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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.

Remembrance Sunday



What's in this edition!

Greetings from the Rectory.

Reader Writes.

District News/Messages.

Friends of Gilfach

Books of the Bible.

For the Children!

and more…...

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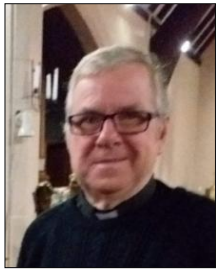
Greetings from the Rectory

Dear friends,



It is good to be back among you after my break last month. 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 once again. We raised almost One Thousand, three hundred 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 in the Church, all enjoying themselves.

November is for all of us a season of remembrance. At the centre stands our observance of Remembrance Sunday when we remember with love all who have given their lives in the service of their country in the cause of establishing a just and lasting peace. Through the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in two world wars and in conflicts since 1945 we have enjoyed eighty largely peaceful years. We are immensely grateful and we remember them all with love as we honour them. We pray too, for those serving their country in our armed forces, the security services and our emergency services today, who help to keep us safe as we go about our daily lives. We honour them too.

This month we also 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.

I keep you all in my prayers.

Every blessing from your friend and Priest,
Fr Gary.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-



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 13th December
St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach, 6.00pm Wednesday 16th December

Reader Writes.



October was a busy month for Franciscans - there was the eight hundredth anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi which was marked not as a moment of mourning but of renewal. The anniversary was an opportunity to be part of a ten-day pilgrimage inviting all to walk alongside Francis in his final days. It was also a reminder for all Franciscans to walk again in his footsteps; to live simply, act justly, rebuild what is broken and recognise Christ's presence in every person and every part of creation. Even though I was unable to take part in the pilgrimage, there are plenty of things for me to think about in order to follow in the steps of Francis.

October is also the month when Third Order Franciscans renew their vows either at one of the services or via a Zoom meeting. The Zoom meeting I joined was led by Rev'd Peter Pike, a former archdeacon of Montgomery and a Formation Guardian to the Third Order Franciscans. During the meeting we looked at the word trust and what it meant. Needless to say, with fifteen of us in the meeting, there was a variety of definitions!!! Reference was also made to the beginning of a verse in the well-known hymn, "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" which begins – "In simple trust." We then pondered on whether trust is simple or is it something that we need to work on.

Being Christians, we should be placing our trust in God in all that we do. There may be occasions when we may not have the confidence to place our trust fully into God's hands but as our faith deepens and our prayer life has a regular pattern, we may find trusting God gets easier. St Francis had a variety of quotes – 0n action and persistence he writes:

"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

And on humility and deeds he wrote:

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some people will hear today."

As we travel through November and into Advent, let us place our trust in God – our maker and redeemer.

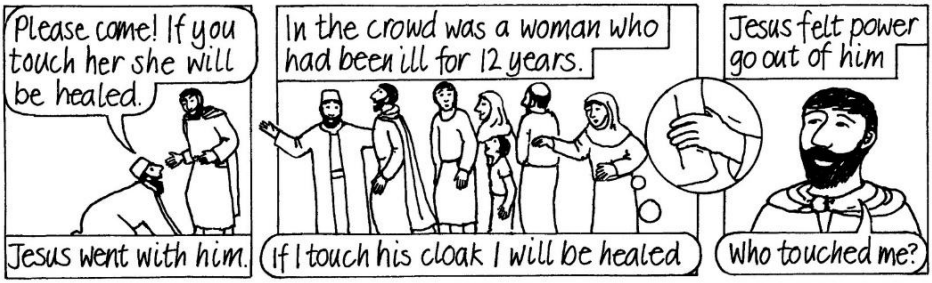
Carolyn

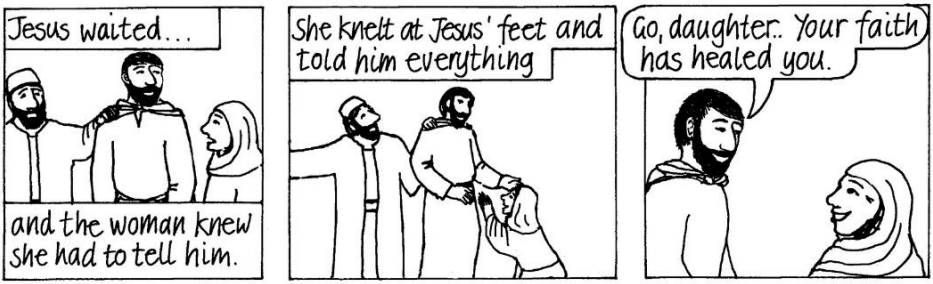
Bible Bite

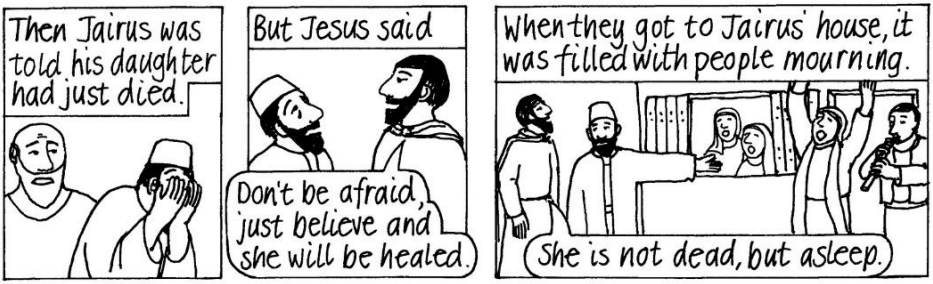
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Lk 8:40-56, Mt 9:18-26, Mk 5:21-43

Jairus, a town leader, had a 12 year old daughter who was ill and about to die. He came to Jesus and knelt at his feet...









By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former c

ALL SAINTS-

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate 'All Saints' (1st November), when we remember all those heroes of the faith who have in one way or another been a witness to Christ in what they said and what they did. But sometimes the saints of old- those portrayed in Renaissance pictures or in craggy, oversized sculptures- can matter less to us than the saints we have personally known.

For instance, one minister tells of a good friend of his, Stan, a farmer on the Yorkshire Wolds, who died earlier this year. Stan was the sort of man you'd meet at the mart, or stop to have a chat within the village. He always had time for you. You'd go away thinking 'salt of the earth', and you would be right.

But Stan was much deeper than that. He was a devout Christian, with a simple but profound faith, used by God in many situations that never made the public eye. His farm had a Site of Special Scientific Interest in that it captured many of the unique features of the Wolds. He was a knowledgeable plantsman, although you would have to drag it out of him. In his day he had taken Bibles to Soviet-era Ukraine and Romania and received the thanks of Christians there who were so encouraged that they were not alone, that someone cared, made the effort to bring them the Word of God.

So, Stan, although a quiet family man living on a fairly remote farm, had had a profound influence for God and for good in many people's lives, both in the area – and in Ukraine and Romania.

And there have been multitudes like him. This month, are there folk in your life who have been an influence on you for God and for good? What difference did they make to you?

All Saints-tide is the ideal opportunity to give thanks for them. They are life's unsung heroes, who help others steer a path closer to God by their wise words, or their support, their prayers. The impact of a good life on others can be enormous. For all of them, let's thank God.

Lest We Forget.



'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all.

As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.'

Notices!

100 Club Winners!

October 2026

Date	Number	Winner	Church
6th	5	Gareth Rees	St. Margaret's
13th	84	Kristel Richards	St Margaret's
20th	33	Pat Davies	St Catwg's
27th	86	Nesta Williams	St Margaret's

The annual Autumn Fayre 2026.

It was such a horrible start to the day weather wise, high winds and plenty of rain. But inside St. Margarets all was warm, welcoming and a bustle of activity. People were already waiting before we opened, a good sign. Before we knew it the church was packed with old and new friends joining us. Needless to say, it was a huge success, surpassing all previous events. We raised over £1280. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work. For your donations, getting everything ready. Making cakes, hampers manning the stalls, selling raffle tickets, serving teas, and clearing up afterwards. I could go on and thank you all personally, but I don't want to miss anyone out. You are all amazing. Your support is wonderful, everytime the social team put on an event you always give us your full support and we are truly grateful. We always say that it's not just about making money it's the fellowship that we enjoy by working and being together. So once again thank you, thank you, thank you.

Much love as always June and the social club team. X Just a little note, I have my book out, the Christmas raffle tickets are on sale.

God in the Arts

Editor: Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the church pulpit.

'He gave us eyes to see them' – the altar



In 'The Temple' the reader travels through the poems of George Herbert and makes a pilgrimage through the church to arrive finally at the altar where Love bids us welcome to make our communion.

For the poet and for us, the altar is a sign of Christ: His presence in the sacrament of His body and blood. At the Reformation stone altars gave way to wooden holy tables, but in 1972 a stone altar was created for a London church that was designed not only as a sign of Christ, but as a reminder of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem – the place where Abraham was ready to offer Isaac.

The altar is a focus of offering. Its sculptor was Henry Moore who began his work 300 years after Sir Christopher Wren designed the new church of St Stephen, Walbrook in 1672. Neither Wren nor Moore were afraid of innovation and experiment. As a result, Wren created one of the most beautiful of London churches, famous and admired throughout Europe, with its central dome carried on 12 columns. His concern was that in worship all should hear and see, just as Moore's concern was to show the altar at the heart of the church, and consequently a church that is at the heart of the city.

The placing of that altar led to a lengthy court case in 1987, and opinions may still vary over this marriage of stone and building. But it remains as a focus for offering and worship, just as the church of St Stephen stands nearly 350 years after it was rebuilt. Both take us in faith and prayer to an earlier age when Jesus shared a meal with His disciples in the Upper Room. We rejoice that the same Jesus welcomes us to the Eucharist now at this altar of St Stephen and at the altars of all our churches.

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.

God of the mountains, God of the valleys

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely, you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone … The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment… Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

Job 38:4–7, 14, 16 (NIV)

These verses from the biblical book of Job focus on the Earth, from the top of the highest mountains to the deepest valleys of the sea floor. Job used to have a very comfortable life, but lost everything: health, children, and much of his property. He can see no obvious reason for this terrible turn of events, so he demands an answer from God, asking "What have I done to you…? Why have you made me your target?"

There is no direct reply to Job's question, but instead a long conversation with his friends who assume (wrongly) that he must be being punished for doing something very bad. When God finally speaks, He draws Job's attention to his surroundings. The sun, moon and stars, the immensity of land and sea, the creatures that inhabit them, and the processes that produce weather are a wonderful display of God's creative power. God is the origin and sustainer of all these things, and they are far beyond anything humankind could produce, fully understand or imagine – even today.

The things we do know about the processes described in Job can help us appreciate how marvellous they are. Mountains are produced by the

movement of the Earth's rocky crust over great periods of time. Erosion by weathering or glaciers then grinds down those rocks to produce the mineral component of soil.

Considering the wider perspective of creation can help restore our sense of who we are, who God is, and where we fit into His purposes. God speaks to Job in the midst of his suffering, lifting his eyes to the power and creativity of his Maker. Only after this theology lesson are Job's practical needs addressed. What will life be like for us over the coming months? A constant check on our own thinking – reminding ourselves of the bigger picture of God's plans and purposes – might be just what we need to help us keep going.

This article drew very directly on the writing of Prof Bob White in New Daylight (BRF, Sept-Dec 2020), and the input of a Bible study group based in Cambridge.

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What are you built on?

"Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left…" Isaiah 54: 2, 3

How strong and flexible are you, as a person? Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco can move up to 20 feet in either direction of its centre? It's built to sway – to absorb and accommodate vast daily stresses and heat. But it always comes back to its true centre, because it is built on a vast system of steel and concrete that sinks down, down into a solid rock foundation far below in the Pacific.

Each of us needs to be anchored like that – onto a sure foundation. Without it, we will be at the mercy of the storms and strong tides of life.

Burdens and flying debris from other people's lives will knock us off balance. That foundation for us is Jesus. How is your relationship with Him? Is it solid? Is it deep enough to hold you steady on your course as 2026 draws to a close? Jesus urges us to 'abide' in him. It takes time to get to know him.

The Bible is his message to us; prayer is our message back to him, and more: for if we draw close to him. He promises to draw close to us, too.

Friends of Gilfach

At our meeting in October Iiris told us about her life growing up in Finland. She had to be persuaded to talk to us but when she came, she was very well prepared bringing items that she had grown up with, such as the basket she had been placed in as a baby and other little baskets , shoes etc. made by locals out of birch wood.

She brought coverings, all hand made that were often hung on walls or floors, which were very colourful. She had an idyllic childhood, ski-ing to school from the age of seven and then at 12 going to "the big school" and having to leave home to live with another family while she attended school. Her life, like most Finnish people was spent outdoors.

In the summer they swam in the lakes and roamed the forests, and in the winter they skied everywhere. Her father inherited the family farm, though he had been a housebuilder previously and they renovated houses and farmed the land. It was a fascinating talk and gave a great insight into how other countries treat their children and their education and lifestyle. She admitted that growing up she didn't realise what a wonderful childhood she had. Living in the countryside sometimes makes you feel you are missing out on city life. Looking back she feels that she had the best times. Outdoor activities are so important in life and how communities help one another. Ski-ing to school didn't daunt her even though she could have met with bears or wolves at any time.

We were all fascinated to hear her story, and we asked her lots of questions. She only told us of her childhood and so we are all waiting to hear or the next chapter in her life, of how she came to Britain and her adult life here. It will be in the new year that we hope she will come again to talk about this. So thank you Iiris for your talk and we look forward to hearing more from you. Don't miss her next talk as anyone is welcome to come.

God Bless

Kath

All Souls' Day, a time of reckoning with the past

The early Church was slow to dedicate a liturgical day to offering prayers and masses to commemorate the faithful departed. But in time prayers were offered on behalf of dead monks, that they might attain 'the Beatific Vision' through purification, which the Church later described as Purgatory. Odilo, the powerful abbot of Cluny, (d 1049) decreed that All Souls' Day should follow the feast of All Saints' Day.

At least four ancient English dedications are known, the most famous of which are All Souls College, Oxford and the church in Langham Place in London.

In bygone centuries All Souls' Day was certainly uncomfortable for anyone who had wronged a person who had then died. For it was believed that souls in purgatory could appear on earth on this day, in the form of ghosts, witches or toads, to haunt anyone who had wronged them in life.

On a more cheerful note, it was also believed that you could help the dead on this day by almsgiving in cash or in kind. Some of these beliefs seem to have been caught up in the popular customs of Hallowe'en.

When the Reformation came, the Protestants disregarded the idea of Purgatory, and this feast day remained with the Roman Catholic Church.

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Remembrance Sunday 2026

This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.

The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

Services and Holy Days

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will be held twice weekly in both our Churches:
St. Margaret's each Sunday at 9.30am and each Wednesday at 10.00am. St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am.

Date		Services and Holy Days
1st Nov		**ALL SAINTS**
2nd Nov		***All Souls**
8th Nov		**THE SECOND SUNDAY *of* THE KINGDOM**
15th Nov		**THE THIRD SUNDAY *of* THE KINGDOM**
22nd Nov		**CHRIST THE KING - THE FOURTH SUNDAY *of* THE KINGDOM**
29th Nov		**THE FIRST SUNDAY *of* ADVENT**

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

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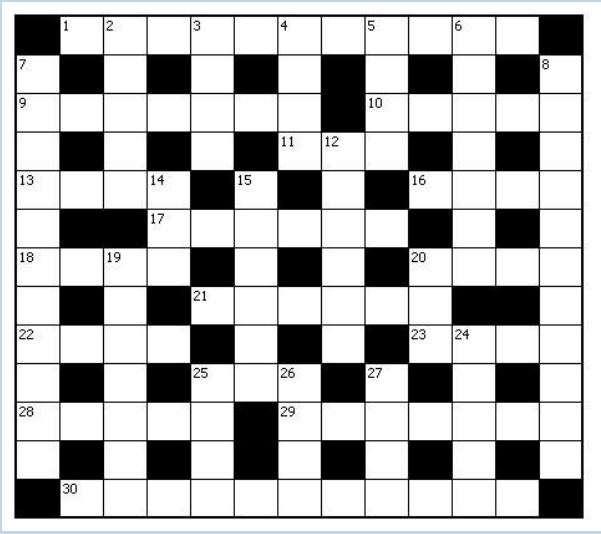
Bendigaid Holy Eucharist

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

DYDD SADWRN 11.00AM SATURDAY
yn Gymraeg – in Welsh gyda te, coffi ac amser i gymdeithasu / with tea, coffee and fellowship.
Croeso cynnes i bawb / A warm welcome to everyone!

November's Crossword Challenge



Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)
9 Mosesí question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)
10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)
11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)
13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)
16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _ God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)
20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)
21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5
29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
3 Way out (4)
4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
5 Done (anag.) (4)
6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
7 Concerning the study of God (11)
8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
14 Frozen (3)
15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
20 See 1 Across
24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
25 Time (anag.) (4)
26 Lists choice of meals (4)
27 ' For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Crossword solution - Page 30

Bedtime Story

It was Dad's turn to read young Jamie a bedtime story. After 20 minutes, Mum called up the stairs, "Is he asleep?"

Young Jamie called softly back, "Yes, finally."

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

The poppies of 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.



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 1 Timothy

This month we look again at the books of the New Testament. Paul wrote to Timothy, *'my true son in the faith'* (2), as leader of the church in Ephesus. Timothy had a Greek father and Jewish Christian mother (Acts 16:1). Paul led him to faith during his first visit to Lystra and on his second visit invited Timothy to join him on his travels. He circumcised Timothy so that his Greek ancestry would not be a liability to working with the Jews (Acts 16:3). Although somewhat timid and often unwell, Timothy was a faithful servant of the Lord and Paul.

Paul writes his letter to challenge false teaching and to give instruction on aspects of church life, including worship, the appointment of leaders, and their attitude to money.

Paul gave Timothy authorisation to challenge the false teachers in the church. They taught a strong emphasis on Jewish myths and genealogies and were legalistic about Jewish laws. They also taught that the resurrection had already come and Christians no longer needed to look to Christ's coming, judgment, and resurrection of the dead. They were so immersed in speculative controversies that they neglected the very core of the Christian faith. Not an unfamiliar situation today!

Therefore, like Timothy, we are called to enable the church to bring glory to God: *'But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.'(6:11,12)*

Sudoku Challenge

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

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Solution can be found on page 39

With Remembrance Sunday in mind:

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.***– Aron Kilbourn***

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. – ***President John F. Kennedy***

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." ***Major General Douglas MacArthur***



Christmas Greetings/Messages 2026

If anyone wishes to place a Christmas Greeting in the December magazine, could you please email your greeting/message to me at chriscorbin1961@gmail.com or pass a written copy to Carolyn, by Monday 23rd November. Donations for the Christmas greetings may be given to: Cheryl or Linda (St. Catwg's)
Jeanette or Enid (St. Margaret's).

Thankyou.

Harvest Lunch: the Inside Story



On Sunday 4th October we were all safely gathered in (well, about 30 of us) for our parish Harvest Lunch in Neuadd St. Catwg.

Once again, we were thankful for the team of willing helpers, who prepared and cooked everything, apart from the very generous plates of delicious ready-cooked ham and turkey breast.

After the Grace from Fr. Gary, we made our way to the central table to help ourselves to the accompanying goodies: bowls of steaming skin-on potatoes, tubs of creamy, crunchy coleslaw, and more mixed salad ingredients than we could manage at one sitting, not forgetting the dressing, conveniently offered in bottles for us to add as we wished. Carolyn's trademark Harvest loaf had also been cut into suitable chunks, and dishes of soft butter tempted us to add that little something to help it slip down even more pleasantly.

Every table had a carafe of Welsh water, and everyone was offered red or white wine, or an alcohol-free alternative. None of the options was limited, but everyone seemed suitably restrained in their intake.

We were then treated to a choice from three mouth-watering desserts: apple pie, apple crumble, and peach and plum tart, and most of us chose to add a good helping of custard too.

As usual, the occasion was as much about getting together and chatting, as about the excellent meal itself. Another memorable time was had by all who marked this special day in the Church's calendar. How blessed we are to have good times of fellowship, and our own premises in which to enjoy them!

Neil

Church Reading Rotas

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

St. Catwg's Reading Rota

October 2026		November 2026		December 2026	
4th	Christine Harvey	1st	Janeve Manca	6th	Janeve Manca
11th	Pat Davies	8th	Christine Harvey	13th	Christine Harvey
18th	Paul Thomas	15th	Pat Davies	20th	Pat Davies
25th	Cheryl Pugh	22nd	Paul Thomas	27th	Janeve Manca
		29th	Cheryl Pugh		

St. Margaret's Reading Rota

October 2026		November 2026		December 2026	
4th	Kath Llewellyn	1st	June Phillips	6th	Kath Llewellyn
11th	Alex Ball	8th	Enid Mayne	13th	Lynne Thomas
18th	Christine Thorpe	15th	Jenn East	20th	Neil Hazell
25th	Chris Ball	22nd	Jennette Jones	27th	Marc Jones
		29th	Linda Bartlett		

December's Magazine 2026

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Sunday 26th November, for inclusion in the December's edition.

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

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

St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota					
October 026		**November 2026**			
4th	Kath / June	**1st**	Kath / June	**6th**	Lynda Bartlett / Sue
11th	Lynda Bartlett / Sue	**8th**	Lynda Bartlett / Sue	**13th**	Lynda Trollope / Enid
18th	Lynda Trollope / Enid	**15th**	Lynda Trollope / Enid	**20th**	Jeannette / Audrey
25th	Jeannette / Audrey	**22nd**	Jeannette / Audrey	**27th**	Lynda Bartlett / Sue
		29th	Kath / June		Lynda Trollope / Enid

Sundays Bible Readings – November 2026

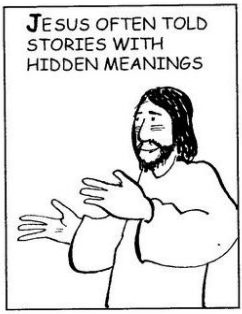
The Season of TRINITY			
Week 1	**Sunday 1st November**	Revelation 7. 9-17 Psalm 34. 1-10 1 John 3.1-3 Matthew 5. 1-12	
Week 2	**Sunday 8th November**	Wisdom 6. 12-16 Canticle: Wisdom 6. 17-20 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-18 Matthew 25. 1-13	Amos 5. 18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-18 Matthew 25. 1-13
Week 3	**Sunday 15th November**	Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-18 Psalm 90. 1-8, [9-11,] 12;or 90. 1-8 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 Matthew 25. 14-30	
Week 4	**Sunday 22nd November**	Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95. 1-7a or 95. 1-7 Ephesians 1. 15-23 Matthew 25. 31-46	

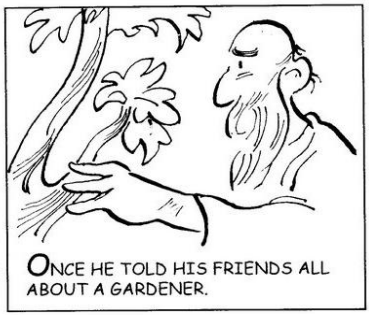
The monthly readings are taken from the Church in Wales – Word of the Lord 2011 copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2011

For our Younger Generation.

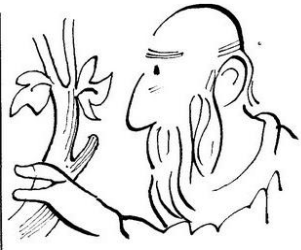
The gardener and the Vine

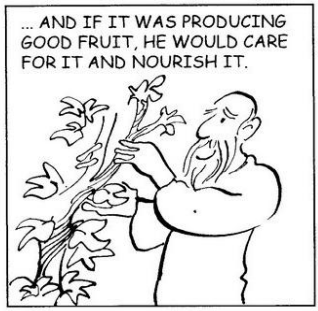


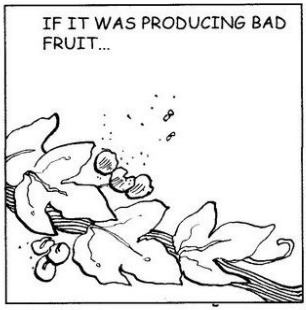


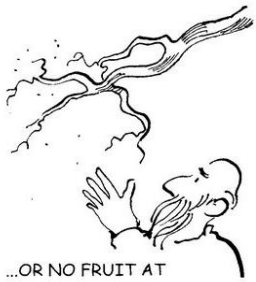




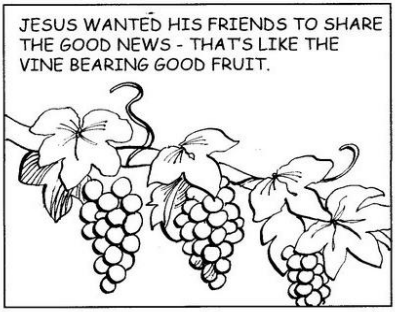


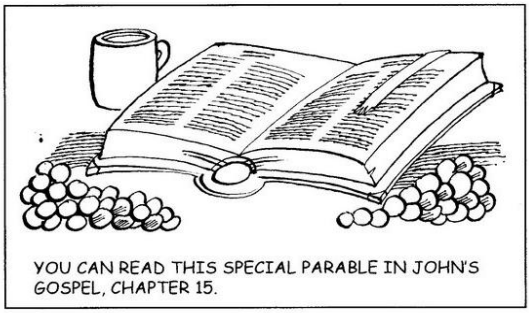


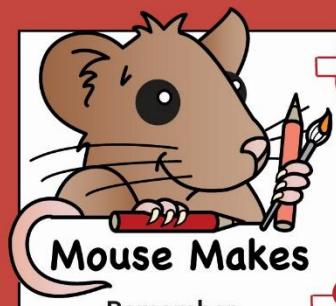












Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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



REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

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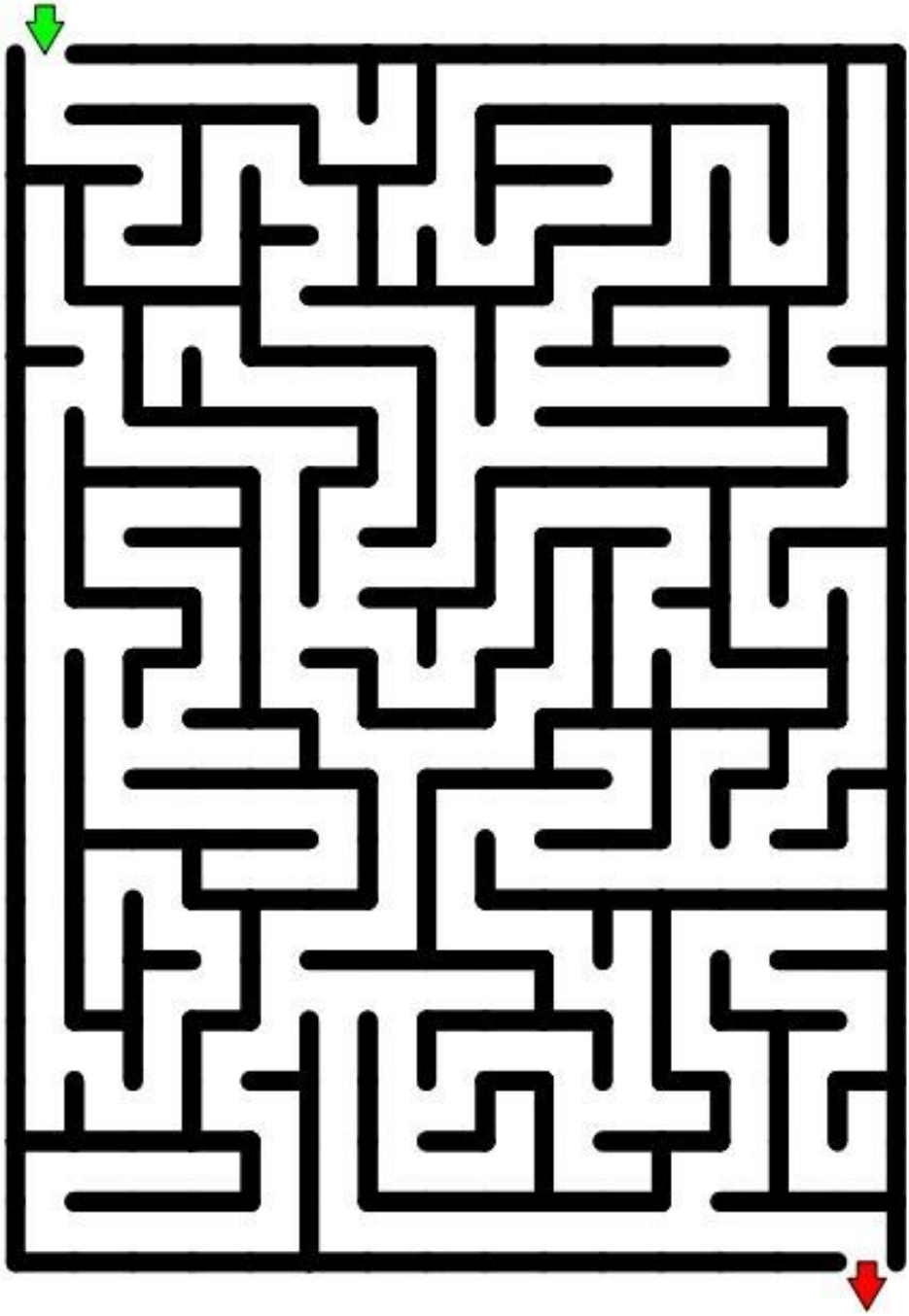
Complete the Maze.



Colour in!



From the Register

Christian Funerals		
October 2026		
2nd		Fay Murphy RIP
13th		*Maureen Puddiford RIP*
23rd		*Dorothy Pearson 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

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

Prayers for the Bereaved

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

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

Service Times

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

St. Catwg's each Sunday at 11.00am and each Thursday at 10.00am

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

An audio service is available on our website each Sunday.

Please visit our website at www.parishofgelligaer.org.uk then go to our publications or weekly events page

WEDNESDAY

10.00 am. Holy Eucharist at St. Margaret's Church,

followed by Tea and Coffee

THURSDAY

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

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: …….
(Bookings and Enquiries)

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Solutions to this month's

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

*Answer to **Sudoku** on page*



*Answers to **Crossword** on*

This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area, District of Gelligaer. ***2026***

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