

# 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.

# Harvest Thanksgiving

# 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.....



October 2025

Cover Price: £1.00

# Who's Who (District of Gelligaer)

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

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

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

Vicar's Warden:	Pam Morgan.	Tel: 07952 101179		
People's Warden:	Angela Treherne.	Tel: 07925 817464		
<b>District Sub-Wardens:</b>				
Vicar's Warden:	Christine Thorpe.	Tel: 01443 837482		
People's Warden:	Huw Thomas.	Tel: 01443 836613		
<b>Church Wardens</b>				
St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer:				
Vicar's Warden:	Cheryl Pugh	Tel: 01443 837961		
People's Warden:	Linda Hall	Tel: 01443 833961		
St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach:				
Vicar's Warden:	Enid Mayne,	Tel: 01443 268988		
People's Warden:	Jeanette Jones,	Tel: 01443 838908		
Gift Aid Secretary	Huw Thomas.	Tel: 01443 836613		
Safeguarding Officer	Fr Gary Powell	Tel: 01443 832119		
District Treasurer:	Jenn East	Tel: 01443 839385		
Magazine:	Chris Corbin,			
	Email: chriscorbin	11961@gmail.com		
<u>Website:</u>	www.parishofgell	igaer.org.uk		
Facebook Page:	https://facebook.com/GelligaerParish/			

# Greetings from the Rectory

# Dear friends,

Following the ebb and flow of the seasons October is for us a special time of Thanksgiving. The month opens with our celebration of the Harvest with our Harvest Festival. For many life is still difficult. As Christians we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves and to care for those in need. I know how generous you are and I would like to thank you all for



your Harvest gifts and donations which will be delivered to the foodbank based at S. John's Church, Nelson, which serves the people and families of our Ministry Area. It is a service for which there is a great demand, which is rising all the time. Your very generous gifts will be greatly and gratefully received. Thank you all!

At the end of September I attended the Diocesan Conference, held this year in The Bishop of Llandaff School, Llandaff. The theme this year was "Pulling Together" and we were called to reflect on how well we are able to work together as a Diocese and as Ministry Area's to be as effective as we can in witnessing to the Good News of Jesus, that he is alive and at work in within our communities. As the family of God, the Body of Christ, the Church is at its best when all parts of the Body are working together in harmony. In testament to this it was wonderful to see people from all the Churches of our Ministry Area coming together at the recent "Celebration Praise" service. I am so grateful to everyone who came along and to those who helped to organise the afternoon. It was a day that I will not forget, a

wonderfully uplifting and affirming day. Thank you to everyone.

We also received news at the Diocesan Conference that our Area Deanery as been reorganised. Although we will still be known as the Deanery of Eglwysilan, our new Deanery will consist of our own Ministry Area together with Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil, the same as our old Deanery. A new Area Dean has not yet been appointed but I will let you know when an appointment is announced,

As the Autumn draws in I am immensely grateful to the members of our Social Committee who have put together a program of events which will bring us together as a community and help support the work of our Churches. Please keep your eyes on the magazine and the weekly newsletters for more details. At the beginning of October we enjoy our Harvest Lunch and the Autumn Fayre takes place at the end of October. We look forward to seeing your there.

I keep you all in my prayers.

Every blessing from your friend and Priest, Fr Gary.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

#### 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.

## Hi All

The past few weeks in school have been wonderful – working in schools that are new to me, meeting new headteachers, teachers and pupils and getting used to a new timetable and weekly routine. In addition to going into schools for



music, it has been lovely going into one school in our district for harvest assembly and hearing the children sing and recite poems and we also welcomed schools into our churches for their harvest services.

Having five new schools has allowed me to visit areas of the authority that I may have previously only driven through. The first week I thought I would use the by pass to travel from Fleur de Lys to Crumlin but by the following week I found a shorter route both in miles and time and luckily it was on the A roads and not country lanes or roads with twists and turns.

Having twists and turns in our roads is similar to the twists and turns on life's journey. We may know where we are going or where we want to go but to keep us on the right road, God may have other ideas and change our direction.

#### Carolyn

It can be read in the Bible in Judges 6:36 - 7:8,16-22

# A short story from the Bible

God had told Gideon he would drive the Midianite invaders out of His country. 32000 men had come to fight with Gideon.

Gideon asked God for proof.



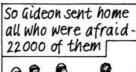
are really going to help me tomorrow this wool will be wet but the ground be dry

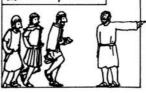


was still worried

(Could you show me again, ) but with the wool dry and the ground wet? Jax







There were still too many, so aideon told them to drink from the spring.

And God did



300 scooped up water to drink. and the rest were sent home.



Each man was given a jar with a lit torch in it



That night they surrounded the Midianite camp.



At the signal, they blew the trumpets, smashed the jars and shouted a war cry



The Midianites were so shocked they attacked each other, and then ran





The Israelites won without having to do any fighting.

# St Francis – and the Life of Simplicity

Just about the only thing most people know about Francis of Assisi is that he talked to the birds. Church-goers also know the popular hymn based on his famous prayer, 'Make me a channel of your Peace', which was sung at the funeral of Princess Diana.

However, Italy's patron saint, whose feast day is this month (the 4th) was a more complex, and some would say controversial character. His life spanned the end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries. He was born into a very wealthy family,



but after what he called his 'conversion' standing before a crucifix. He renounced all his possessions. In fact, he stripped himself of his of his wealthy garments in a public square in his home-town, Assisi. For the rest of his life he and his followers, including his feminine counterpart. St Claire longed, prayed and worked for a life of simplicity – a lifestyle without luxury or privileges. For the Franciscan brothers and the Poor Claires. This meant no private possessions at all. Francis saw that many poor people without these things, actually seemed to live happier and more fulfilling lives than the ambitious rich. He spoke of a simple life not shaped by money or power but by love and mutual concern. As his hymn says, 'it is in giving of ourselves that we receive'.

Of course, poverty; in our modern western world is seldom a matter of blissful simplicity, as present-day Franciscans recognise. For too many it is a matter of poor diet, over-crowded rooms, rough sleeping and unemployment. The call of today's followers of Francis and Claire is that those who are better-off should 'live more simply, so that others can simply live'. Christians follow a Master who said that he came with 'good news for the poor'. They believe that many of us today can be that good news.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

# William Tyndale,

# Bible translator and Reformation martyr



This month is the 501th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 – 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a

priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would

be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

# Edward the Confessor, helping to found Westminster Abbey

If you approve of giving money to help cathedrals survive, then Edward the Confessor (1003-66) is the saint for you. This early King of England was the virtual founder of Westminster Abbey. And never mind entrance charges — at one point in his life, Edward was giving a full tenth of his income to Westminster Abbey.

Edward was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his second, Norman wife, Emma. After various ups and downs which included a brief exile in Normandy, Edward was made King of England in 1042.

As King, Edward had a tricky time of it – trying to keep the peace for over 20 years while various Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power (which eventually led to the Norman Conquest). Scholars have argued over how much of a success he was as a king.

As a Christian, there is no doubt: Edward's holiness was evident to all. He made himself accessible to his people, he was generous to the poor, and chaste. He was also reputed to have seen visions and even achieved miraculous cures for people through prayer.

Edward did much to help the Church in many ways. His lasting contribution was the original Westminster Abbey — a huge Romanesque church, 300 feet long, with a nave of 12 bays. Westminster Abbey became the place of coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. It was finished and consecrated just before his death. Edward was buried there, and his relics are undisturbed to this day.

During the Middle Ages, Edward was a very popular saint: along with Edmund of East Anglia he was widely considered to be England's patron saint for a time.

9

# Notices!

100 Club Winners!						
September 2025						
Date:	No:	Winner	Church			
7th	50	Gareth Jones	St Margaret's Church			
14th	95	Sue Heaven	St Margaret's Church			
21st	70	Kay Williams	St Margaret's Church			
28th	26	Sue Stevens	St Margaret's Church			

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Thanksgiving takes place on Sunday 5th October. will celebrate with a HARVEST LUNCH at 1.30pm in S. Catwg's Hall. Tickets £8.00. Harvest gifts will be gratefully received and donated to support he work of local foodbanks.

#### SAMARITAN PURSE

Unfortunately, time has run away with us this year and we have missed the opportunity to organise the Shoebox Appeal. However, we have decided to hold a collection to support the valuable work of Samaritan Purse. Donations can be made to Cheryl and Jeanette.

**Autumn Fayre** 

Our Autumn Fay takes place on the 25th of October at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach, from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

There will be a list in both churches of items that are needed for the Fayre. We would appreciate any help to make this a success. Many thanks as always for your support. June and the social team x

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-



# **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

# All Hallows Eve, or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

## 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': Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve'



In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God's creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisal harmony in Lucas Cranach's painting 'Adam and Eve.' It shows a

wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neoclassical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18th century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.

Lucas Cranach, this month's artist, was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose

hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

# **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.

# **Continuing the Celebration!**

On 6th-13th October this year many people around the world will be celebrating the Jewish festival of Tabernacles, or Sukkot. They will celebrate the Harvest, and also remember God bringing the Israelites out of Egypt and through 40 years in the desert.

The biblical book of Deuteronomy contains a description of what Tabernacles should have been like back then. "Celebrate... for seven days. Be joyful... you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns."

These festivals were not just a celebration, but also an expression of gratitude to God: "celebrate the festival to the Lord your God...For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete." Tabernacles was a

proper holiday, with two whole days off normal work and seven days of feasting.

Farming looks very different today. Very few of us have had to sweat long hours over crops, so we're not as ready for (or deserving of) a rest and a party as our ancestors were at this time of year. That might be even more the case in future, as the agri-tech revolution unfolds. For example, small autonomous tractors are already becoming available that do less damage to the soil and make better use of steep or oddly shaped fields.

Many arable farms already hire contractors to do the routine work with large specialist GPS-equipped machinery. In future years those people might find themselves using very different kinds of high-tech kit, acting more as land-management advisors, helping farmers to gather data and to find ways of improving soil quality, biodiversity and the water cycle.

I'm very grateful for the food that arrives on my shelves. Instead of worrying about whether or not we earned it, our modern-day Tabernacles or Harvest celebration could include ways of encouraging those involved in agriculture and developing new agricultural technologies, as well as enjoying how we can learn about and benefit from God's creation through Science.

So, after you celebrate Harvest at church, why not follow it up with a trip to a local farm this month? Why not learn from the ancient Israelites, and follow it up with a meal together? It stands to reason that those of us who live in countries where food is plentiful and cheap could do with being proportionately more generous in our gratitude and giving. Should we throw better parties? Probably!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

# Enter all the angels, led by Michael



What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to

categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-



# Friends of Gilfach



We have continued with our meetings, coffee mornings and quiz afternoons which are still well attended and raising money for us. I would like to thank those who have stepped up to help at these events while I have been having my chemo, which unfortunately is always on a Tuesday and timings can interfere with these occasions. Luckily this month I should be able to attend at least the coffee morning and hopefully the quiz afternoon. We continue to remember and pray for Marion and Dorothea. I haven't been able to visit and I normally see Marion on her birthday but once again a hospital appointment on that day put paid to that.

In July we had a small number at our meeting and Rhian gave a talk on the childbirth experience during Roman times. It continued from her last talk about fertility and as usual it was very interesting. It wasn't an easy time for girls and women during that period as lots of girls were married young and became pregnant whilst still in their early teens and their bodies weren't fully formed to carry a baby or give birth. At times it was uncomfortable listening to what these girls went through without any modern day pain relief or practices. It makes us realise how lucky we are to be living in today's age rather than at that time. I would like to thank Rhian for stepping in last minute.

Next month we have Kieron Heaven coming to talk to us about his time in the army and maybe on his role in security after he left the army. I am really looking forward to this as it will give us all an insight into a world most of us are not aware of. I hope as many people as possible will come. Invite any friends or family you think might be interested to come and listen.

On 2nd September we officially closed our branch with Jean Starr coming to be part of the service. She had a new Mothers' Union book in which there was no service for the closing of the branch, so we all shared our books with her and Fr. Gary. I first explained why the branch was closing and giving a brief history of our branch. Fr. Gary then read the first prayer, the next prayer in the book was for forgiveness and Jean and Fr. Gary, with us all in agreement, decided it was not appropriate for us, in fact not for any branch, so we omitted that and then JeamI read a prayer, then I read one and we all did the last prayer. Although we had made this decision back in January it was still sad to see it close. Fr. Gary thanked us for all the work we

16

have done and that we have been a pillar for the church, but I assured him that we would still carry on and that the church is now our main priority. Jean said she realised that by being church members she totally understood our decision and re-iterated that we should keep in touch with them and that we would always be welcome at any events. I assured her that we would still support the caravan as that is something we are happy to help. At the end of the year, or at our A.G.M. we will decide where the money raised will go, without having to pay for insurance, support of other subjects and this was understood. I hope that this continues without the Mothers' Union banner and look forward to seeing everyone as normal, to support us as in the past. Thank you everyone.

God Bless Kath

# Why do churches celebrate harvest?

Harvest is celebrated to give thanks for the crops, which have been safely harvested. Christians thank God for the food during harvest. Christians believe God made the world and everything in it. Christians also thank God for the variety of food and everything that helps the food to grow.

#### **Smart car**

A clergy friend of mine bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the readout, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."

# Looking at God.

#### What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor.5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3–4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul suffered too much to be a Spirit -filled apostle.

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: 'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' (2 Cor 12:9).

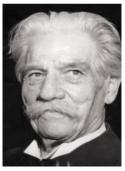
-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-



# Remembering Albert Schweitzer

Sixty years ago, on 4th September 1965, Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. He was winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

Schweitzer was a devout Christian with a passionate allegiance to Jesus. His key philosophy was "reverence for life": no-one, he felt, should harm or destroy life unless it was absolutely necessary. It was this philosophy that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize, and led him in later life to campaign against nuclear weapons.



He was born in 1875 in Alsaçe, where his father was a Lutheran-Evangelical pastor, and he made an impression first in the world of music, becoming a musical scholar and organist, as well as dedicating himself to the restoration and study of historic pipe organs.

In 1903 he became Principal of the Theological College of Saint Thomas, from which he had graduated. In 1906 he published his key work, The Quest of the Historical Jesus, which was published in English in 1910.

Schweitzer made a proposal in 1912 to work at his own expense as a physician in the Paris Missionary Society's mission at Lambaréné on the Ogooué river, in what is now Gabon, in Africa, then a French colony. He would not go before a committee to have his doctrine examined, but met committee members individually and was eventually accepted, raising his own funding partly through concerts. His wife, Helene, served as an anaesthetist for surgical operations.

There was some criticism much later of the informal, spartan arrangements (patients living on the hospital grounds during treatment, for instance), but his biographer – also a volunteer surgeon – pointed out that surgical survival rates were as high as in many fully equipped western hospitals.

Schweitzer died at Lambaréné, his grave marked by a cross he made himself.

#### Hymns for people over 50

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car.

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One.

Blessed Insurance.

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt.

# 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.

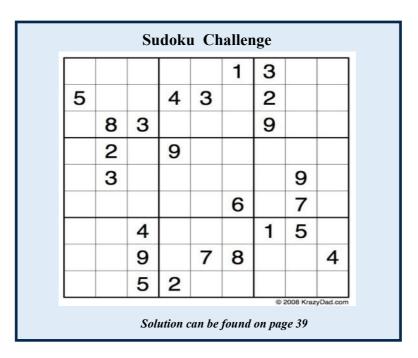
Date.	Services and Holy Days
4th Oct	† Francis of Assisi
5th Oct	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY <i>after</i> TRINITY—Harvest Thanksgiving
12th Oct	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
18th Oct	* Luke, Evangelist
19th Oct	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY after TRINITY
23rd Oct	† James of Jerusalem
26th Oct	THE LAST SUNDAY after TRINITY or BIBLE SUNDAY
28th Oct	* Simon and Jude, Apostles

#### For Harvest Thanksgiving

**Galatians 6:7-9:** "A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

**Psalm 107:37:** "They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest."

**Psalm 67:6:** "The earth has yielded its harvest. God, our God, blesses us."



# Observations on our Christian pilgrimage...

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich. – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* 

Christ promises to save His people from their sins, not in their sins. – *CH Spurgeon* 

Hope is the foundation of patience. – *John Calvin* 

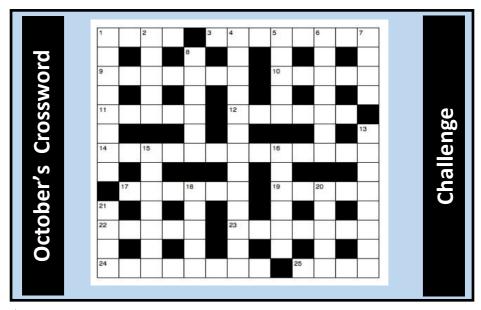
I believe every Christian man has a choice between being humble and being humbled. – *C H Spurgeon* 

We play the game; God keeps the score. – *Erwin W Lutzer* 

# Miscellaneous observations on life...

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. – *Lionel Kauffman* 

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. -FP Jones



#### Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You are one of them" (Luke 22:58) (4)
- 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
- 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
- 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
- Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th-century Methodist, Donald (5)
- 12 'Come quickly to — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
- 14 'The God of Abraham, — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
- 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
- 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
- 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
- 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
- 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)

25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

#### Down

- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
- 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all —, but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
- 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your —
- is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
- 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
- 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
- 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
- 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
- 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
- 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
- Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
- One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
- 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
- 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)

Crossword solution - Page 39

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

## **November's Magazine 2025**

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday 27th August, for inclusion in the November's edition.

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

# **Book Reviews**

# We Believe – Exploring the Nicene Creed

Various authors, Church House Publishing, £3.99



Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith.

We Believe offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed's timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing

you deeper into the Creed's meaning and significance for your life.

Whether you have been reciting the Creed for many years – or are exploring Christian faith for the very first time – this beautifully illustrated booklet will offer you new insight and inspiration.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

# God's Big Picture, a Bible Overview

By Vaughan Roberts, IVP/10Publishing, £6.49

66 books, 40 authors, written over nearly 2,000 years, in many different genres. A worldwide best–seller published in countless translations and languages. A book that has been sworn by in court, fought over, and quoted in arguments.



Clearly, the Bible is no ordinary book. So how can we begin to read and understand the Bible as a whole?

In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts paints the big picture, showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together. He points us to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through Him.

# Church Reading / Cleaning Rotas

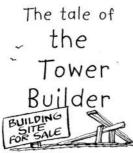
If anyone wishes to be on either the readers rota for either church, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant church wardens.

St. Catwg's Readers Rota									
	September 2025	October 2025		November 2025					
7 <sup>th</sup>	Janeve Manca	5th	Paul Thomas	2nd	Pat Davies				
14 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Harvey	12th	Cheryl Pugh	9th	Paul Thomas				
21 <sup>st</sup>	Pat Davies	19th	Janeve Manca	16th	Cheryl Pugh				
28 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Thomas	26th	Christine Harvey	23rd	Janeve Manca				
				30th	Christine Harvey				
	St.	Marg	garet's Readers	Rota					
	September 2025		October 2025		November 2025				
7 <sup>th</sup>	June Phillips	5th	Kath Llewellyn	2nd	June Phillips				
14 <sup>th</sup>	Huw Thomas	12th	Huw Thomas	9th	Alex Ball				
21 <sup>st</sup>	Jenn East	19th	Jenn East	16th	Audrey Powell				
28 <sup>th</sup>	Jennette Jones	26th	Jennette Jones	23rd	Chris Ball				
				30th	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.











YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO









...THEN START TO LAY



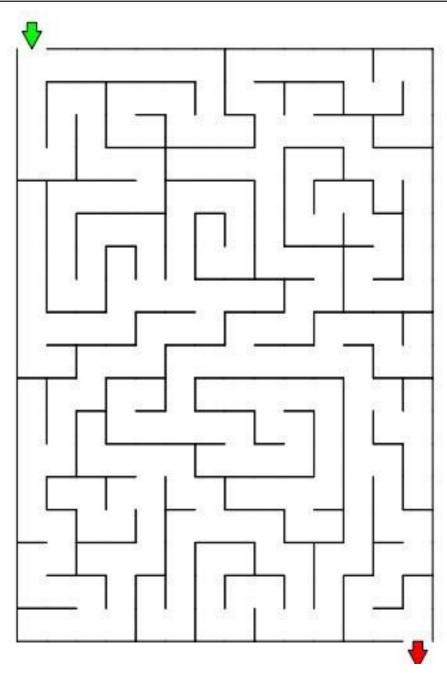




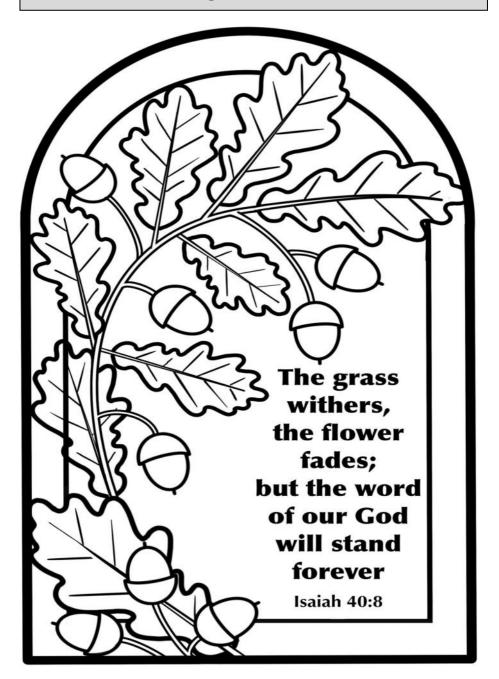
CHALLENGE.



# Complete the Maze!



# Colour in!



# From the Register

Christian Funerals						
	August 2025					
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Michael John Derrick RIP					
	September 2025					
<b>1</b> st	Mr Hefin David MS RIP					
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mary June Phillimore RIP					
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Ray Ennis RIP					
	Miss Amy Jenkins RIP					





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

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

# **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.** 

# **Local Business Adverts**

# TURN TO US FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

Call us 24 hours a day

- Funeral Pre-Payment Plans
  - Memorials
  - Service Chapel
  - Monumental Masonry

# D J THOMAS & SONS Funeral Directors

The Private Chapel Lower Wood Street, Bargoed. CF81 8NW

Tel: 01443 831044





Part of Dignity plc. A British Company



# **Bargoed Sight Centre**



A full range of Eye Care services including Sight Tests, Spectacles and Contact Lenses for children and adults.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

26 Hanbury Road, Bargoed CF81 8QT

Tel: 01443 830750 Fax: 01443 879544 Website: www.bargoedsightcentre.co.uk



BargoedSightCentre



@bargoedsc

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Friday
9.30am-5.30pm
Saturday
9.30am-1.30pm
Closed
Sunday & Bank Holidays

# D. Emlyn Lloyd



Ironmonger, Builders' Merchant

Sheffield House 32, Bedwlwyn Rd, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7AD Tel: 01443 813261





# Stanley I. Nicholas Itd

# "The Paddocks"

ALL FAITHS CATERED FOR

Prepaid Funeral Plans
Golden Charter
The Perfect Choice
Modern Fleet of Cars
Private Chapel of Rest
Compassion & Discretion at all Times

Your independent & family firm providing a complete dignified caring service in the Blackwood and Bargoed areas

Email:-info@sjnicholas.co.uk Web:- www.sjnicholas.co.uk

#### "The Paddocks"

New Road, Pengam, Blackwood. NP12 3QZ

92 Commercial Street, Aberbargoed, Bargoed, Caerphilly. CF81 9EU

and

202 High Street, Blackwood. NP12 1AJ Tel: (01443) 830328





# JOHN DAVIES AND SONS

# **FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

Beechwood, Park Terrace, Trelewis, Treharris CF46 6BT 2 The Shopping Centre, St Cattwgs Avenue, Gelligaer CF82 8FD Nelson Business Centre Commercial Street, Nelson CF46 6NF

An independent family run funeral directors established in the early 1900's, serving Treharris, Nelson, Gelligaer, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach and all surrounding areas

Private Chapel of Rest | 280 Seater Chapel | Funeral Plans | Memorial Masonry









( 01443 410224 / 822826



info@johndaviesandsons.co.uk



If you or someone you know of would like to advertise their business in our magazine please to not hesitate to contact the magazine editor on 07983 754610

or

chriscorbin1961@gmail.com

# CAR SALES (BARGOED) L

The Showroom, Gwerthonor Place, Gilfach, Bargoed, Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, **CF81 8JP** 

Tel: 01443 838383

www.llewellynsgarage.co.uk

# **Opening Times**

Monday 09:00 - 18:00 Tuesday 09:00 - 18:00 Wednesday 09:00 - 18:00 Thursday 09:00 - 18:00 Friday 09:00 - 18:00 Saturday 09:00 - 18:00 Sunday 09:00 - 18:00



# **Morgan Thomas**

# **Quality Butcher**

Prime meat from our own farms, fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh bread and milk daily.

> 2, The Square Penpedairheol. 01443 830492



**Local Deliveries** 



If you or someone you know of would like to advertise their business in our magazine please to not hesitate to contact the magazine editor on 07983 754610

or

chriscorbin1961@gmail.com



# Neuadd St. Catwg Community Hall

# Church Road, Gelligaer. CF82 8FW

Excellent facilities in Gelligaer, located opposite St. Catwg's Church.

#### Ideal for:

- Wedding Receptions
- Funeral Receptions
- Christening Receptions
- Fashion Shows
- Birthday Parties
- Training Events
- Meetings and much more etc,

#### facilities available include:

Fully equipped kitchen, audio visual equipment, stage with disabled access, tables & chairs, conference/meeting room, fully disabled access, disabled toilet and baby changing facilities on site.

# for Booking and Enquiries

Please Contact:

Christine Harvey: 01443 833123







# **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

#### **THURDAY**

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!

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Family History Research:	Carolyn Corbin	Tel: 07983677360
	Email. carolynco	orbin63@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

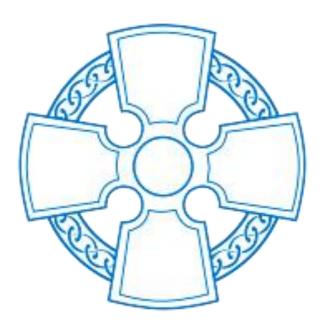
**Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall:** ...... Christine Harvey. Tel: 01443 833123 (Bookings and Enquiries)

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

# Solutions to this month's puzzles. | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | | 9 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 3 | | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 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







October 2025

'Taff Rhymney Ministry Area, registered as charitable incorporated organisation in England & Wales. Registered Charity No. 1208522

Principal Office: The Vicarage, Cedar Way, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7DR.'