

Newydd

The Parish Magazine of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon
www.parishofaberavon.org

December 2008

60p



The Rectorial Parish of Aberavon

www.parishofaberavon.org

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office hours only

886740

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

The Parish Office is open on

Mondays

from 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday

from 10am to 1pm

Thursday

from 12pm to 3pm

Weddings and Baptisms

To arrange a wedding or baptism please call the Parish Office on a Monday, or Thursday between 12pm and 3pm

From the Rectory



I am writing this on a wet Friday afternoon, and the news page on my internet site urges me to "click" to see the latest pictures of "I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here."

The popularity of this "reality" TV show is amazing, though as I have confessed to many of you recently, I have never seen it. The clips that I do see on the internet and TV advertising turn me right off.

I don't want to see crawling things all over people's mouths or rats clambering over those who are asleep. It just doesn't entertain me.



You see the fact is that this so called 'reality TV' has aspects of it that are all too real for some people in our world. Those who live in places where poverty means scrabbling in the dust to find food, and who climb onto rubbish tips full of rotting fruit and veg to provide something for a family meal, live with horror every day.

Rats and insects, flies and dirt, squalor and disease are part of their life. It is not entertainment to have to live in this way.

Into the midst of such a world came God in Jesus Christ. In a society that was dirty, where diseases had no cures, where the lame had to beg for scraps and

where justice could be bought but rarely earned was born the Creator of All. And He was born in a stable that would not have been specially cleaned, where hygiene was almost unknown and where the ritual washing of the Jew was as important in stopping the spread of disease as it was a religious symbol of allegiance to this God.

On the valley floor one of the sounds that was heard was the cry of a baby; one of perhaps many screams that of a mother in labour; the other sounds those of the visitors in the town. On the mountainside there sang in the heavens a multitude of angels whose hymn was to give glory to the God who had come to earth as a human being. A God whose cry as a child was for food - his mother's milk: and for love - his mother's love: and for warmth - his mother's cradling and the straw of the manger that was used to feed the animals. And not once in the years that He lived on earth, not once in the times when he was mocked and ridiculed, not once when the nails pierced his hand and feet did He cry "I'm a celebrity, get me out of here."

Advent carols

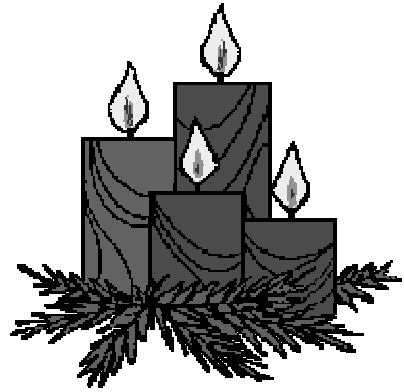
As we prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christ's birth, the season of Advent reminds us that Christ will come again in judgement, and that we must prepare for that time as best we can.

One of the traditions of the parish is to have an Advent carol service and this is taking place on the day you receive your magazine - Sunday 7th December - at St Mary's at 6pm.

Another of our preparations this year has been the taking on board of the Posada idea that comes from Mexico, and sees figures of Mary and Joseph welcomed into our homes as we count down the days to the Nativity.

Whatever we do in ways of preparation, those of us who regularly worship God must take seriously the need to prepare ourselves for Jesus - not just our homes our fridges and our pantries.

In all our "busy-ness" let us make sure we never lose sight of the God who loves, and whose loving moved him to share with us the effects not only of his life on earth, but most importantly his death and resurrection.



**Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to
us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.**



Friends of St Agnes' Church

'American Night'

On Wednesday evening the 12th of November 'The Friends of St. Agnes' Church' held an 'American Night'.

Over fifty people were there to enjoy an excellent evenings' entertainment. We had special guest appearances from 'Elvis Presley' and 'Marilyn Monroe' as well as some lively groups singing songs from the shows.



Dilys Rowlands won first prize for the best 'American' and Mike gave us a very colourful fireworks display to round off the evening. We had delicious 'pea soup' made by our 'Cordon Bleu' chef followed by 'Hot Dogs' and 'Beef-burgers'. Finally, Mrs. Jan Stephens, Treasurer of the 'Friends' handed a cheque for £1,000 to Fr Nigel towards the Church Building Fund. This money came as a result of the wonderful concert presented by Cor Afanedd Mixed Choir on the 10th October.

May I thank all those who took part in the American Night for a job well done and thank everyone who helped behind the scenes.

Sylvan Thomas, Secretary.

Saint Mary's

200 Club

The winner for November is number 198, Mr. Bill Jones

2009 Magazine

If you are able to pay a year in advance for the parish magazine it would be most helpful. It's £7 for the year. (You save 20p!)

Remember if you pay income tax you can Gift Aid this money.

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Dog Show

Many thanks to Margaret & Des Harries for arranging the dog show in aid of the St Agnes' building fund. £137 was raised.

Thank you too for taking your dogs along.

Margaret & Des would also like to extend thanks to those who sponsored the rosettes:

Mr & Mrs Sylvan & June Thomas	Pedigree Classes
Mrs Hilda Williams	Any variety veteran
Mrs Paula Durnell	Junior Handling 6-11 years
Mrs Liz Jones	Junior Handling 12-16 years
Miss Katie Jones	Dog with waggiest tail
Mrs Val James	Dog with the longest coat
Mr Mike Howe	Dog with shortest coat
Fr Nigel Cahill	Best Crossbreed
Mrs Jan Stephens	Best six legs in the show
Miss Sarah Jones	Dog in the best fancy dress
Mrs Rachel Jones	Dog the judge would like to take home
Mr Kevin Jones	Best in Show
Port Talbot & Neath Canine Soc.	Trophy for Best in Show
Mrs Marion Roberts	Best Puppy in Show





Holy Trinity Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to all who supported the bazaar, where over £750 was raised for church funds. There is some more money on the way! Thanks, too, for donations received.

Sudden death

We extend our deepest sympathy to Doug and Paula on the sudden death of Maureen Gange, who had been a church woman all her life.

Maureen worked tirelessly for her church, and was a keen supporter of the whole Benefice, having started her Christian life at St Agnes' Church when she lived in Velindre before her marriage.

Doug and Maureen had been married for fifty four years. She will be greatly missed.



May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Support for Church Army

This year, bringing one card to church at Christmas to give general greetings to all your friends will, if you make a donation in the appropriate box, make a difference to young people living in the Church Army hostel in Cardiff.

We have sent £100 already, so that the staff can plan their present buying. The sorts of gifts given are immensely practical and include socks, gloves, underwear, as well as small treats like chocolates and special biscuits.

It is difficult to imagine not having a proper home: it is not too difficult to help make a difference.

Enough is enough

The most senior churchmen and police officers in Wales have joined forces in a campaign to tackle the culture of binge drinking by spreading the message that "Enough is Enough".

The Archbishop of Wales with the six other Welsh Bishops and the four Chief Constables of Wales have led the campaign which will be supported by a wide range of other organisations and will encompass the whole nation – from out-of-control revellers in city centres on a Saturday night to people regularly cracking open too many bottles of wine at home on weekday evenings.

Posters and leaflets will also be circulated to remind people of the damaging effects and huge cost binge drinking has on themselves, their families and friends and society as a whole.

The campaign supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Substance Misuse Strategy and is also backed by Cardiff University Students' Union and the Licensees Forum.

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, emphasised that the challenge of today's Pledge was not to give up alcohol altogether but to give up binge drinking.

"Alcohol isn't the problem – it is our attitude to it that counts. Drinking can be an enjoyable part of our social life but not when we abuse it - harming ourselves and others.



The challenge is to change our own thinking and the prevailing culture and attitude in Wales which equates a good night out, or even a good night in, with drinking to excess. "This is what needs challenging and this is why we are saying Enough is Enough."

January magazine

To help us over the Christmas holidays we need to have your input for the next issue of *Newydd* as soon as possible, please.

Remember, you only see in print what you send us to print. We need news about parishioners; we need you tell us what you know!

Seasonal word search

Have some relaxation and see how many words you can find

s	g	o	c	o	d	t	j	e	i	s	d	e	e	r	t	r	e	h	s	a	d	i
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advent
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 cake
 carols
 chimney
 christmas
 cold
 comet
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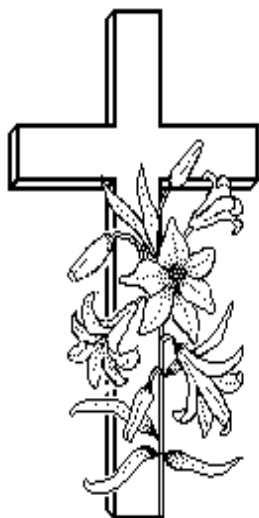
dancer
 dasher
 december
 donner
 eggnog
 elves
 gifts
 holly
 ivy
 jingle bells

joy
 lights
 merry
 mistletoe
 north pole
 peace
 pine
 prancer
 pudding
 red nose

reindeer
 rudolph
 santa
 sing
 sleigh
 snow
 snowflake
 snowman
 star
 stocking

tinsel
 toys
 tree
 turkey
 vixen
 wreath

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Happy Christmas

Fr Nigel and Fr Anthony wish you every blessing during the Christmas season.

Thank you for all your hard work and support in the past year, which is greatly appreciated.

If you know of anyone who cannot come to church at Christmas to make their Communion, and who does not usually receive Holy Communion at home, please let us know, and we can arrange to call.

Nadolig Llawen



The Venerable A. John Lewis

The death has been announced of the Venerable Albert John Lewis, some time Archdeacon of Margam and Archdeacon of Llandaff.

Born in 1921 Albert John Francis Lewis studied economics at the University College of South Wales before training for ordination at St. Michael's College, Llandaff.

Priested in 1949 John Lewis served his curacy at St John's, Canton, in Cardiff, and in 1960 was made Diocesan Director of Religious Education, a post he held until his retirement in 1991.

In 1961 John Lewis was appointed to his only other parochial role: Vicar of Pendoylan, subsequently grouped with Welsh St Donats.

From 1969 to 1981 he was Rural Dean of Llandaff, and in 1976 he was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral. He went on to become Archdeacon of Margam in 1981 and Archdeacon of Llandaff in 1988.

John Lewis retired to Cowbridge in 1991 and took up the responsibility of chaplain to the retired clergy and clergy widows.

He was an amazing 'name dropper' - something which oddly endeared him to people's memory - and an intelligent raconteur.

John Lewis worked tirelessly for the Church in this Diocese, and especially for schools and young people, raising the profile of the church in educational circles in county halls and the former Welsh Office, and the National Society.

A school is named after him in Bridgend as a reminder of his commitment to the educational cause.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

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So about these angels.....

Some wise words from the young.

I only know the names of two angels.
Hark and Harold.
Gregory, aged 5



Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it.
Olive, aged 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to heaven, then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.
Matthew, aged 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to do something else.
Max, aged 7

My guardian angel helps me with maths, but he's not much good for science.
Henry, aged 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from holy cows.
Jack, aged 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The basic message is where you went wrong before you got dead.
Daniel, aged 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath, somewhere there's a tornado.
Reagan, aged 10

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Christmas services 2008

Christmas Eve

Carol Service

3.30pm St Agnes' Church

First Mass of the nativity

6.30pm Holy Trinity Church

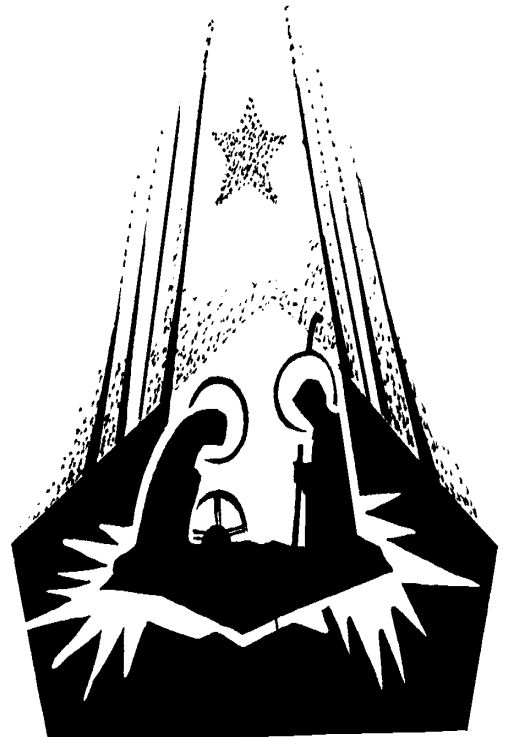
Midnight Mass

11.45pm St Mary's Church

Christmas Day

Mass of the Day

9.15am St Agnes' & St Paul's



Friday 26th December

10.00am St Paul's Church

St Stephen the first martyr

Saturday 27th December

10.00am St Agnes' Church

10.30am The Hospital Chapel

St John the Evangelist

Sunday 28th December

Usual Sunday morning masses, but no Evensong.

The Holy Family

Monday 29th December

10.00am St Agnes' Church

The Holy Innocents

Thursday 1st January

9.40am St Agnes' Church

Mary the Mother of God

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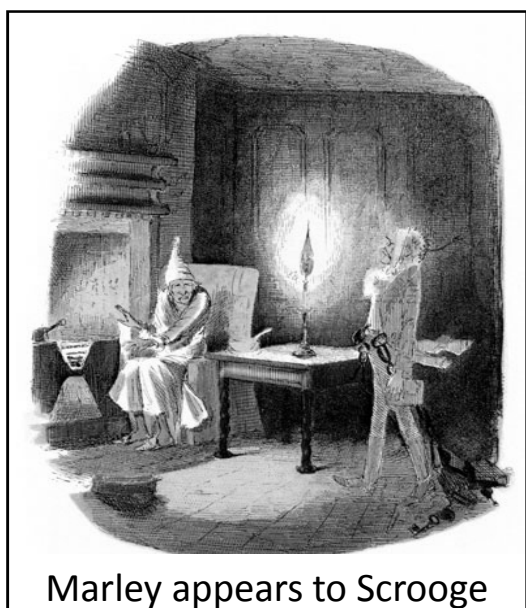
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That Advent wreath won't make itself, said Brian

Do you believe in ghosts?



Marley appears to Scrooge

At this time of year it is impossible not to be moved by the story of Scrooge, and just last month an amateur production of the stage show based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" was brought to the Princess Royal Theatre.

The BBC often delight in having a "ghost story" as part of their Christmas entertainment, and there is something peculiarly nostalgic and somehow romantic in the thought of sitting by an open fire with the lights dimmed and being led into a world of make believe where we are sometimes frightened and yet at the same time cosy and safe in our surroundings.

Those of you who have seen the new BBC production, "Apparition" with Martin Shaw as a Roman Catholic priest, will know that this programme does not fall into the family-friendly, cosy category.

It is gruesome, deals with demons as opposed to ghosts and gives the air of having been well researched. BUT.....

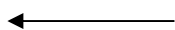
There is something menacing about a man who only ever seems to meet demons, and whose demons, when confronted with Jesus, bleed from the head, froth at the mouth and vanish into ashes as they are exorcised: for in this new drama Martin Shaw has moved from High Court Judge to Chief Exorcist.

This is not the stuff of Dickens and the so called "traditional Christmas ghost stories." This is more gritty, more macabre, and in many ways more fantastic.



A fantasy is something that is 'out of this world.' In dealing with the forces of evil Shaw portrays a priest who knows about evil, and is seemingly faced with it every step of every day. And he confronts it in a way that probably makes for good television, and perhaps good entertainment, but in a manner that suggests this is part of the ordinary every day life of a priest.

—————→



It is not.

Whatever else "Apparition" might be true to life it is not.

That is not to say that we do not believe in the forces of evil. The existence of a God who is the embodiment of everything that is good has to have an opposite, and in our Jewish Christian culture that opposite has been given the name 'devil' or Satan, Beelzebub.

But it would be wrong to think that each day as a priest moves around the parish meeting different people that he comes across a multitude of demons possessing ordinary people out to trap him in his work.

And it would be equally wrong to believe that demons and ghosts are the same thing.

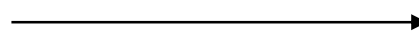
A belief in ghosts is as ancient as the human race itself. There is no concrete evidence other than the testimony of people's experiences that proves one way or another a scientific fact that ghosts exist: but the same could be said for faith in general. It relies on our experience and our trust of others.

There is a sense in which a belief in an after-life would tend to lend itself to a belief in ghosts and apparitions - and here we come to the crux of the problem with this tv

show. An apparition is meant to be the appearance of a supernatural being - a ghost (Oxford English Dictionary) and the powerful suggestions behind this definition is that there is a distinction to be drawn between 'ghosts' and 'demons' - a sort of embodiment of satanic beings or followers of the devil.

Watching this tv show unfold one might be forgiven for confusing ghosts and demons. But one might also be led to think that every "experience" that people have of something apparently supernatural is the work of an evil power. And that would be both wrong and sad.

Both Fr Anthony and I are called to people's homes in the hope that we can explain the inexplicable. There is often a rational explanation for some of the things that people have been experiencing, and we say prayers to reassure people, and give them hope, comfort and strength. We do not exorcise houses. Indeed we are not allowed to do so. That sort of ministry is so very different from dealing with things that seem to move or harmless appearances of people who are dead. The ministry of exorcism is carried out by a priest designated to that office by the Bishop, who must always be consulted before anyone is led to believe that a force of evil is at



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The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

John Thomas Sawyers

Ann Owen

Mildred Eva Nicholas

Peter Hylands

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Please pray for the departed and all who mourn their loss.



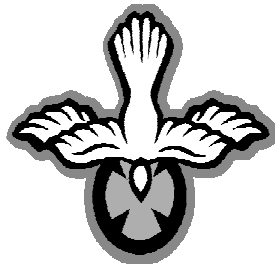
*Rest eternal
grant unto them, O Lord*

*and let light perpetual
shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace.

Holy Baptism

Please pray for those who have recently been baptised, amongst them



Emily Beckett Mills

Rhys Spencer Davies.

Rhys Christopher Weaver

Pray too for their parents and godparents.

Anniversaries of death

Requests for names to be added to the lists of those prayed for each month on the anniversary of their death should be made to Denise at the Parish Office.

We do not automatically add names to the lists: you must request it.

Please give Denise the name by which the person was known when alive (some people have quite a few Christian names, but we all only use one!) together with the date of death. The year is unimportant.

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Epiphany 2009

There will be two celebrations of the Eucharist on the Feast of the Epiphany:

10.00am St Paul's

7.00pm St Agnes' (Sung)

In the afternoon at 2.30pm the Mothers Union will hold their usual monthly meeting, when the speaker is Mrs Tyanne Leonard, Llandaff Diocesan President. It is customary for the members to bring to this meeting gifts for young children in need.



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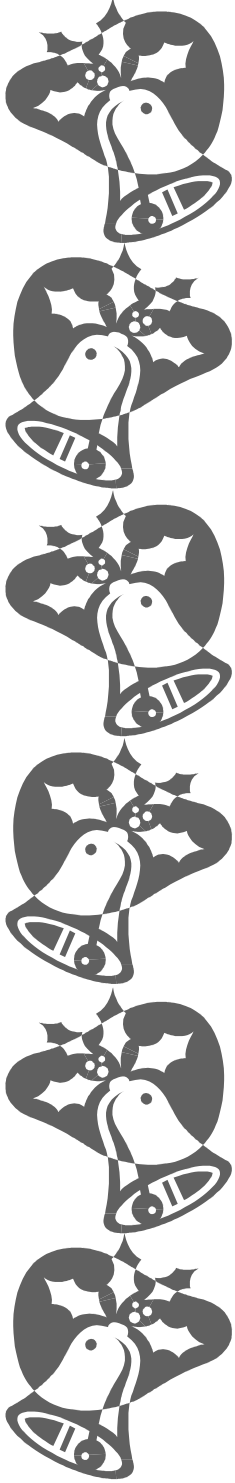
Call Darren:

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Christmas bells

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

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work in someone's life or home.

The danger of a tv show of this nature is that most people are unable to distinguish between reality and fiction: entertainment and truth: demons and ghosts.

In 99.9 percent of houses to which we are invited there is no evil possession. It is a very very very rare occurrence.

The mind is a powerful tool, and yet like a computer it can occasionally be confused and throw up mixed messages about what is truly taking place. Never let the mind trick you into believing that everything you see in a tv drama has been well researched and properly investigated for authenticity.

We should know by now this is often not the case.

After all, Eastenders and Coronation Street between them have had so many murderous villains in their midst one could be forgiven for thinking that every other house is occupied by a predatory killer. And that, as we know, is not so.

Enjoy the "traditional" ghost story if you will. But don't be scared to death!



Scrooge's last ghost

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Marilyn Edwards on the death of her aunt, Margaret Adams, who was a generous supporter of St Agnes' Church.

May she rest in peace.

Waiting for the economy's sake

The church and the Government were at odds over the economy last month. As the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, announced in the House of Commons measures to boost high-street spending and push up the national debt, a plea was made from the other side of the Thames for Advent thrift and patience.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a video from the Church of England's Advent website, screened to journalists at Lambeth Palace at the end of November, said that the economic crisis had been driven by impatience.

"We are not a culture that's very used to waiting. All those bits of our contemporary culture which are about rushing to get gratification, getting the results straight away, all those habits of our culture which so drive the crises of our culture, whether it's the credit crunch or the environmental crisis — all those things we have to cast a rather cold eye on during Advent."

The message of Advent was the opposite of what the Chancellor was saying, said the RC Abbot of Worth, Dom Christopher Jamison, author of *Finding Happiness*, extracts of

which are included in the Advent site. Dom Jamison said: "We see Advent as a very seriously charged moment, in which we . . . refuse to behave as though the way to salvation is to spend more and to get into debt more, because that is what has got us into this trouble in the first place." "The antidote to greed is waiting. It is not never shop, but shop less; not stand still, but go slower; but that is not what the politicians are going to tell us. The Chancellor is going to say 'Spend like before.' But that is what has got us into trouble in the first place.

The economy is going through a readjustment, whether we like it or not. If we behave like we have in the last ten years, then we will just see another crisis. We have to work for an economy with a more solid foundation in order to skip the boom and bust. But the politicians have not done that."

The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, whose Advent book *Do Nothing Christmas is Coming* (CHP) is also featured on the website, said:

"I don't want to be a kill-joy about carols, but if you sing them too early, you lose the sense of occasion. "A feast is better when it is preceded by a fast. When every day is Christmas Day, then no day is Christmas Day."

'Treasurer-ed' Memories

Adrian Lang

It's surprising how some memories stay with us all our lives. It may be a scene, a person, a saying or a special event that stays within us. Sometimes a memory pops up from nowhere whilst some are with us constantly. I would like to share with you just a few of mine that come to mind.



The first is a scene from an old film called "I remember Mama" which is set in America in the early 1900's. The mother of a Norwegian immigrant family is counting the income of the family for the week and she assures her children that "It is good, we do not have to go to the bank" (although in reality there is nothing in the bank to go for) and somehow each and every week one way or another they survive.

Next are sayings that my Grandmother often used. She was a woman with resolute faith who, like "Mama" had seen hard times in her life. "If God don't come he sends" she'd say, as well as "God will provide" and another gem of wisdom "Try, and God will help you" and I must confess to sharing (at least in part) her optimism and trust in the wonders He performs. At this point you may well be thinking "what on earth has this got to do with being a church treasurer". Well, as any treasurer will tell you, quite a lot actually.

In the six years that I have been carrying out my duties, I have, in common with most other treasurers had to pray, cajole, calculate, manipulate and gamble, whilst always staying within the rules, in order to cover expenses and balance the books.

The last couple of years have been particularly challenging, when we at Holy Trinity were faced with making some tough decisions and putting our heads down and going for broke. Our coffers were laid bare by the time we had paid for surveys and feasibility studies to evaluate the likelihood of being able to replace the much loved but woefully ailing building that was our church. Our immediate problem was that the buildings weren't old

enough to attract lottery (Heritage) funding or CADW funding.

So it was time for action. We had a great start in that our land and buildings were sold by the Church in Wales, to a local Housing Association who allowed us to continue using our place of worship and hall until our new church was complete. Our target was set to raise a total of £45,000. Thankfully we were given great support by our immediate family of churches within the Benefice and this enabled us to set up

(a) a fund raising focus group, and
(b) continue other fund raising activities that had been underway for some time. These were primarily aimed at providing monies for the internal fittings and furniture for the new church.

Many hours were devoted by the focus group to finding and exploring possible avenues for funding and grant applications. Form filling became a way of life and fortunately, support came from a local organisation set up for the purpose of helping people such as us.

We had our share of "turned down" replies but that only gave us more determination to plough on. Sadly, local employers didn't prove generous but I guess they had problems of their own. However we did get some really good generous responses and surprisingly from

some sources that were known to be difficult to gain awards from. It must be said also that the Church in Wales was particularly supportive to our cause and our Bishop gave every support and encouragement. It is remarkable to look back and realise that within a period of nine months the build was completed and on July 20th 2008 we held our first service in the new church.

It was a day to remember a special event that will live with us for years to come and surpassed only by the dedication service and celebration conducted by the Bishop on September 28th just two months later.

So there we are; a year or two in the life of a treasurer. A period where teamwork, faith, belief, hope, trust and determination (not forgetting a little bit of luck) won through: where memories sustained, guided and inspired people to see a mission to a successful conclusion.

So they were all right, it was good we did not have to go to the bank. We tried hard and God sent us precious gifts, providing for our needs and wishes.

Let us now respond to His.

Adrian is the treasurer of Holy Trinity Church

Thanks

St Paul's says thank you to everyone who attended their Autumn Fair. Although it was a bad night the turnout was good and everyone enjoyed their coffee/tea and mince pies and helped them raise £747.90

As a congregation St Paul's would also like to thank all who made donations for their Gift Day on 2nd November, when donations totalling £2,924.00 all were placed into the Building Fund.

St Agnes' also wants to thank those who supported their Christmas Market, where £1,200 was raised. Donations are still coming in for the building fund which now stands at just over £8,000

In our prayers

Our best wishes go to Ralph Jones, and Val Chilcott for their speedy recovery after their recent operations.

Marian Elward, Christine Collins, Mary Watt and Anne Bartle are all in hospital at the moment.

We send our good wishes to John Wilson and Hetty, to Phyllis Adams, Vi Davies, Betti White, Gladys Tobin, Haydn John, Eileen Cowley, Doug Lewis, Alan Davies, Bertha Howells, Sheilagh O'Callaghan, Hilda Williams, Megan Scourfield, Doreen Williams and all the residents of our residential and nursing homes.

The Guild of Saint Anne

In our October meeting we had a very interesting talk by Wendy Price on stress management. She explained how stress affects our bodies and advised us of many ways in which we can help ourselves to be less stressed. We were treated to a session of relaxation, which left us all with a lovely feeling of calm. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for us all.

Edna Williams

Congratulations

to Lily Garvey who celebrated her 99th birthday on the 29th October. Although Lily is not able to attend church, she still supports St Paul's in all their fund raising events;

to Mrs. Joyce Davies who celebrated her 75th Birthday in November;

to Mrs Betty Curtis who celebrated her 90th birthday last month;

to Mary Edwards who celebrated the 50th anniversary of her confirmation on the 16th December this year.

Good wishes

As you all know it was a sad day for us when we attended the licencing of Fr Mathew Gibbon, whilst it was wonderful to see him progress in his Christian Ministry, it was for us a great loss.

We in St Paul's wish him all the best for the future, and hope he settles as well in St Mathias' as he did with us in Aberavon.

*Wardens and committee
St Paul's Church.*

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From the Registers

Communicant figures for October

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
5th	45	46	32	41	
12th	44	53	33	36	
19th	36	55	53	40	
26th	32	52	33	39	

Monthly Income for October

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,258.74	£4,594.06	£3,500.47	£13,938.94	

Monthly Payments for October

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£4,637.59	£3,159.25	£2,411.89	£20,010.58	

The Benefice Account for October

Paid in	£8,989	Paid out	£8,788
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Holy Trinity figures include Capital Expenditure of £17,275.38 and Grant Income of £11,000. Without these figures income exceeded expenditure by £163.

You should all have received your weekly offering envelopes from church. If you have not please let your wardens know as soon as possible, or telephone the Rectory.

Your regular planned giving is greatly appreciated, and without it we could not keep going.

Please Gift Aid whenever you can.

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Parish Worship

Parish Eucharist on Sundays at

8.00am St Agnes'

9.15am St Agnes'

9.15am St Paul's

11am St Mary's

11am Holy Trinity

Evensong
6pm

St Paul's

Weekday Eucharistic celebrations

Monday

6.30pm St Agnes'
(10am on Bank holidays)

Tuesday

10.00am St Paul's

Wednesday

9.30am Holy Trinity

11.00am

St Mary's

Thursday

9.40am St Agnes'

Friday

10.00am St Paul's

Saturday

10.30am The Hospital Chapel

Visit the parish website

www.parihofaberavon.org

and keep up to date with what's going on.

Send in your email address to the office or to Fr Nigel and help maintain an easy system of communication.

A priest can be available to hear your confession at any time.
Please telephone for an appointment.