

# *Newydd*

60p

*The Parish Magazine of The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon*  
A registered charity

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*St. Paul's Centenary Year*

*August 2011*



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## From the Rector

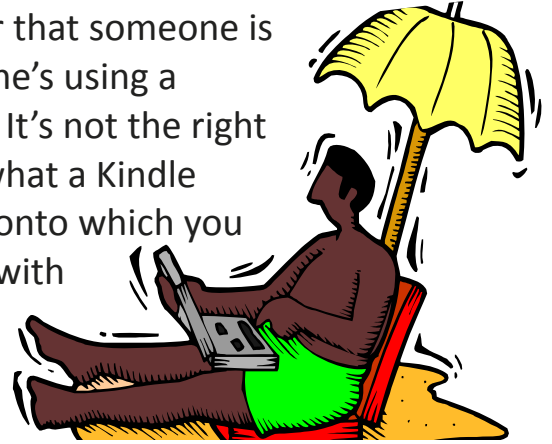
rector@parishofaberavon.org

01639 883630



It's the holiday season. You will see on the front cover that someone is enjoying the sunshine - but he's not reading a book he's using a gadget - could be a dvd player or a laptop computer. It's not the right shape for a Kindle - and in case you are wondering what a Kindle might be, it is a single 'sheet of paper-like' computer onto which you can download thousands of books and carry around with you for the weight of a bag of sugar.

It really is quite amazing how much technology has changed our lives. But for the moment, humour me as I suggest to you that this device is a laptop computer.



The gentleman we see might be entertaining himself watching a TV programme on the BBC I player; or he could be looking at internet sites to see where he will explore next on his holiday, or where the best restaurant is located. He may be interacting with friends on a social networking site ( or two! ) - but he may be checking his emails and doing some work as he sits in the sun. And that is the downside of modern technology: people just don't switch off, really relax and stop their normal routine - and other people expect them to be available twenty four hours a day 365 days a year, because technology makes them available. Some employers are particularly bad at looking after their employees well-being, always emailing and telephoning, even when the employee is on holiday at the beach.

Everyone needs a break from the regular routine now and then - even if only for a day or a few hours each week. No one can keep on working all the time with no relaxation. Judgement becomes impaired; bad decisions are made; people become grumpy and short tempered; tiredness can even cause accidents in the home or whilst driving the car. Rest is essential for us all.

Jesus set the example of a need to withdraw, and we see many examples of it in the Gospels. He also re-interpreted the idea that the seventh day was to be surrounded by laws prohibiting activity, and pointed out that it was designed for man to enjoy some rest and relaxation. A ceaseless round of work and work-related issues is just utterly exhausting, and it affects every part of life: family life, self esteem, and spirituality.

In the Church there has always been a desire to address the need to re-charge the spiritual batteries and offer a withdrawal from the reality of the world: we have called them retreats. Although not in quite the same mould, pilgrimages offer a similar sort of withdrawal from the every day pressures of life, and an opportunity for spiritual refreshment. These things are extremely valuable, and provide individuals with a resource that brings us closer to God the source of our strength, and a respite from worry and care as we realise how much we are in His presence, and how powerful is His love for us .

There was a time when people in this Benefice made a retreat - sadly the last one was three years ago and plans for another a year later had to be cancelled because of a lack of interest, perhaps a sign of a gathering economic crisis. There was also a time when more people went on pilgrimage to Walsingham, but again perhaps the numbers have declined as financial pressures have mounted and health and age have taken their toll.

Last month, those of us who journey annually to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham took with us two youngsters from the parish, one fourteen years of age and one seventeen years of age. They came with open minds, devoid of the prejudices of adulthood, and they came prepared to see what it was all about. Both of them said, of their own free will and in their own way and own time, that the experience was positive and something that they would want to repeat. One of them actually said, 'I am coming every year from now on.' What they discovered was an ability to bring to Walsingham their own worries and troubles and yet find that in this holy place there was a way to let God into our lives as we honoured His coming amongst us as man in the Incarnation. They found hope and peace, strength and well-being in a world in which even young people find stress and strain in every day living. And they found fellowship with hundreds of others who share the Faith and have a similar outlook on life, and need of a Saviour. There was no hard sell: no brain washing: no bribery or twisting of arms. They accepted an invitation, saw what it was all about, experienced the worship and the fellowship and found something quite remarkable.

Maybe we all need to reassess our need for renewal and refreshment, set aside our preconceived ideas and let ourselves be open to new experiences of the Lord. One thing is certain: we all need peace and relaxation, and time to enjoy life and to pray. With every good wish

*Nigel Canice*

**Fr Nigel**

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## ***Please respect the deadlines***

It is not unusual for the clergy to have telephone calls in the late evening about matters that are routine and quite unimportant. On the parish web site there is a note asking people not to call after 8.00pm unless the matter is urgent. Still there are requests to arrange baptisms at ten minutes to nine in the evening, or to make alterations to marriage arrangements at a time when one is preparing for bed! Perhaps we need to put that note in the magazine every month and on the pew sheet each week, and ask you to pass on the message to those who don't come to church, so that they have some understanding of what is acceptable.

The problem, of course, is that there are so many 24 hour call centres around that people just do not think about what time it is when they pick up the telephone.

It is not an unreasonable request to ask that, if the matter is not urgent, the clergy are not called after 8.00pm so that they can find some relaxation at the end of the evening.

Naturally, if there is an emergency, if someone has been taken ill, if there is death or some other awful circumstance, then the clergy should be telephoned at any hour of the day or night. That is why they are there.

But do, please, think twice about telephoning after 8.00pm for routine things that can easily wait until the next day.

### ***200 Club St Mary's***

The winner for July was number 18, Eleanor Williams.

### ***200 Club Holy Trinity***

The winner for June was Mrs Linda Jones and the winner for July was J. T. Barrett.

### ***St Agnes Manyfold***

The winners for June are numbers 25, Gwyn Rolands - £50, 101, Jean Patterson - £40 and 47, Dorothy John - £25.

## ***Congratulations***

To Beti White who celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16<sup>th</sup> August and also to Alison her daughter who celebrates her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on the same day;

To Jean and Peter Moloney who celebrate their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary (45<sup>th</sup>) on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

## ***Thank You***

I would like to thank Fr. Nigel, Fr. Matthew, Jane and all my friends at St Paul's and the Benefice for their prayers and best wishes during my stay in hospital. I am very grateful.

Jean Walsingham.

## ***Friends of St Mary's***

The Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in church.

## ***Friends of St Paul's***

The Friends of St Paul's are very grateful to everybody who supported the launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> July and also to the many people who supported us but could not get to the launch. It far exceeded our expectations and also people are still joining. Once again our grateful thanks to everybody at St Paul's and special thanks to Fr. Matthew and Fr. Nigel for their continuing support.

***Friends of St Paul's Committee.***

## ***Friends of St Agnes trip cancelled***

The trip to Exeter which was due to take place on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September has been cancelled due to insufficient interest.

***Sylvan Thomas.***

## Letter from Australia Mothers' Union

Dear Glenys,

Thank you so much for all those papers that you sent to us, what a wonderful wedding it was and such a beautiful day it turned out for all the hundreds who lined up for days. We saw a few hours on the TV: some people over North Bellingen had a Wedding Party with Tiara's and a special meal. The new Duchess of Cambridge was so lovely and smiling and waving to everybody, we are so glad she had her own choice of wedding dress and her train wasn't too long. Those dear little flower girls and the page boys how good they were. Prince Harry was great with them in the carriage wasn't he?



What a tremendous day your Church had as the Crucifixion was played out and so many people turning out to watch. Years ago the Churches here gathered together for Palm Sunday, we had a young youth leader as Jesus riding a donkey up our main street then past our Church up and around other streets and down to our football park for a combined Church service. I was Jesus' mother, it was a great worshipping time together.

Do you watch Jamie Oliver on his cooking meals in 30 minutes? He is so casual and very unusual and there are so many cooking shows every day, but I'm a very ordinary cook - none of these fancy meals they show us.

We were so lucky we had 2 fine days for our local show on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May. I put some cooking in, a date loaf butter cake, banana cake and carrot cake but I didn't get a prize, also I put a pumpkin in and won 1<sup>st</sup> prize, the vine in the garden has at least 18 on it, very nice half dry and a good taste. The rain started about 2 hours after the show ended and we've had 73mm (*three inches*) since then.

How's your husband and daughter? Maurice is getting very short of breath every day lately. Doreen has had a cancer spot off her leg and had a couple of weeks off church. Joan hasn't been real well lately but both were at church this morning.

Lots of God's Blessings on all.  
Heather and Maurice.

## The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian Funeral:

Baby Haydn John William Tyler

Myrddin Rees

Vernon Doyle

Patricia King

Roy Edwards

Irene Jones

David Perrett

Please pray for them, and for their families and friends who mourn their loss.



## Baptisms

Please pray for

Oliver James Mills

Darren Williams

Marie Williams



Remember also, in your prayers, all parents and godparents.

## Communicant figures for June 2011

5th	175
12th	134
19th	136
26th	141

## Weddings

We congratulate Colin David Mayes and Christine Ann Dunkley .

We pray that they will continue to grow in love and enjoy their friendship and companionship for many years.



## Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent cards and good wishes during my stay in hospital. I am really grateful and it was lovely to hear from you. Thank you once again.

## Messy Church

The Baptism group are launching a monthly event for children, young people and their families this October. If you would like to get involved please contact Fr. Matthew or Jane. There is a training day arranged for the 12th September, to reserve a place on the training day please see Fr. Matthew. Lunch will be provided and there is no charge for the day for our own parishioners. People from other parishes are welcome, but there will be a fee of £10 per person.

## *USPG : Anglicans in World Mission*

Dear Mr Howe,

On behalf of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission, thank you very much for your donation of £2,030.00 from the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon towards our Growing the Church Appeal. Your gift will be used to support the churches of the Anglican Communion as they engage in God's holistic mission, providing both practical support and spiritual mission.

Thank you once again for your gift and for your support of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission.

With best wishes,

Anthony McKernan, Director for Donor Engagement.



## *New births*

Congratulations to great grandmother Lorene Edwards twice over! William was born on the 31st May and Alicia Victoria was born on the 21st July.



Congratulations to grandparents Shirley and Michael Nicholas: Wayne & Janine had a baby girl Baylee Rose Mary in July.

**Please pray for all new parents and grandparents,  
that they might have wisdom, love and patience.**

## *Items for the magazine*

Please note the deadlines for news for the magazine. It is really important that you ensure your news and articles are sent in so that we all know what's going on.

**Magazine deadline for items to be handed to Denise that need to be typed**

For September 2011

9th August

**and for items sent by email directly to the Rector:**

For September 2011

10th August

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Every Thursday  
from 9.30am to 11.30am

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Language and Play  
Health care advice

## *Remembering, seeing and learning*

There will be a special service at St Mary's Church at 6pm on Sunday 4th September when we will remember all that took place over the weekend of The Passion earlier this year.

People who were involved in any way - even as spectators - are invited to come along, and to send in photographs or other memorabilia of the event.



At this service we will also launch **Seven Sacred Spaces**, and in the week following will invite anyone who wants to talk about possibilities of how the Benefice can serve the community to gather together and chat.



### *Exhibitions*

Coinciding with the September 4th service, there will be a display of art work by pupils of Glan Afan School in the church, and there will be other Arts and Crafts exhibits together with an exhibition marking the 400th anniversary of The King James Bible.

At 7pm on Friday 2nd September there will be a buffet of Cheese and Wine, to mark the opening of the weekend events. Tickets will be £5 each and are available from every church. Volunteers from every church are needed to keep the church open for this Benefice event, and there are lists at the back of church inviting you to sign up to help.

On Saturday 3rd September and Sunday 4th September the churches will be open from 10am to 5pm and entry is free.

These events will be publicised in the local newspaper, on the Council web site, our own web site and the Church in Wales' web site.

Please make as much effort to support what is going to happen in September as you did in the most fantastic way over the weekend of the Passion in April.

## *Older persons forum*

I attended a meeting last month for the Older Persons Forum and I think you will find this interesting.

We were addressed by Dr. Paul Nash from Swansea University's 'Centre for Innovative Ageing' who is now about to undertake a major project studying the impact of diet, health, social well-being and the environment on mental health. In the next few months 5000 people of age 65 or over, will be contacted at random, by letter asking them to provide information on their mental health. If they agree, they will be interviewed now and again in two years time.

The importance of this survey (along with an on-going study in England) is to provide an accurate understanding of the changes in the experience of ageing which could eventually help in delaying the onset and the treatment of dementia.

Dr. Paul and his department urge anyone who is contacted to respond positively to the request for this valuable information as dementia rates are likely to increase by 38% over the next 15 years.

***Avril Williams***

## *Deaths*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Gwen Perrett and her family on the death of her husband, David, last month.

We assure her of our prayers at this sad time.



The death has been announced of the Reverend Richard Smith, who was an assistant curate at St Mary's from 1975 to 1978.

Richard, who was 64 years of age, had a massive heart attack and died instantaneously.

A graduate of Westminster College Oxford he was awarded an MTh in 1999, having previously studied for ordination at St David's College, Lampeter. He was ordained deacon in 1975 and priest in 1976. Having served a curacy at Aberavon he went on to become an industrial chaplain from 1978 to 1981, when he became Team Vicar in Bournemouth Town Centre. Appointed an honorary canon of Chelmsford Cathedral, Richard had been the Bishop of Chelmsford's advisor on hospital chaplaincy work since 1999, having become senior hospital Chaplain to the NHS trust - a post he held until his sudden death.

## *Fair Trade*

The PCC agreed to apply for FairTrade status now that all churches use tea and coffee that are FairTrade products, and urge the congregations to use more FairTrade products in the life of the Church.

## *Marriage as Mission*

Paula Durnell, Lorna Beckett and Gill Davison have copies of the book '*Marriage as Mission*' and will pass them to other members after they have read them. The idea is that we learn together how best to approach the whole concept of couples marrying in church, and how we can help them relate their experience to the Christian Faith and encourage them to see Jesus as part of their family life.

## *Next PCC Meeting*

Will all members please note in their diaries that there is a PCC meeting on 19th September at 6.30pm in St Agnes' Church. Members of the congregations who have been wondering why the PCC meetings are all taking place in St Agnes' should note that only on a Monday are all the members able to attend, and as there is a mass at St Agnes' on a Monday night the members decided to hold the PCC meetings there immediately after they have worshipped together.

## *At the last PCC Meeting*

- Members were given sheets detailing the financial update for the Benefice up to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Direct giving has increased by 9% and loose giving has increased by 7% on last year's figures. Mike Howe explained that the Benefice can have a Debit Card which will make it easier when he or the Rector have to purchase items for the Benefice. All members were in favour.
- It was agreed that Paula Durnell will replace Simon Burton as signatory for the Benefice account. As Fr. Matthew is now Team Vicar, Mike Howe proposed and the Rector seconded that he be added as a signatory on the Benefice account. All were in favour.
- Fr. Matthew read a report about the St Paul's church hall and informed members of the decision on 19<sup>th</sup> May by St Paul's Church Committee to close the hall. This decision was ratified on 26<sup>th</sup> May by the Executive Committee.
- Members were asked to think about what they would like to do to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. A decision will be made in September

## *At the last PCC Meeting*

- The Rector noted the difference it has made with Fr. Matthew working as Team Vicar and Jane at the hospital. The PCC congratulated Fr Matthew.
- Members agreed that communication is vital.
- It was decided that Paula Durnell will chair meetings of the Benefice Fund Raising group of representatives from each church. The Rector reminded people that it doesn't matter where the event is held people from every church should be involved.
- As agreed at the planning meeting last autumn there will be one Harvest Thanksgiving service, at 7pm in St Mary's on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September followed by a Bring and Share supper in the Parish Centre.
- Fr. Matthew spoke about Messy Church - designed to reach children and their families and centring around craft work, food and worship. There will be a Messy Fiesta Training Day at the Parish Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> September which will be run by Lucy Moore. There will be 50 places in total, members of the Benefice will be invited to come along free of charge and those places not taken will be offered to churches in the Deanery and Diocese at a charge of £10 per person. The launch of Messy Church will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm at St Mary's and will continue on the second Sunday of each month. The motion: The Parochial Church Council agree to a budget of £800 for the purchase of craft equipment etc. for Messy Church was approved by everyone present.
- Fr. Matthew emphasised that we need help to encourage volunteers to get involved and help at the Messy Church events. Volunteers are also needed to help organise the catering on 12<sup>th</sup> September.



## Messy Church

The expression messy church might make some of you reading this cringe if you're obsessed with cleanliness and order. However since 2004 when the first Messy Church was launched in St Wilfrid's, Cowplain near Portsmouth, children, young people and a fair few adults have been enjoying the chance to discover God's story in a fresh and exciting way.



Over the last 7 years Messy Church has exploded in popularity and has grown not just across the UK but in at least 12 other countries as well. Themed largely around the feasts and festivals of the church Messy Church is a fresh expression of Church which uses crafts, food and all-age worship to help families outside of the church to explore the Christian faith. Have a read of the following extract from the Messy Church website:

*The hall is buzzing with conversation. Around a table adults and children burst into laughter as they wrestle with metallic tubing and googly eyes and their teenage helpers despair of ever creating the promised artefact.*

*A toddler slaps green paint on a huge sheet of card under the watchful eye of a Granny (not sure if they're related or not - it doesn't really matter). A five-year-old watches wide-eyed as an enthusiastic leader shows her how to bang in a nail.*

*There's a delicious smell wafting out of the kitchen. The ten-year-olds, intent on their glass-painting, agree it must be jacket potatoes. The vicar takes a photo of the surreal result of the junk modelling and two mums catch up on the gossip as they drink welcome cups of tea and slowly decorate gift bags while their children make something unidentifiable but very chocolatey upstairs.*

*The cooks should be getting the plates stacked, but one of the mums needs to talk about her problems with her foster children.*

*I would be panicking about the story for the celebration later, but there's a huge collage of The Great Banquet to assemble before five o'clock, the powder paint has proved a formidable weapon of mess creation in the hands of Jack, and we've barely got started on the lettering and whoops, someone's kicked over the gluepot...*

*Just another Messy Church.*



## Messy Church

from page 15

Through our work with the baptism team in the Benefice, Jane and I became aware that we could build on the success of our baptism group events by starting a monthly Messy Church celebration in the Benefice. We pitched the idea to the baptism group and their response and support for the idea was incredible so we took the project forward. The plan is to start a monthly Messy Church based at St Mary's though for all the whole Benefice on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 3pm.

There is a training day organised for the 12th September in the Parish Centre which we would like as many people as possible to attend. We need to put together a team of people from across the Benefice who will run the monthly celebrations. If you're good with crafts, refreshments, administration, setting up and packing down, generally being on hand : we need you and would like you to join us on the 12th September.

Messy Church is an opportunity for the Benefice to engage with children and families in our community and to share the Christian faith. So, if you would like to be a part of this project, have a chat with Fr Matthew or Jane, sign up for the training day or simply keep the project in your prayers as we take forward this exciting ministry.

**Fr Matthew**



## Harvest Thanksgiving

The Benefice will gather together at St Mary's Church on the evening of Wednesday 28th September at 7.00pm for a Harvest celebration service which will be followed by a *Bring and Share* supper in the parish centre. We hope that all of you will make a big effort to be there and celebrate as one people. This service will not include a celebration of the Eucharist, but will reflect the harvest themes of thanksgiving and joy.

We would like volunteers for a singing group to take part in the event, so please let Matthew Lewis know if you are interested.

During the harvest supper in the hall we will play games and enjoy some entertainment. This is an event to which you can (and should) invite your friends. Let's party as a family as we thank God for his blessings and remember those in need.

St Bargoyle's  
**FLOWER FESTIVAL**  
"HYMNS IN TUNE WITH NATURE"



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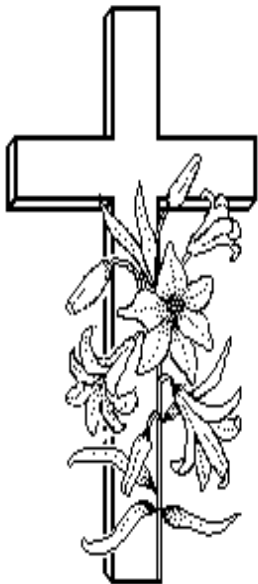
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*Daily Scripture Readings*

8 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Deuteronomy 10: 12-22	Matthew 17: 22-27
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Deuteronomy 31: 1-8	Matthew 18: 1-5. 10. 12-14
10 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12	Matthew 18: 15-20
11 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Joshua 3: 7-11. 13-17	Matthew 18: 21 – 19: 1
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Joshua 24: 1-13	Matthew 19: 3-12
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Joshua 24: 14-29	Matthew 19: 13-15
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Apocalypse 11: 19; 12: 1-6. 10	Luke 1: 39-56
16 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Judges 6: 11-24	Matthew 19: 23-30
17 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Judges 9: 6-15	Matthew 20: 1-16
18 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Judges 11: 29-39	Matthew 22: 1-14
19 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Ruth 1: 1. 3-6. 14-16. 22	Matthew 22: 34-40
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Ruth 2: 1-3. 8-11; 4: 13-17	Matthew 23: 1-12
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5. 8-10	Matthew 23: 13-22
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8	Matthew 23: 23-26
24 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Apocalypse 21: 9-14	John 1: 45-51
25 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 3: 7-13	Matthew 24: 42-51
26 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8	Matthew 25: 1-13
27 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 4: 9-11	Matthew 25: 14-30
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	Jeremiah 1: 17-19	Mark 6: 17-29
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2011	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6. 9-11	Luke 4: 31-37
31 <sup>st</sup> August 2011	Colossians 1: 1-8	Luke 4: 38-44
1 <sup>st</sup> September 2011	Colossians 1: 9-14	Luke 5: 1-11
2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2011	Colossians 1: 15-20	Luke 5: 33-39
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2011	Colossians 1: 21-23	Luke 6: 1-5

## Seven Sacred Spaces

During the week beginning Sunday 4th September you are invited to come and have a chat about what we hope will be happening in the Benefice over the next few years. The idea of Seven Sacred Spaces is that we look for ways to engage with the community in things that people need, things that are already happening, or offering help to those who have a problem getting things done themselves. All of this is centred on the prayer life of the Church, and reflected in its decision making via the church committees and the PCC.

You will remember that the idea is based on the way monks and nuns live in community, and is meant to give us an approach to living out our faith that makes us look at different areas of life to ensure that not only Jesus is present, but that his Church is there too. It is all about helping the Kingdom of God to grow in our area in many different ways. It is a long-term growth idea - not a short term fix!

Meetings will be held at:

1pm on Monday 5th

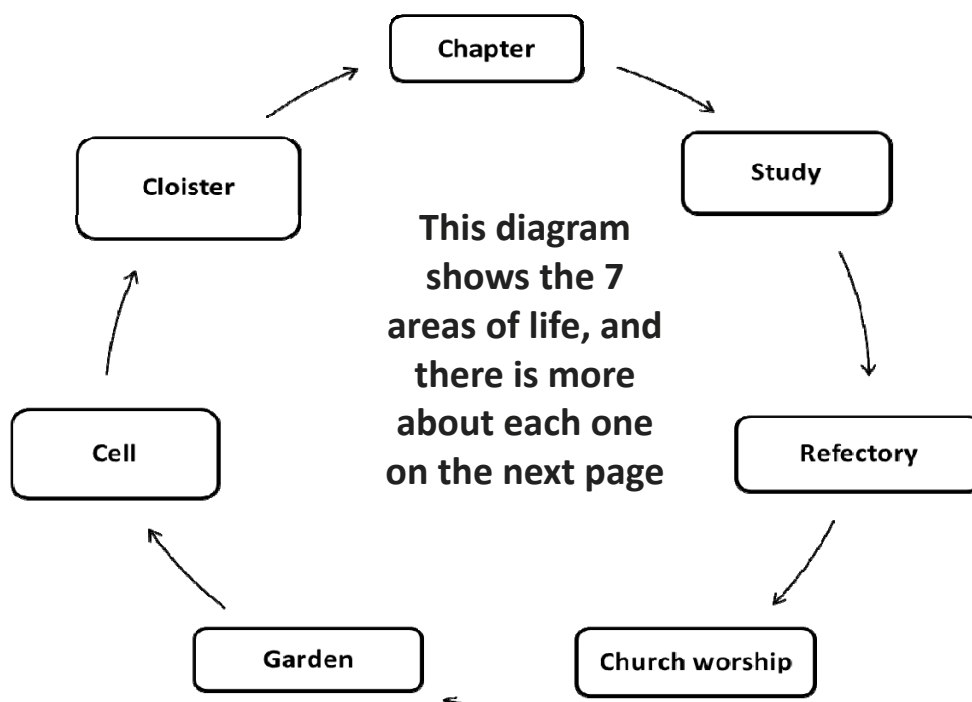
11am on Tuesday 6th at Holy Trinity Church

7pm on Wednesday 7th at the Parish Centre

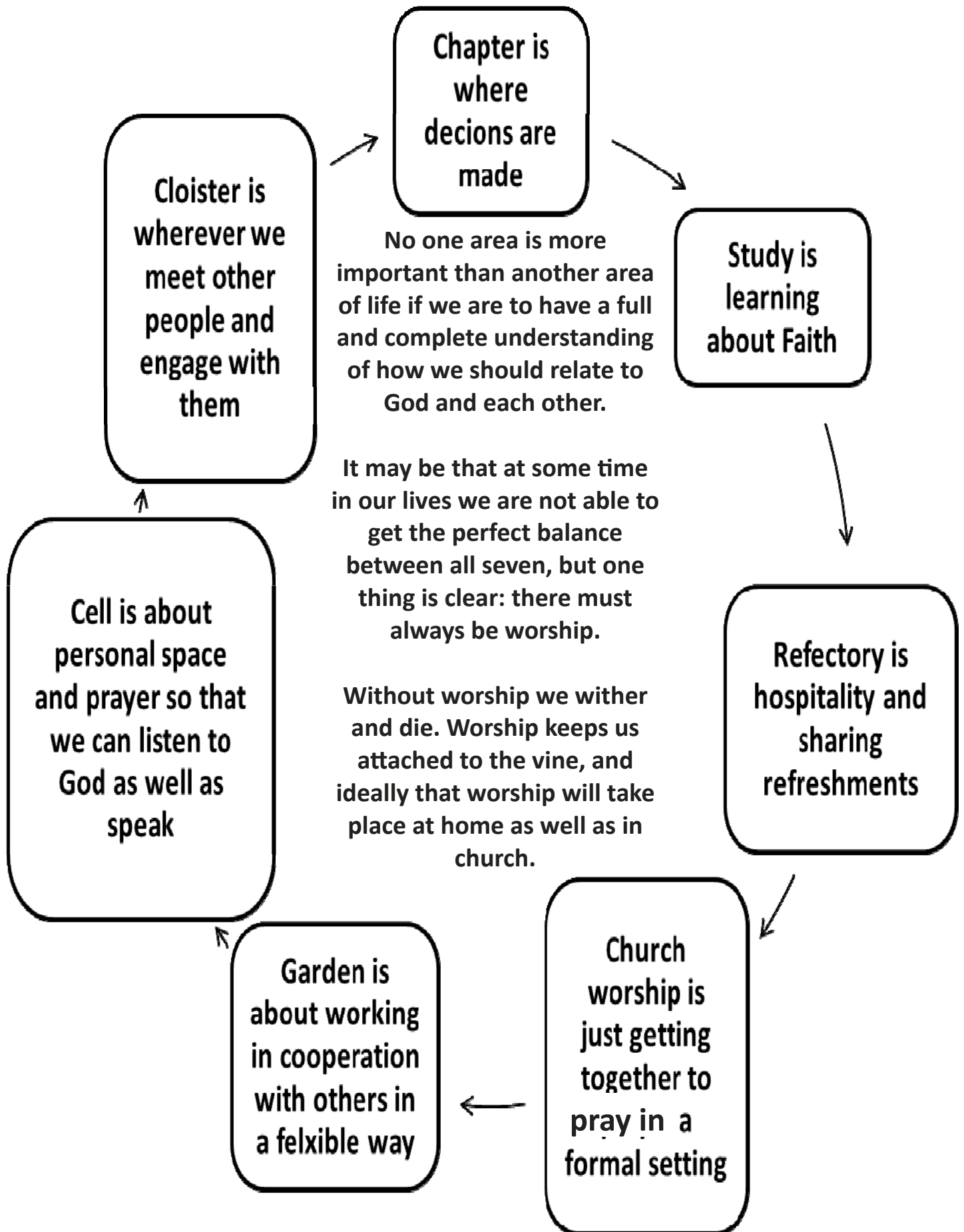
1pm on Thursday 8th.

We will confirm the venues for Monday and Thursday as soon as we can.

Do please come along. You might be just the person we need to give us ideas and help us move forward. We are just going to sit and chat and enjoy some light refreshments.



# Seven Sacred Spaces



# Condon Funeral Service



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## *Canterbury sends sympathy to Norway*

The Archbishop of Canterbury expressed his “deepest sympathy” to the people of Norway last month after the “appalling events” of Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, when Anders Behring Breivik, a far-right extremist who claimed to be inspired by Christian values, killed an estimated 76 people in a bomb attack and shooting.

Dr Williams said: “Along with all the faithful of the Church of England, I want to express my deepest sympathy with the people of Norway.

Norway has played so great a part over many years in international reconciliation, as well as developing its own distinctive national ethos of openness and fairness, and it is a special tragedy that it should suffer this outbreak of senseless carnage.

“Our prayers are with all those who died and all those who mourn them; and we are grateful for the many signs of strength and spiritual maturity that the Norwegian people have shown in their response to evil and destructiveness.”

The Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, spoke at Oslo Cathedral on Sunday, at a memorial service attended by King Harald and Queen Sonja.

The St Edmund’s Anglican Church, in Oslo, which is about 400 metres from where a bomb exploded at a government building, narrowly escaped damage by the blast. The Chaplain, Canon Janet Heil, said that it was a “miracle” that St Edmund’s had not been damaged, unlike the buildings on either side of it.

Canon Heil said that she had approached the pastor of a Swedish church in Oslo which had been damaged, and had offered them the use of St Edmund’s. The treasurer of St Edmund’s, who is a forensic odontologist, has been helping to identify the bodies of those who were shot on the island of Utøya during a Labour Party youth camp.

The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, who is a Norwegian Lutheran pastor, had just left Oslo when the bombing occurred. Norway, he said, had “experienced an unprecedented and horrible level of violence against innocent people”, which had left him shocked.

“In times like this, the Norwegian people and government need the solidarity of the international society, and the prayers of the world-wide Church. Now we know the reality of so many others in the world where violence pierces the lives of the innocent.”

## *Unavailable*

Fr Nigel is unavailable from 12th to 27th August, and Jane is unavailable from the 15th to the 30th August. Denise is away, and the office will be closed from 5th to the 21st August

Please help Fr Matthew during this time by informing him promptly of anyone who is ill, keeping non essential requests to a minimum and visiting people who need help yourselves.

**There is a Benefice Mass on Sunday 14th August at 10.30am at St Agnes'. This is the only mass in the Benefice that day.**

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## *Vespers for the Assumption*

You are invited to an ecumenical celebration of the Feast of the Assumption at St Mary's, Bute Street, Cardiff on Sunday 14th August at 8.30pm.

The service will include an outdoor torchlight procession and will end with a BBQ and fireworks.

## *St Agnes' Friends present*

**Clueless? - a 'guess who did it' evening** in the church on 19th October at 7pm  
Tickets £5 including refreshments.

## *St Mary's Friends present*

**a night of comedy and fun** on Wednesday 12th October at 7pm at Dylan's Bar, Cwmavon. Tickets £6 including buffet.

## *The Benefice presents*

**a night of music and singing with** The Porthcawl Ukulele Band (Roger Slennett and his gang) on 25th November at St Agnes' Church. All proceeds to the Benefice funds.

# *October Devotions to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*



St Thomas' Church, Clydach Vale is the venue for this year's October devotions. Clydach Vale is in the Rhondda Valley, and Fr Nigel was vicar there for ten years.

**This is an ideal opportunity for all who were unable to get to Walsingham this year to make a short journey to honour Jesus and Mary and see old friends.**

**Saturday October 8th, 12 noon Sung Mass.  
Sprinkling, Procession and Benediction at 2.30pm**

**A packed lunch will be required.**

Names for the bus to Linda Lewis as soon as possible, please.

telephone 01639 892661

email [lindalewishowells@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindalewishowells@hotmail.co.uk)

## *Ordination*

Ben Rabjohns will be ordained deacon at Llandaff Cathedral on Friday 30th September at 7.00pm. It would be good if a number of us could be there to witness the ordination and bid him welcome to the Benefice. Please put your name on the lists at the back of each church if you wish to come on the bus. It is intended that Ben will live at Ynys Y Gored.

**God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant Ben now preparing for his ordination as a deacon the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.**

**Amen**

# *Parish Directory*

## **Rector**

The Reverend Canon Nigel Cahill  
The Rectory,  
Forge Road,  
Port Talbot  
SA13 1US

01639 883630

rector@parishofaberavon.org

## **Team Vicar**

The Reverend Matthew Trick  
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Fairway  
Port Talbot  
SA12 7HG

01639 689660

teamvicar@parishofaberavon.org

## **Assistant Curate**

The Reverend Jane Slennett (Parish Deacon)  
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deacon@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Benefice Wardens**

Mrs Paula Durnell  
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pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Elizabeth Jones

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elizabethjones@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Parish Reader**

Mr Len Jones

01639 898939

ljones@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Parish Treasurer**

Mr Michael Howe

01639 794138

treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Parish Secretary**

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

The Parish Office

01639 886740

office@parishofaberavon.org

## **St Mary's Subwardens**

Mrs Mary McCarthy

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mccarthy@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Lorna Beckett

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lbeckett@parishofaberavon.org

## **St Paul's Subwardens**

Mrs Ann Rees

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arees@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Margaret Williams

01639 776503

## **St Agnes' Subwardens**

Mrs Edna Williams

01639 886649

ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John

01639 887030

## **Holy Trinity Subwardens**

Mr Walter Wheeler

01639 773208

Mrs Gill Davison

01639 870528

gdavison@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Mothers Union**

Mrs Joan Oxley

01639 774366

## ***Sunday Worship***

9.15am Holy Eucharist  
St Agnes' Church  
Forge Road

9.15am Holy Eucharist  
St Paul's Church  
Pendarvis Terrace

11.00am Holy Eucharist  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Place

11.00am Holy Eucharist  
Holy Trinity Church  
Fairway

6.00pm Evening Prayer  
St Paul's Church  
Pendarvis Terrace

## ***Weekday Worship***

### **Monday**

6.30pm Holy Eucharist  
St Agnes' Church  
Forge Road  
*(10am on Bank Holidays)*

### **Tuesday**

10.00am Holy Eucharist  
St Paul's Church  
Pendarvis Terrace

### **Wednesday**

9.30am Holy Eucharist  
Holy Trinity Church  
Fairway

11.00am Holy Eucharist  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Place

### **Thursday**

10.00am Holy Eucharist  
St Agnes' Church  
Forge Road

For times of services on Holy Days please  
consult the parish website  
**[www.parishofaberavon.org](http://www.parishofaberavon.org)**

## ***Baptisms & Weddings***

Please contact the Parish Office

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

**01639 886740**

**[office@parishofaberavon.org](mailto:office@parishofaberavon.org)**

The office is closed on Bank Holidays and  
during Christmas week.

**Post cannot be received at the churches  
or the church halls. Please use the  
registered office address below**

**The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon : a registered charity no 1130785**

**Registered Office**

The Rectory, Forge Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1US

01639 883630

**[rector@parishofaberavon.org](mailto:rector@parishofaberavon.org)**