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St Andrew and football

‘Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don’t like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that’ (Bill Shankley). When you replace the word ‘football’ with ‘mission’, this quote still has something to say! The apostle Andrew (we remember him on 30th November) demonstrates what the mission of the Church is all about (cf John 1:35-42). It’s not unlike following your favourite football team!

When we support a football team, we make sure that we know all about them! When Andrew and his friend heard about Jesus, they wanted to find out more: ‘Look, the Lamb of God.’ (John the Baptist, v35). The first stage of mission is finding out more about Jesus, the

One who enables us to be friends of God through His death and resurrection.

Secondly, when supporting a football team, we will spend time watching their games. Andrew asked, ‘where are you staying?’ and Jesus replied, ‘Come and you will see’ (v39). Andrew spent the rest of the day talking and listening to Jesus. As a result of this time, he had something to share. How much time do we spend with Jesus, reading His word and praying?

When our team wins, we want to share the good news! After meeting Jesus, Andrew’s first action was to tell his brother Peter: ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ)’ (v41). Are we willing to tell others about Him too? Sharing with family and close friends can sometimes be harder than talking with strangers. However, we don’t need to follow a football team to engage in mission. It’s all about being excited to share Jesus with those we meet day by day.

‘Mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in’ (Rowan Williams).

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Put together a Memory Book

Do you have grandchildren? Then this winter, during those long dark days, why not spend some time putting together a sort of scrapbook of memories to pass on to them?

Things you might like include could be: where you lived when you were a child; what your school was like, what games you most enjoyed, who your best buddies were, what pets you had, what your first job was, and how you met your partner. What was your first car, and where was your first home as an adult? Add a selection of photographs that you have from the past.



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Friends of Gilfach

This is the first report from Friends of Gilfach, which is the name we have chosen since leaving the Mothers' Union. June and I came up with the name on the spot so if anyone doesn't like it and have an alternative please let us know, but we think it sums up the support for what we do in the community of Gilfach.

We have continued with our monthly meeting, coffee mornings and quiz afternoon, still well supported. I haven't been able to be at all events but they have continued with everyone else's support. Thanks to those who make cakes and serve the teas, as well as washing up.

We changed our Tuesday meeting to Monday 6th October for this month only. We had Kieron Heaven to talk to us about his time in the army and he was going away on the Tuesday so kindly offered to do the Monday. I informed everyone and there was no problem for this month. What a talk he gave us. He was brilliant. Kieron had us spellbound from the time he started until he finished and left us asking him to come back and give us more talks on his time not just in the army but as security after he left.

Whilst in Lewis Grammar School he had always wanted to join the Army, so when he left, at only 16 he first took a job locally and then six months later went to the recruiting office in Cardiff. When he came home and asked his mother to sign for him to join she threw the papers away and was adamant that he was too young and she wouldn't let him go. This was the time when Northern Ireland was in the midst of the troubles and all the television was showing was the killing of soldiers there. Quite understandable that his mother didn't want him to join. However his father retrieved the papers and signed them for him – an act which his mother never forgave his dad. He said to go and make a life for himself and not get himself killed. When he went to enlist he was too young to go into the Welsh Regiment he wanted but he did eventually get there. At 16 he was too young to go to Northern Ireland as under 18s weren't allowed outside the camp there. He

signed up for 22 years, though he could have signed for 2, 5, 10 or 15. But 22 years paid him more money!

He told us of all the places he had been, though I am sure he could have enlarged on some of them being quite scary, but that might be for his next talk. He trained in Denmark, Canada, U.S.A. but found Canada quite scary as they used live ammunition for all their exercises. Two of his regiment, plus a padre were killed on exercise, and this seemed to be the norm. I am sure that most soldiers wouldn't expect to be killed on exercises. He went to the Falklands in 1985, after the war there, to clear mines, etc. He started in Crickhowell and went there a few times, as well as many bases in this country. He loved it, though could sometimes be rebellious which cost him promotion at times. I could repeat lots of his stories and times spent in different places but I couldn't take notes because I was fascinated with his talk.

When he had finished his talk he was asked questions and was more forthright in how **dangerous** it had been on times, but I can honestly say he had us all in awe of him. He was honest in saying that he would have chosen the same life if he had a choice again. He loved every minute of it and we were able to see that in his address to us. So thank you Kieron and please come again.

Kath

God bless

Where there's smoke...

At our church, it was common for the minister to invite the children to the front of the church and have a small lesson before beginning the sermon. He would often bring in a household item, and then relate it to a teaching from the Bible.

One morning, the visual aid for his lesson was a smoke detector. He asked the children if anyone knew what it meant when an alarm sounded from the smoke detector. My young son immediately raised his hand. "It means Daddy's cooking dinner."

Looking at God.

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

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Ephesians

Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians around AD 60, while in prison at Rome. It was probably a circular letter to be read in the house churches of Ephesus and the local area. Paul founded the church over a period of three years (Acts 19:1-20:1) between 52-55 AD. Ephesus was the leading city and commercial centre in the region, famous for its temple to the goddess Artemis (Diana).

Paul's aim in writing his letter was to help his readers understand the dimensions of God's purpose and grace for them and His eternal plan for the church. The believers needed to understand their status 'in Christ' and the call to live a life worthy of Christ. Ephesians is divided into two halves: chapters 1-3 concern theological issues, while chapters 4-6 deal with the practical outworking of faith.

Having shown God's purpose for the church, Paul shows how God has reconciled individuals to Himself by grace (2:1-10). He has reconciled people to each other by breaking down the barriers through Christ's death (2:11-22). This is the 'mystery' revealed by Paul (3:1-13) and he shows how Christ's gifts promote unity and maturity (4:1-16). The believer's new life stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ (4:17-6:20).

The great overarching theme of the letter is that we are rescued by God not just for our personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to Him in our lives: 'He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.' (1:9,10).

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We continue our series on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle. If you would like the earlier ones in the series, we would be happy to email them to you. Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Praying With the Prayers of the Bible: when your prayer is not answered

2 Cor. 12:8; ‘Three times I asked the Lord about this ...but...’

Paul is talking about one of the most mysterious and one of the most baffling aspects of prayer – when God does not say yes.

On the face of it, Paul’s prayer was very modest. For some time he had been troubled by ‘a thorn in the flesh.’ He doesn’t tell us what the ‘thorn’ was and down the centuries theologians and commentators have made suggestions. Most of them have thought that the affliction was physical because Paul says it was ‘in the flesh.’ Some have suggested that he suffered from epileptic fits which caused him to fall down, while others have suggested that he was laid low by constant fevers or that he had very poor eyesight, the last based on his remarks in Galatians 6:11. But in spite of this great servant of the Lord praying earnestly three times that the thorn would be removed, God did not answer as Paul expected. A number of things in this passage (verses 7-10) are very helpful to all of us in the matter of prayer.

First, although God’s answer was not what Paul asked for, God did answer him. God is never indifferent to the prayers we utter from the depth of our heart. Unlike the idol Baal in the Old Testament story about Elijah, (1 Kings 18) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus is not on a journey, nor is he busy elsewhere, nor is he sleeping. He hears our prayers and our cries when we come to Him in our need and pain and distress.

Second, although Paul did not get the answer he wanted, God made him a wonderful promise. He said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you’ (v.9). This was not what Paul asked for, yet what a promise it was! God said in effect. ‘I will not take the thorn away – but my daily grace is all-sufficient.’ In spite of the thorn, Paul will triumph. When God gives us all-sufficient grace, it will take care of everything in our lives.

Thirdly, Paul learnt that God’s wonderful grace meant that in his weakness ‘the power of Christ’ (v.9) would be with him, the power that would make him effective and fruitful in his ministry.

Fourthly, this experience taught Paul that he could be ‘content with weaknesses and insults’ (v.10) because it was for Christ’s sake, and when he is weak in himself, he is strong in Christ (v.10).

So what about unanswered prayer? Unless our prayer was selfish and not for our good in the first place, God does answer our cry. When the answer is not what we expected, then it means that our loving Father has something for us even better and more important than what we asked for.

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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>2nd Nov</i>	THE FIRST SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM
<i>9th Nov</i>	THE SECOND SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM
<i>16th Nov</i>	THE THIRD SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM
<i>23rd Nov</i>	CHRIST THE KING - THE FOURTH SUNDAY of THE KINGDOM
<i>30th Nov</i>	THE FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

You are warmly invited to join us for

A CANDLE TO REMEMBER

A Service of Remembrance for our departed loved ones

During the service there will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones and we will remember by name all at whose funerals we have officiated this year.



Identical services will be held at:

St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer, 3.00pm Sunday 14th December

St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach, 6.00pm Wednesday 17th December

December's Magazine 2025

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 24th August, for inclusion in the December's edition.

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

With our Christian pilgrimage in mind...

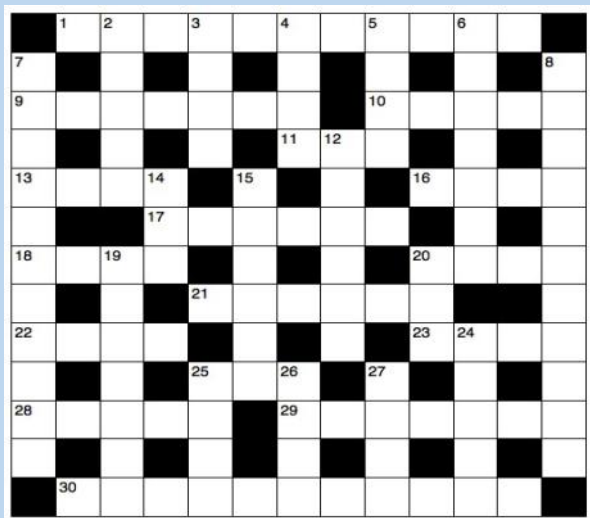
When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. – *Corrie ten Boom*

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. – *Albert Schweitzer*

Many of us who profess to be Christians are so busy with the mechanics of our religion that we have no time left for the spiritual part of it. – *W B Martin*

Our character is but the stamp on our souls of the free choices of good and evil we have made through life. – *Geikie*

November's Crossword



Challenge

Across

- 1 The sixth disciple (Matthew 10:3) (11)
- 9 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the — —'
(Matthew 6:13) (4,3)
- 10 Love intensely (Song of Songs 1:4) (5)
- 11 From Mt Carmel to Jezreel, Elijah — all the way (1 Kings 18:46)
(3)
- 13 One of the Midianite leaders who was captured and killed after
Gideon's victory in the valley near Moreh (Judges 7:25) (4)
- 16 Metallic element (4)
- 17 At line (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Cursed is everyone who is — on a tree' (Galatians 3:13) (4)
- 20 Where Samson killed a thousand Philistines with a donkey's
jawbone (Judges 15:14) (4)
- 21 He succeeded Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 22 'When he saw him, he took — on him' (Luke 10:33) (4)
- 23 'For — is the gate and broad is the road that leads to
destruction' (Matthew 7:13) (4)
- 25 'The god of this — has blinded the minds of unbelievers'
(2 Corinthians 4:4) (3)

- 28 Fear or terror (Psalm 31:22) (5)
- 29 'We, who are many, are one body, for we all — of the one loaf' (1 Corinthians 10:17) (7)
- 30 Assyrian ruler assassinated by his sons while worshipping his god Nisroch (2 Kings 19:37) (11)

Down

- 2 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made — ' (1 Corinthians 15:22) (5)
- 3 'After supper he — the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (4)
- 4 The request of a man of Macedonia in Paul's vision: 'Come — to Macedonia and help us' (Acts 16:9) (4)
- 5 He disobeyed his father Judah by refusing to impregnate his dead brother's wife (Genesis 38:9) (4)
- 6 I veto me (anag.) (7)
- 7 Fourth king of Judah (1 Kings 15:24) (11)
- 8 Priest of God Most High, who blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18) (11)
- 12 'I have made you — — for the Gentiles' (Acts 13:47) (1,5)
- 14 Implore (1 Samuel 15:25) (3)
- 15 'Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the — , something sweet' (Judges 14:14) (6)
- 19 'I am the most ignorant of men; I do — — a man's understanding' (Proverbs 30:2) (3,4)
- 20 'Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under — , but under grace' (Romans 6:14) (3)
- 24 Native of, say, Baghdad (5)
- 25 The last word in the Bible (Revelation 22:21) (4)
- 26 Heroic tale (4)
- 27 'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you — ' (John 8:32) (4)

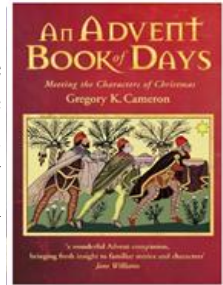
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Book Reviews

An Advent Book of Days - meeting the characters of Christmas

By Gregory Cameron, Canterbury Press, £9.99

An Advent Book of Days tells the stories of all the characters and creatures that make up the Christmas story, with daily prayers and reflections based on their experiences. Fully illustrated in colour, this rich seasonal companion combines the Bible, history, art and legend to explore the story of the incarnation.



For each day of Advent, we meet a character caught up in the drama of the nativity, from the archangel Gabriel to the ox and ass in the stable.

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Celebrating Christmas - Embracing joy through art and reflection

by Amy Boucher-Pye, BRF, £9.99

In this stunning hardback gift book, father and daughter Leo and Amy offer images and words to bring you joy at Christmas: a profound, enduring joy even in the midst of pain, loss, betrayal and disappointment.

Full of vivid memories and family anecdotes, ranging from the glittering lights of Oxford Street to the snowy woods of Minnesota, *Celebrating Christmas* explores the joys and sorrows of Christmas in a broken world, which is, as the author says, 'exactly why Jesus came to earth!'



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

September 2025			October 2025			November 2025		
7 th	Janeve Manca		5 th	Paul Thomas		2 nd	Pat Davies	
14 th	Christine Harvey		12 th	Cheryl Pugh		9 th	Paul Thomas	
21 st	Pat Davies		19 th	Janeve Manca		16 th	Cheryl Pugh	
28 th	Paul Thomas		26 th	Christine Harvey		23 rd	Janeve Manca	
						30 th	Christine Harvey	

St. Margaret's Readers Rota

September 2025			October 2025			November 2025		
7 th	June Phillips		5 th	Kath Llewellyn		2 nd	June Phillips	
14 th	Huw Thomas		12 th	Huw Thomas		9 th	Alex Ball	
21 st	Jenn East		19 th	Jenn East		16 th	Audrey Powell	
28 th	Jennette Jones		26 th	Jennette Jones		23 rd	Chris Ball	
						30 th	Christine Thorpe	

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

September 2025			October 2025			September 2025		
7	Kath	June	5	Kath	June	2	Kath	June
14	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	12	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	9	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
21	Lynda Trollope	Enid	19	Lynda Trollope	Enid	16	Lynda Trollope	Enid
28	Jennette	Audrey	26	Jennette	Audrey	23	Jennette	Audrey
						30	Kath	June

For the Younger Generation.

Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



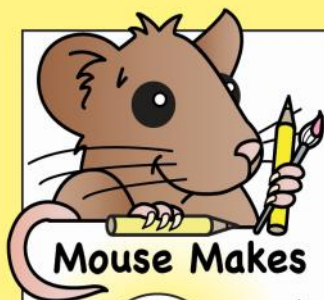
JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10:38-42



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.

We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



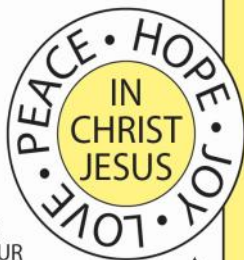
Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



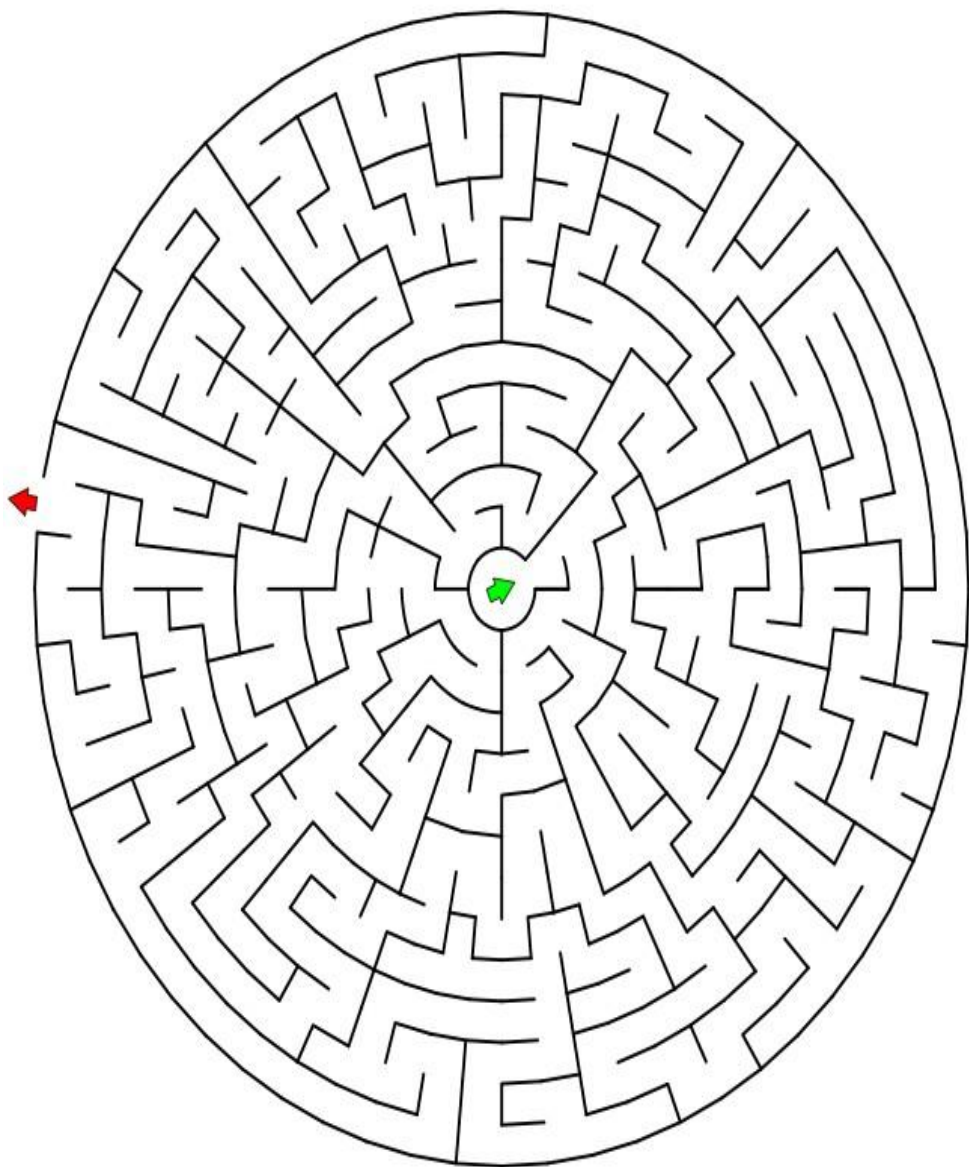
Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

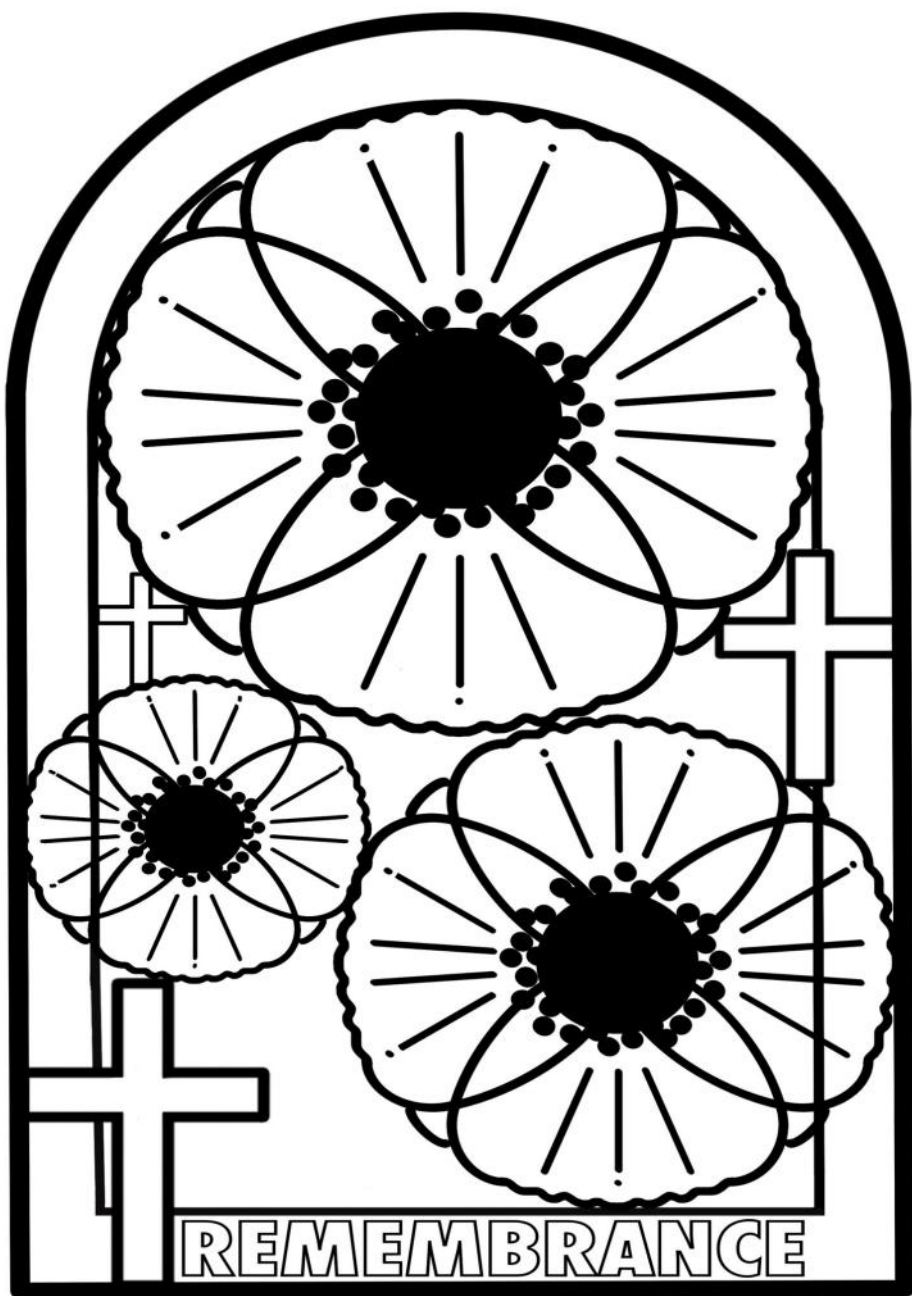
ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT



Complete the Maze!



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals

October 2025

1st	Marilyn Bates RIP
2nd	Ian Blunt RIP
3rd	Maddison Duggan RIP
7th	Clive Evans RIP
24th	Clive Cushing RIP
28th	Roger Evans RIP
31st	Sandra Morgan RIP

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





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

Author Unknown

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Prayers for the Bereaved

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

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

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

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Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123



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

Service Times

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

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

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

SUNDAY

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

1st Sunday of each Month - Family Services

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

General Disclaimer

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

Directory of Contacts

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

Thank You!

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

Friends of Gilfach:

Leader Kath Llewellyn. Tel: 01443 829658
Secretary
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.

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

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

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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