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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.*

**The season of Lent/Easter**

**What's in this edition!**

*Greetings from the Rectory.*

*Reader Writes.*

*District News/Messages.*

*Mothers' Union.*

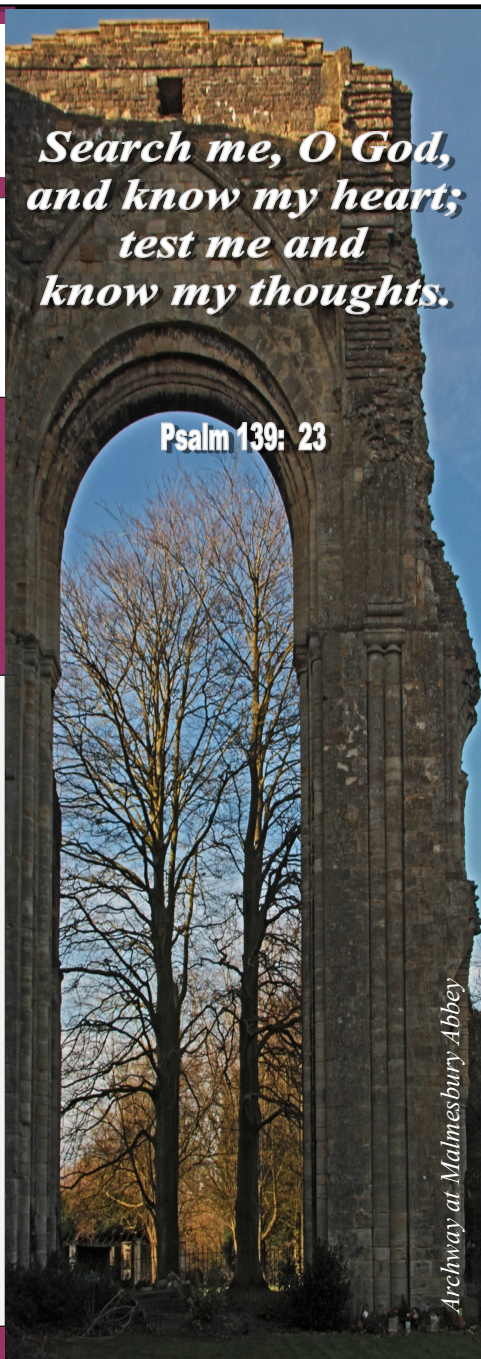
*Short Quiz on the  
Book of Numbers.*

*For the Children!*

*and More.....*

*Search me, O God,  
and know my heart;  
test me and  
know my thoughts.*

**Psalms 139: 23**



Archway at Malmesbury Abbey

*Edition: No 3*

**March 2024**

*Cover Price: £1.00*

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## Greetings from the Rectory

*Dear friends,*

As we continue of journey through the season of Lent our thoughts turn towards preparing to celebrate once again the events of Holy Week and the passion, death and resurrection. We are privileged that we can do so in peace. This year our celebration of the Passion of our Lord will be all the more poignant



as war between Israel and Hamas rages in Gaza and as the war continues in the Ukraine and in other conflicts around the world. All around us we see people suffering through the violence, prejudices or indifference of others. As we walk with Jesus through the events of his last week on earth, we watch as Jesus is arrested, tried and put to a horrendous death. We see Jesus on the cross still taking to himself all the sin, fear and suffering of all the people of the world today. Yet on the cross as Jesus takes on himself all the sin and suffering of the world Jesus prays for those who persecute others, those who cause hurt and fear through their actions, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is Jesus' prayer for all who persecute others and so it is our prayer for the aggressors. As we pray for peace and relief for all who are in any kind of need or distress, we pray that God will turn the hearts of the aggressors to the way of peace and will give us open and generous hearts that respond with love to the

needs of all our neighbours.

Holy Week ends with a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection stands at the centre of our faith, a sign of the sure and certain Christian hope that a new day will follow every dark night. We continue to pray for peace in Israel, Gaza and in the Ukraine and we hold before God all who are finding life difficult in all sorts of ways. May the light of the risen Christ shine on us all bringing hope that will not disappoint and the peace that only he can give to all his people.

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

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## **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**



*"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)*

## Reader Writes.

As I was driving to some of my schools to not only teach but to practice for their St David's Day concert, I heard the news of who had been chosen to sing this year's Eurovision Song and also to hear a snippet of it. Apart from groups such as Brotherhood of Man, Abba, Bucks Fizz and singers such as Sandie Shaw, Michael Ball, Jonnie Logan and Sam Ryder, many of the artists are not heard of in the UK after the competition and the songs seem to disappear into the archives. One song that struck a chord with me was A Little Peace, performed by Nicole. After singing the chorus repeatedly, I looked up the words of the song which made me realise that there are some Eurovision songs which should not be archived.



On one hand the verses of the songs speak of feelings of sadness, hopelessness, loneliness and frustration edged with a glimmer of hope. Then on the other hand the chorus speaks of how each of us should love and give a little and also have a little patience and understanding as at present these are only a dream for the world in which we live and which if put into practice could create peace for our tomorrows. It also says how sunshine and a sea of gladness could wash away fears of sadness while hoping and praying for peace.

There are times in all our lives when we may not be feeling our best either in body, mind or spirit. We may feel the sadness in the same way as a flower at its season ends, feel the darkness and loneliness of a candle which has been extinguished, feel the frustration of a bird unable to fly or feel helpless like a leaf falling gently in the snow but when we fall we think there is no one to catch or support us but even though we are weighed down with our concerns, we see a glimmer of light.

Through faith we know we are not alone as we know that God will always be there to catch and support us, he will always be a light to take us out of darkness and he will help lighten the load that we bear. Even though God will help us, we also need to help each other through loving, giving - perhaps a helping hand to someone, patience and understanding and in so doing work towards the peace the world badly needs.

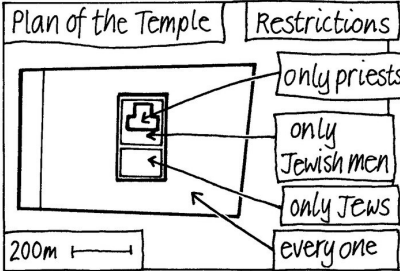
**Carolyn**

# Bible Bite

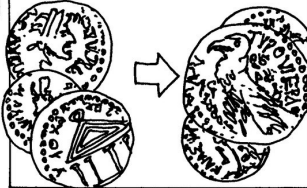
## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

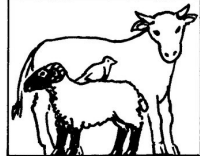
When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...



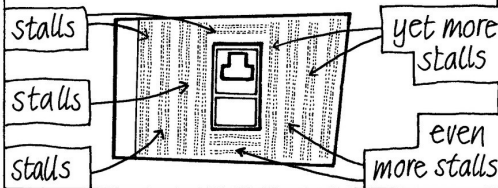
Visitors had to change their money to shekels



They had to buy special animals to sacrifice...



and the stalls filled the only place that non-Jews could come to worship God



The chief priests had no problem with this...



but it made Jesus very angry...

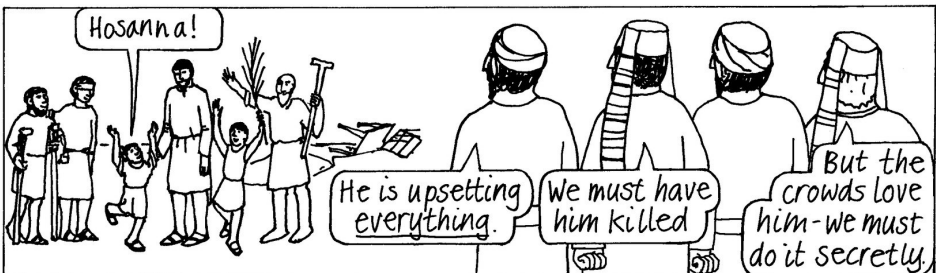


so he drove them out



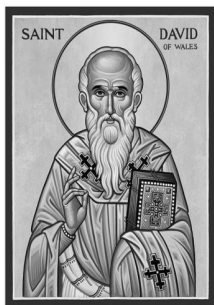
This should be a place of prayer but you have made it into a den of thieves \*

\*Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11





## **St. David (Dewi Sant): Guiding the Welsh Church.**



On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David – or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is indisputably British, and is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that he was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy – indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi – brefi in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed, either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the twelfth century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries, including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St. David's Day (Gwyl Dewi Sant in Welsh), but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day, oh, and they look nice!

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## **Mothering Sunday and Mother Church**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

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## **St Joseph the Carpenter: gracious descendant of King David**

Many people know that Joseph was the father of the most famous man who ever lived, but beyond that, we know very little about him. The Gospels name him as the 'father' of Jesus, while also asserting that the



child was born of a virgin. Even if he wasn't what we call the 'biological' father, it was important to them that he was a distant descendant of the great King David - a necessary qualification for the Messiah.

It's obvious that Joseph (usually described as a 'carpenter') was not wealthy, because he was allowed to offer the poor man's sacrifice of two pigeons or turtle doves at the presentation of his infant son. No one expected eloquence or wisdom from this man's son. Jesus was born into an unremarkable family, with a doubtless hard-working artisan as His father. There would have been few luxuries in that little home at Nazareth.

Matthew begins his birth narrative with the bald statement that Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together she became pregnant 'with child from the Holy Spirit'. Joseph was not apparently privy to the divine intervention in her life, and drew the obvious conclusion: it was another man's child. However, he was not the sort of man who wished to disgrace her publicly, so he resolved to 'dismiss her quietly' - end their engagement without fuss, we might say.

However, at that point Joseph had a dream in which he was told by 'an angel of the Lord' not to hesitate to take Mary as his wife, because the child conceived in her was 'from the Holy Spirit', and that the baby was to be named 'Jesus' ('saviour') because He will 'save His people from their sins'. On waking, Joseph did as he had been instructed and took Mary as his wife.

So far as Joseph himself is concerned, we can be pretty sure of a few things. In human, legal terms he was the father of Jesus, he was a carpenter and he had probably died before Jesus began his public ministry. The little we are told suggests a devout, decent and sensitive man, one who shared Mary's anxiety when the 12 year-old Jesus went missing in Jerusalem, and who presumably taught his son the trade of a carpenter.

Joseph has become an icon of the working man - there are many churches nowadays dedicated to 'Joseph the Worker'. He can stand in the calendar of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.

# Notices from our Churches and Community

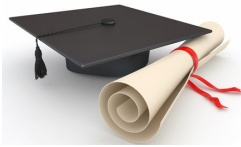
## 100 Club Winners!

### *January 2024*

7th	22	Marilyn Williams	St. Catwg's
17th	27	Lynne Evans	St. Margaret's
21st	60	Caroline Jones	St. Margaret's
28th	101	Audrey Powell	St. Margaret's

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## **Congratulations**



Congratulations to Alex Ball who was awarded a Master Degree in Childrens Literature from the University of Roehampton. Well done Alex (and also for managing to give us lovely Georgia while completing your degree).

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## **Harry Andrews MBE Memorial Concert**

This concert will take place on Saturday, 23rd March 2024 at Bargoed YMCA. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Tickets are £10 and are available from Carol Andrews on 07834176054.

The concert which is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society will feature, Cor Meibion Abercynon with Bargoed Community Choir and special quest artist Gracie Harrison.

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## **Easter Flowers**

If anyone would like to give a donation towards flowers for Easter, in memory of a loved one, please contact Hilda Shorey at St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach or Cheryl Pugh at St. Catwg's Church, Gelligaer

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Social Club AGM held on the 14th February. Thanks to all who attended, the results for the committee were:-

**Chairperson** - June Phillips  
**Treasurer** - Jenn East  
**Secretaries.** - Linda Bartlett - St. Margaret's  
- Cheryl Pugh - St. Catwg's  
**Committee Members** - Fr. Gary, Linda Hall, Lynne Thomas,  
Carolyn Corbin, Hilda Shorey.

**First event for this year.**

**6th March.** Cawl evening - Neuadd St Catwgs Hall on the  
at 7pm. Cost £7.00.

**Dates for the diary :-**

**15th May.** Quiz night. 7pm.  
**29th June.** Strawberry Tea. 2.30pm  
**11th. Sept.** "Murder Mystery" 7pm  
**6th. October** Harvest lunch. 1pm.  
**13th December.** Christmas Draw. 7pm.

*\*\* All the above will take place at Neuadd St. Catwg's Hall Gelligaer .  
Cost of tickets to be arranged.*

**26th.October.** Autumn Fayre. At St. Margaret's Church, Gilfach .  
11am - 1pm.

We had a wonderful year last year, not just in raising funds but for the friendship and love shown to each other. It was also amazing to celebrate together the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. We pray for King Charles as he undergoes treatment, and for a complete recovery from his cancer and for all those we know who are being treated at this time. Thank you all, for supporting us in our events and for all those who work behind the scenes to help make it a success. You are all amazing.

If there are any budding actors and actresses out there who would like to join in our "Murder Mystery" event please give your names to

Linda Bartlett St. Margaret's or Cheryl Pugh. St. Catwg's.

Once again thank you all so very much and hope you will continue to support us in friendship,

Love as always, **June x**

**April's Magazine 2024**

Please can you forward any news, articles etc, to me by Monday  
25th March, for inclusion in the April's edition.

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

# God in the Arts

*Editor: The Rev Michael Burgess begins a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.*

## **‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Hildegard of Bingen**

In this series we have looked at the psalms of the Old Testament and the songs of the New Testament, and now we enter the Middle Ages. But it is the Middle Ages through the eyes of a record producer in the last century.

In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices’ recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry.

A feather on the breath of God’, the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. ‘Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.’

Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After 30 years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the ‘Sybil of the Rhine,’ her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make

plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

It is all there in the chant ‘O ignis spiritus’ on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God’s Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God’s throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen.

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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.*

### **What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times**

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of Spring, but the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza grind on, as does the cost-of-living crisis. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

#### **Getting outside**

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can’t argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying Creation can also help us connect with God.

#### **Looking outside**

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

#### **Lament and praise**

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

## **Journaling**

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

## **Acts of kindness**

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

## **Gratitude**

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

## **Laugh, sing, make music, dance**

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.

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## **What is Maundy Thursday?**

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. ‘Maundy’ comes from the Latin word for command, ‘mandare’. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus’ command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

## **Why do Christians wash feet on Maundy Thursday?**

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.



# Mothers' Union



Not a lot to report for this month. Our activities continue as normal and it's good to be back seeing everyone. Our prayers are still for our members who are not well. Olive and Marion and Gaynor are still in the same position and also several of our members have had the bug that seems to be going round. Dorothea has not been well and has been in hospital but is home now and they are still trying to get to the bottom of her ailments.

There is a Deanery meeting on 8th March but unfortunately I am away and June is unable to attend so I am hoping for the minutes to be sent to me. The Deanery Festival is on the 16th May in Caerphilly at 7.00 p.m. I have no other information from them.

Our speaker in February was Rob Hill from Age Friendly Communities. His talk was very similar to ones we have had previously regarding help in the communities for the elderly or vulnerable. I would like to thank Carol for organising him to come in the evening to talk to us. The theme was mainly about getting communities together to provide friendship and connections within different communities. We already do that in our church and therefore we are ahead of some other places. We should be proud of what we provide for our community, not just through Mothers' Union but also our Social club.

Next month we will still have our meeting even though the Cawl evening is the following day. We will discuss Lent giving and anyone who doesn't have a jar to save 5p and 20p coins just let us know. It was very successful last year. Thank you everyone and if there is anything you would like to discuss at our meeting please be free to do so.

God Bless

**Kath**

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## **Palm Sunday & Holy Week**

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but

chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

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## **Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross**

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when You come into Your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with Me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 3:18).

## ***Observations for Lent ....***

Many a man has thought himself broken up, when he has merely been made ready for the sowing. – **Hugh Redwood**

Adversity does not make us frail; it only shows us how frail we are. – **Anon**

Affliction by itself does not sanctify; it exhausts and embitters, it depresses and entices. It is the presence of God and the use made of it by Him, as He relates it to our lives as a whole... that makes adversity salutary. – **Donald MacLeod**

## ***With Mothering Sunday in mind...***

Her children arise up and call her blessed. – **Proverbs 31:28**

The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom. – **H W Beecher**

## ***And then Holy Week...***

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the Church. – **WR Nicoll**

### **Sudoku Challenge**

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

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*Solution can be found on page 39*

## Short quiz on the Book of Numbers.

*How well do you in the book of numbers? Try this quiz!  
(answers on page 23)*

1. How many chapters are there in the Book of Numbers?
  - a. 34
  - b. 35
  - c. 36
2. "Bemidbar," the Hebrew title of the book "Numbers" means what?
  - a. In the beginning
  - b. In the wilderness
  - c. Accounting
3. What does the book of Numbers describe?
  - a. the priestly rituals and rules for conduct
  - b. the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt
  - c. the numbering of God's people
4. How many years will the Israelites wander in the wilderness?
  - a. 30
  - b. 40
  - c. 50
5. What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle?
  - a. Asher
  - b. Judah
  - c. Levi
6. In Numbers 16, a man named Korah led a rebellion against Moses. How did God end this rebellion?
  - a. They were all stricken with leprosy.
  - b. They were eaten by worms.
  - c. The ground opened up and swallowed them.
7. Why does God prohibit Moses from entering Canaan in Numbers 20?
  - a. because he spoke to the rock
  - b. because he threw the rock
  - c. because he strikes the rock
8. What did Moses hold up in Numbers 21, to heal the people who had been bitten by poisonous snakes when they looked at it?
  - a. The Ten Commandments
  - b. A Brass Serpent
  - c. Aaron's Rod
9. When the twelve spies were sent to Canaan, how many returned with a good report?
  - a. Two
  - b. Twelve
  - c. One
10. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' What are these verse from Numbers 6 called?
  - a. The Shema
  - b. The Mezzuzah
  - c. The Aaronic Blessing

# 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. Services and Holy Days - March 2024</i>	
<i>3rd</i>	THE THIRD SUNDAY of LENT
<i>10th</i>	THE FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT / LENT 4 as MOTHERING SUNDAY
<i>17th</i>	THE FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT: PASSION SUNDAY
<i>19th</i>	Joseph of Nazareth
<i>24th</i>	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF LENT: PALM SUNDAY
<i>25th</i>	Monday in Holy Week
<i>26th</i>	Tuesday in Holy Week
<i>27th</i>	Wednesday in Holy Week
<i>28th</i>	Maundy Thursday
<i>29th</i>	Good Friday
<i>31st</i>	EASTER DAY

**Holy Week**

## *Readings for Palm Sunday & Holy Week*

*( 24th March to 31st March 2024 - Year B)*

***Sunday, 24th - Sixth Sunday of Lent: Palm Sunday***

***Liturgy of the Palms:***

*Mark 11. 1-11 or John 12. 12-16, Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29.*

***Liturgy of the Passion:***

*Isaiah 50. 4-9a, Psalm 31. 9-16, [17, 18], Philippians 2. 5-11,  
Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 or 15. 1-39 [,40-47].*

**Monday, 25th - Monday in Holy Week**

**Readings:**

*Isaiah 42. 1-9, Psalm 36. 5-11, Hebrews 9. 11-15, John 12. 1-11.*

**Tuesday, 26th - Tuesday in Holy Week**

**Readings:**

*Isaiah 49. 1-7, Psalm 71. 1-8 [9-14], 1 Corinthians 1. 18-31,  
John 12. 20-36*

**Wednesday 27th - Wednesday in Holy week**

**Readings:**

*Isaiah 50. 4-9a, Psalm 70, Hebrews 12. 1-3, John 13. 21-32.*

**Thursday, 28th March - Maundy Thursday**

**Readings:**

*Exodus 12. 1-4, [5-10,] 11-14, Psalm 116. 1-2, 12-19 or 116. 12-19,  
1 Corinthians 11. 23-26, John 13. 1-17, 31b-35.*

**Friday, 29th - Good Friday**

**Readings:**

*Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12, Psalm 22. or 22. 1-11 or 22. 1-21,  
Hebrews 10. 16-25 or 4. 14-16; 5. 7-9, John 18.1 – 19.42*

**Saturday 30th - Easter Eve**

**Readings:**

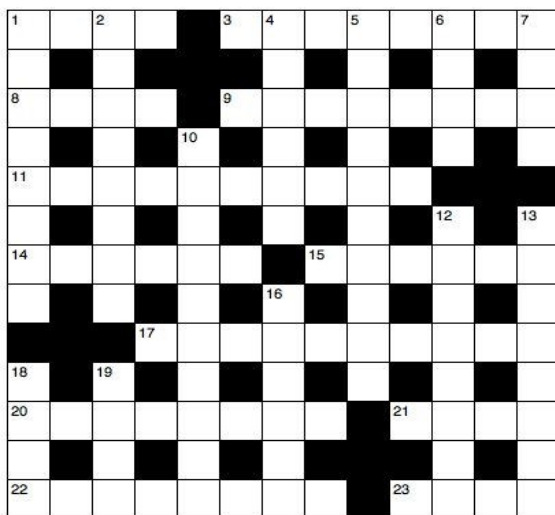
*Job 14. 1-14 or Lamentations 3.1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31. 1-4, 15-16 or 31.1-5, 1 Peter 4. 1-8,  
Matthew 27. 57-66 or John 19. 38-42*

**Sunday 31st - Easter Day**

**Readings:**

*Acts 10. 34-43 or Isaiah 65. 17-25, Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 14-24,  
1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 or Acts 10. 34-43  
John 20. 1-18 or Matthew 28. 1-10*

## March's Crossword



## Challenge

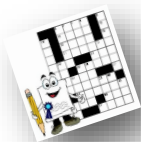
### Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)



## Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)



## Crossword solution - Page 39

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

### Quiz on the Book of Numbers

#### Answers:

Question 1: c. (36)

Question 2: b. (In the wilderness)

Question 3: c. (The numbering of God's people)

Question 4: b. (40)

Question 5: c. (Levi)

Question 6: b. (The ground opened up and swallowed them).

Question 7: c. (because he strikes the rock)

Question 8: b. (A brass serpent)

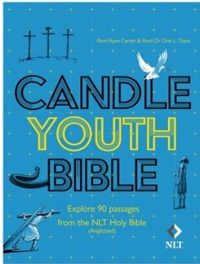
Question 9: a. (Two)

Question 10: c. (The Aaronic Blessing)

## Book Reviews

### **Candle Youth Bible - explore 90 passages from the NLT Holy Bible (Anglicized)**

SPCK, £11.99



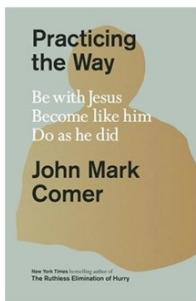
The Candle Youth Bible provides an ideal introduction to accessing and understanding the entire story of the Bible. When viewed as a whole, the Bible is a wonderful story full of images and drama. 90 key Bible events are featured that show how the Bible's story unfolds and is connected, conveying how the Gospel of Christ and the Kingdom of God binds all of Scripture together.

Each carefully selected story is retold with Bible verses supporting information about the theme, setting, characters, and key plot outlines of each passage.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

### **Practicing the Way - Be with Jesus. Become like him. Do as He did**

By John Mark Comer, SPCK, £16.99



Do you feel like there's more to life than this? You're right. This book will help you discover and cultivate he countercultural practices to connect you with a vibrant lifelong faith.

John Mark Comer, the New York Times bestselling author of *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* and *Live No Lies*, shows readers what is holding them back from authentically following Jesus - and reveals the countercultural practices to connect us with a vibrant lifelong faith.

We all have experienced unwanted parts of our spiritual journey: distance from God, gaps in our character, the fear that our lives will be trivial and empty... Jesus is calling us into more. Calling us to be shaped in His likeness. To experience His abundance of life. But how, practically, can we do that? By becoming His apprentice. By practicing the Way. Outlining the timeless process of being with Jesus, becoming like Him, and living as He did, bestselling author and pastoral voice John Mark Comer delineates God's vision for the journey of our soul.

## 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

March 2024			April 2024			May 2024		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christine Harvey		7 <sup>th</sup>	Janeve Manca		5 <sup>th</sup>	Cheryl Pugh	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Jenkins		14 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Harvey		12 <sup>th</sup>	Janeve Manca	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies		21 <sup>st</sup>	Joan Jenkins		19 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Harvey	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Thomas		28 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Davies		26 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Jenkins	
31 <sup>st</sup>	Cheryl Pugh							

### St. Margaret's Readers Rota

March 2024			April 2024			May 2024		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	June Phillips		7 <sup>th</sup>	Kath Llewellyn		5 <sup>th</sup>	June Phillips	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Jenn East		14 <sup>th</sup>	Neil Hazell		12 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Thorpe	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Jennette Jones		21 <sup>st</sup>	Alex Ball		19 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Mayne	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Bartlett		28 <sup>th</sup>	Jennette Jones		26 <sup>th</sup>	Huw Thomas	
31 <sup>st</sup>	Lynne Thomas							

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

### St. Margaret's Cleaning Rota

March 2024			April 2024			May 2024		
3	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	7	Lynda Trollope	Enid	5	Lynda Trollope	Enid
10	Lynda Trollope	Enid	14	Jennette	Audrey	12	Jennette	Audrey
17	Jennette	Audrey	21	Kath	June	19	Kath	June
24	Kath	June	28	Lynda Bartlett	Sue	26	Lynda Bartlett	Sue
31	Lynda Bartlett	Sue						

# From the Register

## Christian Funerals

**February 2024**

<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Brian Roberts RIP</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thomas Hill RIP</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Michael Salmon RIP</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Haydn Hillman RIP</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Eric Gilbert RIP</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Paul Davies RIP</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Betty Davies RIP</b>

*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**

-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.***

# For the Younger Generation.

## The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



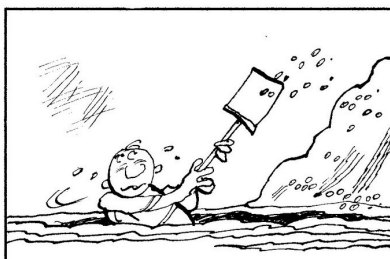
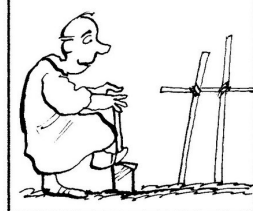
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....'

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



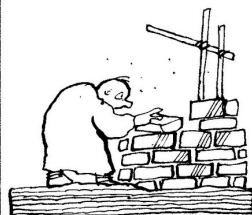
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....

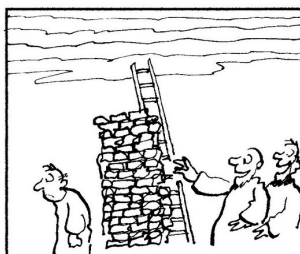
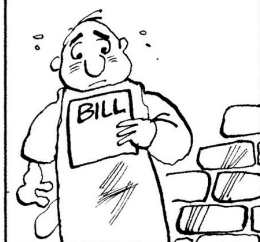


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....



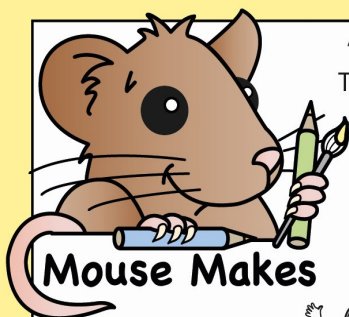
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



## Mouse Makes

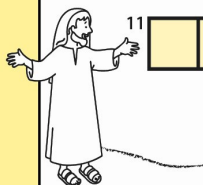
*Matthew 21:1-11*

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



*Matthew 26:17-29*

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



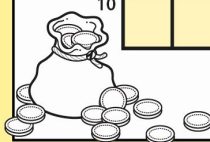
*Matthew 26:36-75*

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



*Matthew 26:14-16*

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

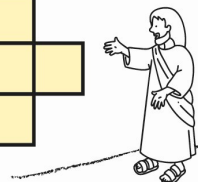


"I am the **resurrection** and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."

*John 1:25*

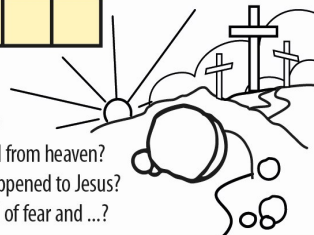


READ the Bible  
passages to find  
the answers to the  
crossword clues



*Matthew 27:27-61*

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?



*Matthew 28:1-10*

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



## Complete the Wordsearch!

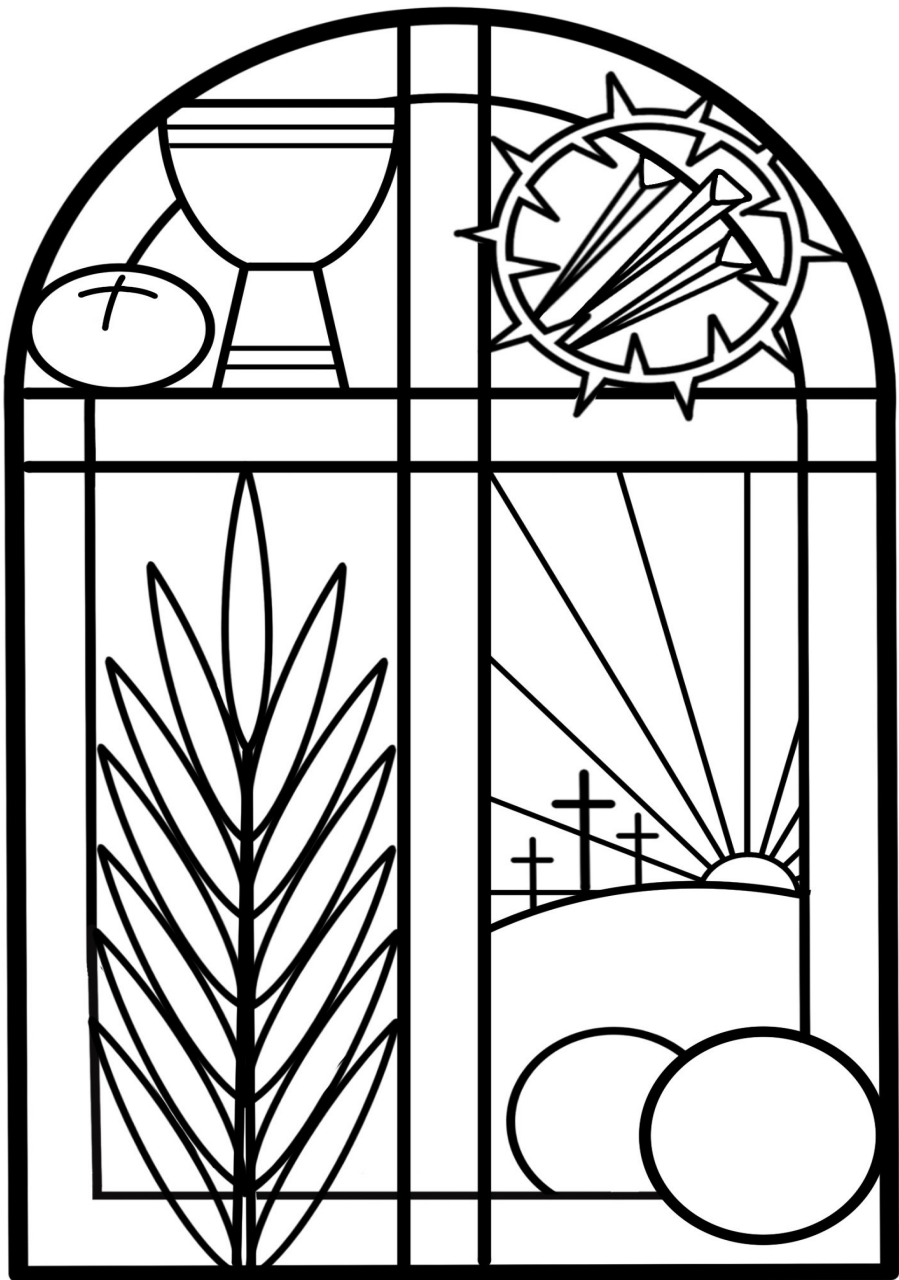
w	u	n	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	h	o
o	f	p	g	v	v	h	a	p	v	x	f	a	r
r	p	q	s	d	i	e	c	o	e	n	t	n	l
s	h	e	k	e	l	s	r	j	w	c	h	i	k
h	p	c	s	g	t	d	i	y	g	r	i	m	i
i	r	j	r	e	t	t	f	t	o	b	e	a	l
p	a	v	h	o	c	g	i	d	o	n	v	l	l
o	y	f	m	m	w	r	c	n	i	r	e	s	e
t	e	m	p	l	e	d	e	n	g	z	s	u	d
w	r	e	p	r	i	e	s	t	s	l	a	g	c
f	x	d	l	t	p	r	o	b	l	e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

everyone  
 sacrifice  
 thieves  
 stalls  
 Jerusalem  
 visitors  
 problem  
 God

den  
 priests  
 Hosanna  
 shekels  
 drove  
 upsetting  
 killed  
 Jesus

place  
 crowds  
 prayer  
 worship  
 special  
 secretly  
 animals  
 Temple

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## **Booking and Enquiries**

*Please Contact:*

**Christine Harvey: 01443 833123**



**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 District of Gelligaer 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 Council. While we aim to include accurate and up-to-date information at the time of publication, we make no warranties or representations as to the accuracy. We therefore assume no liability or responsibility for any error or omission in the content.*

# Directory of Contacts

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

*Thank You!*

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

## Mothers' Union:

Branch Leader ..... Kath Llewellyn. Tel: 01443 829658  
Branch Secretary .....  
Branch Treasurer ..... June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

**Community Dance Group:** ..... June Phillips. Tel: 01443 835977

**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.

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

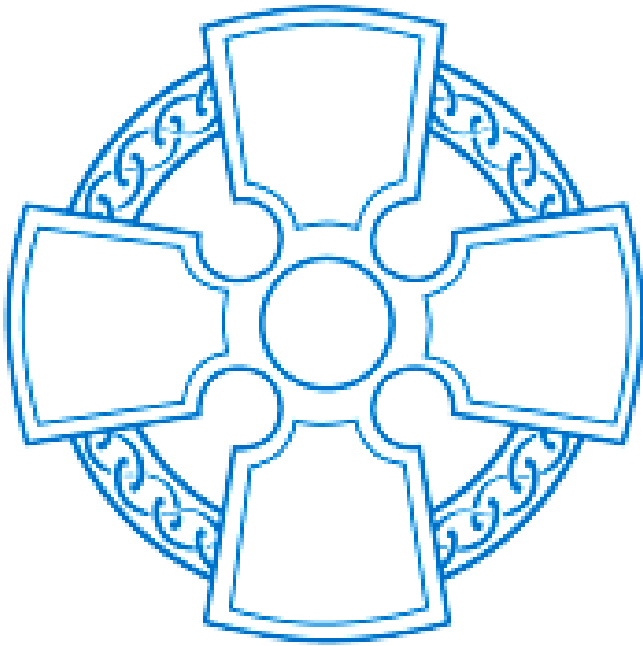
W	I	N	E	T	H	E	A	L	E	R	T
R	A	S	E	S	N	U					
O	O	Z	E	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R
N	E	B	L	E	Y	N					
G	A	R	D	E	N	T	O	M	B		
A	E	F	H	B	I	T					
C	A	N	N	O	T	E	L	I	S	H	A
T	E	R	T	I	C	K					
			G	E	T	H	S	E	M	A	N
L	U	L	E	S	R	C					
O	W	N	H	O	U	S	E	L	I	S	A
A	T	N	O								
F	L	O	G	G	I	N	G	S	T	Y	E

Answer to **Sudoku** on page 18

Answers to **Crossword** on page 22



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH  
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MINISTRY AREA



*This Publication was produced and printed by the Taff Rhymney Ministry Area,  
District of Gelligaer. 2024*