

60p

Newydd

The Parish Magazine of The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon
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St. Paul's Centenary Year

January 2011



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From the Rector

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I am, of necessity, writing this on the 17th December 2010, one whole week before our Christmas celebrations begin, and three days before the BBC starts to broadcast *The Nativity* every night at 7pm on BBC1 on the Monday through to the Thursday before Christmas.

Over the years many of us have complained about the decline in specifically Christian religious broadcasting, and certainly during Holy Week and Easter 2010 it was difficult to find anything that spoke about the Christian relevance of the season. So I welcome the fact that the BBC commissioned *The Nativity* even though I have yet to see it.

There will, of course, have been dramatic licence: but that is to be expected. What this means is that the author will have taken the source material found in St Matthew and St Luke and will also have used his imagination to create a story: so will the artistic director and producer in their turn. This is nothing new, and before we start to complain about the lack of fidelity to the Bible narrative we must remember that for hundreds and hundreds of years Christians have taken a dramatic licence

with the story themselves.

In the Middle Ages in Britain there came about a series of plays known as the *Mystery Plays*. These were not the thirteenth century equivalent of a Miss Marple or *Murder She Wrote*, but a telling of the mystery of Faith from the creation of the world, through the birth and death of Jesus to the Last Judgement.



Often using coarse language in parts, and with a distinct local flavour, these plays gave to ordinary people who had no chance to read the Scriptures themselves, an opportunity to come to know what their Faith was all about, and to learn the great stories of Faith from Adam & Eve to Jesus and Judgement.

Indeed, throughout the twentieth century, and into our own day, churches and schools across the land have produced plays at Christmas that use the story of the birth of Jesus as a basis for what they tell in their own way in word and song.

For those of us able to be present at St Mary's Church on the 15th December 2010 to see Glan Afan's Christmas service, there can be no doubt about the

effectiveness of dramatic licence,
imaginative music, and creative speaking.
This was a most moving event, and it
certainly brought home to people, from
the comments I heard afterwards, the
need to remember the essential thing
about the Christmas Season: that God
came amongst us as one of us in love, to
redeem us and save us from our follies -
from our sins.

In the end, as long the significant and
essential fact that God was born as a
human being by the obedient humility of
the Virgin Mary is being handed on to
each generation, the actual details do not
need to bother us too much. For within
the story of the Nativity what is it that
really matters? Where Jesus was born?
On what day he was born? Who was
there when he was born? What visitors
he had when he was born?

No.

All that matters is that we know he was
born: and that he was God in flesh - God
incarnate.

As the 19th Century hymn writer, Cecil
Frances Alexander wrote in her carol
"Once in Royal Davis's City," published in
Hymns for Little Children in 1848

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And, through all His wondrous childhood,
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

I hope that you are continuing to enjoy
the Twelve Days of Christmas, and that,
after you have taken down all your
decorations on the 5th January, you will
join us in church for the Epiphany on 6th
January to remember the coming of the
Wise Men.

With prayers and good wishes

Nigel Canice

Fr Nigel

New Assistant Curate

I am delighted to announce the appointment of another assistant curate.

Mr Ben Rabjohns, who is 24 years of age, is currently studying at St Michael's College, Llandaff, and will be ordained deacon at Michaelmas, September 2011, and will join with me, Fr Matthew and Jane in the clergy team of the Benefice after his ordination.

It is intended that he will live in the house at Ynys Y Gored.

Ben, a music graduate of Exeter University, is a native of Cardiff, where his father was Vicar of St Saviour's Splott from 1976 until his retirement to the Swansea area in 2008.

Fr Nigel

From the Registers

Communicant figures November

7th	157
14th	133
21st	143
28th	125



The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian Funeral:

Audrey Elizabeth Kingdon
Edna Barber
Sidney Voisey

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

Baptisms

Please pray for

Dafydd Thomas Jones

who was baptised in December 2010.
Remember also, in your prayers, his parents and godparents.



Important

Please remember that the names of those who have died are not automatically added to the list of persons to be prayed for on the anniversary of their death. You must telephone Denise and ask her to do this if it is something that you want done. You only have to do this once, and they will then be prayed for every year. It is your responsibility to give the correct date of death.

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Every Thursday
from 9.30am to 11.30am

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Health care advice

Items for the magazine

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

Magazine deadlines for items to be handed to Denise that need to be typed

For February 2011	21 st January 2011
For March 2011	10 th February
For April 2011	19 th March
For May 2011	9 th April
For June 2011	19 th May
For July 2011	17 th June
For August 2011	22 nd July
For September 2011	3 rd August
For October 2011	16 th September
For November 2011	11 th October
For December 2011	19 th November
For January 2012	7 th December 2011

and for items sent by email directly to me:

For February 2011 magazine	28 th January 2011
For March 2011	17 th February
For April 2011	25 th March
For May 2011	15 th April
For June 2011	25 th May
For July 2011	24 th June
For August 2011	29 th July
For September 2011	10 th August
For October 2011	23 rd September
For November 2011	19 th October
For December 2011	25 th November
For January 2012	16 th December 2011

Please note: if you have email there is **no excuse** for not typing the article yourself and sending it to me directly. **This greatly reduces Denise's workload**, and is far more efficient.

Letter from Australia Mothers' Union to Aberavon Mothers' Union

September 2010

Once again thank you for your great letters it is so great to know we all belong to such a wonderful organization of members worldwide. We had Back to Church Sunday today but not many were able to come due to other things happening like rowing in the river each week as they go in the races for Breast Cancer, most people in the boat have been able to survive, do they have these boat races over there? Others had to go to other towns to baby sit their grandchildren, but nevertheless we had a good service.

Our minister the Reverend Stephen Davis is just back from his 10 week long service leave and holidays. He's 6ft 3in tall and rides a motor bike, his wife Leeola also rode a bike but just before their holidays they sold both their cars and bikes and bought a bike with a side car and a utility to pull their caravan for their holidays. We had a very busy day in Bellingon on the 21st August. We have had a Jazz Festival in Bellingon for the last 20 years, over this weekend 20th, 21st and 22nd where we get thousands coming. Years ago we used to have some of the performers staying but not the last few years.

As I might have told you before we have markets in the Park every 3rd weekend with up to 250 stalls there with all kinds of things. This year was also Federal Elections where it has only just been sorted out. Also we had a stall in the grounds as the elections were held in our hall, we did very well at that, it was hard to get anywhere that day. For many years the Rotary Club held a garden competition the Azalea Festival this week, and after a wet winter and a dry August the Azaleas all around town are absolutely outstanding.

Maurice has had a dreadful cough and cold for the last 3 weeks but is slowly recovering. We've had lots of flooding in several states, some have been in drought for 10 years and are now getting their dams full and also those unhatched locusts are hatching, thousands of them, do you get them over there?

Did you get that on your news about that volcano in Indonesia blowing up for the first time since 1600, now the earthquakes in New Zealand, one of our Church families have a holiday booked in Christchurch next month, they are a bit worried. We only had a few inches of rain last month and today 14th at 3.30pm it is thundering. We are picking some nice peas in the garden and our son Matthew has pruned most of the roses and they are shooting very quickly.

Lots of love to all, Heather, Joan and Doreen.

Llandaff Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility



The Board wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all those generous people who helped to raise on behalf of the Benefice the magnificent sum of £1,252.57 for year ending the 30th September 2010.

What a magnificent achievement despite the financial climate.

May I also extend my thanks and appreciation to you all, especially the individual Church Representatives Christine Howe at St Agnes', Joan Richards at Holy Trinity, and Avril Stevens at St Mary's, as well as those who bank the money each week.

The Board attempts to make a difference to people's lives through "Faith in Action". In 2003, the Benefice decided to support the work of the Board after previously supporting the Children's Society and the Archbishop of Wales' Fund.

This Benefice initiative despite the decrease in church numbers etc is growing year by year and there appears to be an increase in the distribution of red home collection boxes. If you would like to support the life changing work of the Board and put your faith into action, then please contact your Church Representative who I am sure will be glad to supply you with a much treasured red home collection box. I wonder if it is possible to encourage 10 more supporters this year?

Your increasing support for this Benefice initiative is a true source of encouragement and is greatly appreciated.

Please remember in your prayers, the work of the Board especially as it attempts to work with children and young people who are most at risk.

Tony Llewellyn, Benefice Co-ordinator.

I think it only right to congratulate St Paul's Church in particular, who raised over half the amount we sent as a Benefice.

Fr Nigel



Slade's "Merry Christmas" wasn't Fr Peter's idea of a Christmas Carol

Vestry Meeting

A Vestry Meeting will take place on Monday 10th January at 6.30pm at St Agnes' to discuss the number of people to be elected annually to the Parochial Church Council. All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll are able to attend and vote at the meeting.

Welsh Blood

Transfusion Service

The Welsh Blood Transfusion Service will be at the Parish Centre on

Tuesday 25th January
from 10am to 6pm

Wednesday 26th January
from 10am to 4pm

Wednesday 2nd February
from 10am to 6pm

PCC Meeting

The next PCC meeting will be held on Thursday 27th January at 7pm at St Agnes'. **Please note the start time.**

Confirmation Classes

Adult Confirmation classes will start on Monday 17th January after Mass at St Agnes' and Children's Confirmation classes will start on Thursday 3rd March at 4pm at Holy Trinity Church. Please take a form from the back of Church and bring it back at the first meeting if you wish to be confirmed.

St Agnes' Day

On Friday 21st January at 7pm there will be a Sung Mass at St Agnes' which will be followed by "What's My Line?"

The preacher at the service will be the Diocesan Missioner, Canon Val Hamer.

Benefice Mass

On Sunday 23rd January there will be a Benefice Mass at St Paul's Church at 10.30am.

200 Club St Mary's

The winner for December is number 110, Paul Stevens.

St Paul's Patronal Festival

On Tuesday 25th January there will be no morning service at St Paul's, but there will be a Sung Mass at 7pm that evening to celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul.

The preacher will be The Venerable Christopher Smith, Archdeacon of Morgannwg. The Archdeacon of Margam is away at the time representing the Church in Wales at a meeting in Uppsala, Sweden.

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Daily Scripture Readings

4th January	1 John 3: 7-10	John 1: 35-42
5th January	1 John 3: 11-21	John 1: 43-51
6th January	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Matthew 2: 1-12
7th January	1 John 3: 22 – 4: 6	Matthew 4: 12-17. 23-25
8th January	1 John 4: 7-10	Mark 6: 34-44
10th January	Hebrews 1: 1-6	Mark 1: 14-20
11th January	Hebrews 2: 5-12	Mark 1: 21-28
12th January	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Mark 1: 29-39
13th January	Hebrews 3: 7-14	Mark 1 : 40-45
14th January	Hebrews 4: 1-5 & v 11	Mark 2: 1-12
15th January	Hebrews 4: 12-16	Mark 2: 13-17
17th January	Hebrews 5: 1-10	Mark 2: 18-22
18th January	Hebrews 6: 10-20	Mark 2: 23-28
19th January	Hebrews 7:1-3 & 15-17	Mark 3:1-6
20th January	Hebrews 7: 25 to 8: 6	Mark 3: 7-12
21st January	Hebrews 8: 6-13	Mark 3: 13-19
22nd January	Hebrews 9: 2-3 & 11-14	Mark 3: 20-21
24th January	Hebrews 9: 15. & 24-28	Mark 3: 22-30
25th January	Hebrews 10: 1-10	Mark 3: 31-35
26th January	Hebrews 10: 11-18	Mark 4: 1-20
27th January	Hebrews 10: 19-25	Mark 4: 21-25
28th January	Hebrews 10: 32-39	Mark 4: 26-34
29th January	Hebrews 11: 1-2 & 8-19	Mark 4: 35-41
1st February	Hebrews 11: 32-40	Mark 5: 1-20
2nd February	Hebrews 12: 1-4	Mark 5: 21-43
3rd February	Hebrews 12: 4-7 & 11-15	Mark 6: 1-6
4th February	Hebrews 12: 18-24	Mark 6: 7-13
5th February	Hebrews 13: 1-8	Mark 6: 14-29

**Fibromyalgia Support Group
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Seven Sacred Spaces

In January 2010 the Rector's letter spoke about the need to look at new ways of reaching people and involving God in their lives.

Later in the year there was an article on *Seven Sacred Spaces*, which the Diocesan Missioner, Canon Val Hamer, has suggested to the Diocese as a way to help the church engage with people within the community.

Here is an outline of the idea.

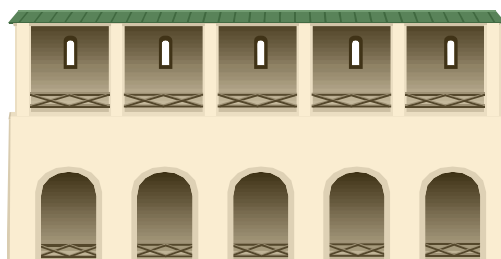
The idea behind Seven Sacred Places comes from a man called George Lings who is an Anglican priest and works for the Church Army. He has thought a lot about how religious communities of monks and nuns try to live a life that helps the Kingdom of God grow in their midst, and we are basing our parish project on his ideas and work.

The Seven Sacred Spaces are:

1. Cell

For a monk or nun this is the only private space they have. It is where they sleep and read.

Those of who live in the world need to have some private space ourselves, so that we can offer personal and private prayer to God in our homes, and read our Bibles, or sit in silence in God's presence. We want to encourage people to pray at home by providing



prayer cards, or short orders of service, or Bible readings with notes that help people make prayer a part of everyday life.

2. Public Worship

Monks and nuns go their chapel for services three or four times a day. We need to encourage public worship, as well as private worship. There is great need today to help people see worship as essential to the Christian life, not just something added on when we have time free from other things. It must be our worship that focuses our minds on God and leads us to live lives of service in the world.

But public worship needs to include those who might not be familiar with church services, and we need to work out how we can bring in others from the community in which we live, even if just occasionally at first, to celebrate good things, pray for the needs of the world and the locality.

3. Cloister

In convents and monasteries the cloister is the place where people walk and meet others from the community; though not always a place where they meet people from outside their religious community.

We want our cloister to be a place where the local Church meets people who have little or no connections with us, by getting involved in community issues, looking carefully at how we organise and understand baptisms, weddings and funerals, and trying to discover if there

are things we can offer that make a difference in people's lives. An example of this in our Benefice is the creation of the Parent and Toddler group at St Mary's.

4. Garden

Many members of the religious community would be expected to take a share in the work of growing food, as well as cooking, cleaning, serving, washing up etc.



We would like to see church people involved in working in partnership with others in ways that helps us to grow together and breaks down barriers between people.

In some places people might want to look at how they can welcome people to their churchyards and make them places where the living can find rest and peace as well as the departed. In other places it could be looking at how we respond to the problems of global warming and conservation of energy. There are many, many possibilities here, and the scope is great for ideas and plans.

5. Refectory

I am sure we all realise how important food and hospitality are in our culture: and we have only to look around our town to see how many places there are to eat! When monks and nuns gather for food it is not only a time of eating, there is the refreshment of company, and often of listening to readings that help them think about their lives with God.



We tend to chat more over meals, and this can be such a good thing, for meals can help break down barriers.

People who are not regular church goers might be encouraged to come to things that are hospitable, where there is food, and where the purpose is not take part in a church service.

But times like this can help us to show people something of the love of God.

6. Scriptorium

This is the place where members of religious communities study.



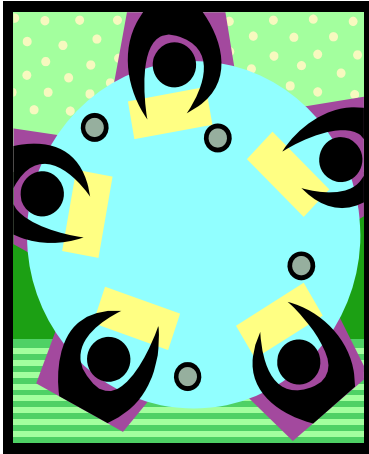
Knowing the Faith is so important if we are to help others become Christians. So reading the Bible together and learning what it has to say to us today is vital to our growth as Christians, and in helping us grow the Kingdom of God on earth. We need to find ways to help ourselves learn: not to be afraid of things like Bible Study. But, we also need to be able to learn about things that are happening in our communities: to think about and pray about new plans for schools or town centre developments; to voice and opinion about the way it might change people's lives, and to show that as Christians we care.

7. Chapter

For monks and nuns this is where the decisions are made.

Even today, in our church, when local clergy meet together it is called a meeting of the Chapter, and when the canons of a Cathedral meet together they meet "in Chapter" - often in a room called The

Chapter House.



Every group of people needs a way to make decisions and help things happen. For us, the obvious link with the world of the religious is the Parochial Church Council. It is the PCC that is responsible for the mission and evangelisation of the whole community, as well as paying the bills and repairing the roof! But we might need to find ways to help decision making in a quicker way than just a three monthly meeting by allowing people to carry on with certain tasks making decisions as they go along, and trusting their judgement as part of the body of people who belong to Jesus.

As clergy, we feel that Seven Sacred Spaces is a very exciting idea.

We hope you will want to help us, and be a part of it.

All we can promise is the need for commitment, hard work, lots of prayer, and real determination not to give in when the going gets tough. But we do think that, if we go along with this process, new life will be found not just in the church but in the community, and that the Kingdom of God will grow in our midst.

This is not a short sharp shock treatment that will suddenly bring loads of people to church. This is a long term plan for sowing seeds and helping to nurture plants. "From tiny acorns grow mighty oaks" - but they don't grow overnight!

On page 24 there's some more news about the idea of *Seven Sacred Spaces*

Nigel Canine *Matthew Treich* *Jane Slennett*

Fr Nigel

Fr Matthew

Jane



Dates for the diary

Tuesday 4th January

2.30pm Mothers Union
St Mary's Parish Centre
and
7pm St Agnes'
Walsingham Cell

Thursday 6th January

**10am St Agnes'
Epiphany Mass**

Tuesday 1st February

2.30pm Mothers Union
St Mary's Parish Centre
and
7pm St Agnes'
Walsingham Cell

**Thursday 17th February
Clergy in service training.
No Mass at St Agnes'**

Thursday 3rd March

7.30pm at St Paul's
Cor Afanedd sing as part of the Centenary Programme.

**Wednesday 9th March is Ash Wednesday
and Lent begins.**

So now for Lent

Yes, Christmas is still here and Epiphany hasn't arrived, but planning is essential!

In Lent 2011 we will once again use boxes provided by USPG for our Lent savings. You have responded magnificently to the needs of the world church in the last three years, and I am sure you will do so again.

During Lent this year the clergy team will be preaching on The Catechism of the Church in Wales, and you will all be given a copy of The Catechism so that you can read it for yourselves.

A catechism is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "*instruction by question and answer,*" and cites as an example of this the Catechism of the Anglican Church.

The Catechism helps us understand the teaching of our Faith: the Church's doctrine and belief.

The word *catechism* comes from the Greek *catecheo* which means "*to make hear*" or in other words *to instruct*. Originally the word was used to describe the teaching that was given to adults and children who were being prepared for Baptism, and such people are still today called Catechumens. In the early Church teaching was all by way of mouth. When books started to be published the word Catechism was used to describe the teaching of the Church that was now written down for people to read.

Fr Matthew's New Year

You might expect me to start the year writing about New Year's resolutions, but life experience has taught me that I rarely keep these so I don't feel qualified to implore you to set and keep your own.

However picking up on the sermon series that the clergy delivered throughout Advent, I do want to encourage you to take into 2011 some disciplines that will help you deepen and grown in faith over the coming year. I want to concentrate on three disciplines in particular: prayer, bible reading and participating in community. But first a word on the word 'discipline' itself; our experience of encountering this word may bring up bad memories of run ins with teachers in school, parents in the home or employers in the workplace, but at its heart discipline is about training and equipping to live life in a certain way. In fact without much effort we can trace the word 'discipline' back to 'disciple', a word perhaps we see in a more positive light and indeed our fundamental calling to be a disciple (follower) of Jesus.

So, as I write about prayer, bible reading and participating in community, I don't want us to associate these disciplines with the somewhat negative connotations of the word but to see them as a means to deepening our faith.

Prayer is fundamentally about our relationship with God, and is one of the

principal ways in which we communicate with Him and He with us. Yet for many prayer is seen as something of a mountain which must be climbed and endured. The Roman Catholic Church describes the purpose of daily prayer as "to sanctify the day and all human activity". Jesus in the Gospels commonly withdrew to a quiet place to pray to his heavenly Father and St Paul writing to the Thessalonians urges Christians to pray:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

Now to those who think that to pray without ceasing is a lovely idea but in the midst of a busy life utterly impractical, let me delve a bit deeper into what St Paul means. Prayer is not simply confined to sitting in church before Mass. It is about leaving a line open to God whilst we get on with our daily activities. It is about encountering the sick and commending them to God. It is about encountering difficulties and asking for strength and it's also about recognising things that have gone well and thus being thankful. Prayer is about living life with God.

The second discipline is that of Bible reading, and doing it consistently and regularly. This year marks the 400th



anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible and across the country churches and individuals are committing themselves afresh to making Bible reading a regular part of their daily lives.

Can I also commend it to you as a way of deepening our knowledge of the faith which is ours? I wonder how many of you enjoy reading autobiographies about the sportspeople,

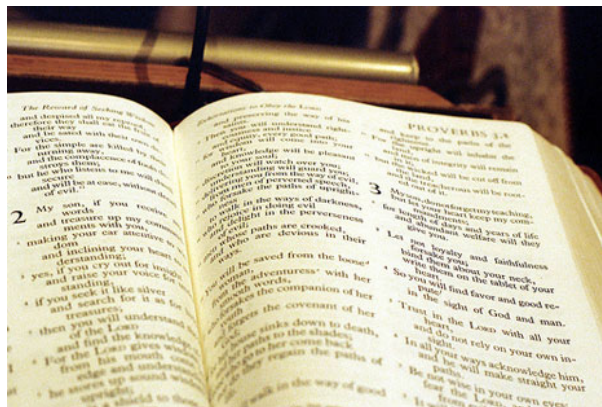
celebrities, dare I say it - politicians - whom you've followed for years. The reality is that you may have seen them on the TV, read about them in the papers, even seen them

in action, but these are glimpses of who they are. If you want to really know that person you have to delve deeper and really find out what they're like, what their values are etc. The Bible offers us that deeper insight into the character of God and helps us to learn about the Christian faith in detail. But there's a much more important reason for reading the scriptures, which is, through reading and living them out we grow and develop more godly characters ourselves. The author behind 'The Message' version of the Bible writes:

Christians feed on Scripture. Holy Scripture nurtures the holy community as food nurtures the human body. Christians don't simply learn or study or use Scripture; we assimilate it, take it into our lives in such a way that it gets metabolized into acts of love, cups of cold water, missions into all the world, healing

and evangelism and justice in Jesus' name, hands raised in adoration of the Father, feet washed in company with the Son. (Eugene Peterson, Eat This Book)

In the magazine every month you'll find a list of daily readings from Scripture, so why not get into the discipline of reading through the Bible in 2011?



The final discipline I want to commend to you is the practice of living in community. In many ways this is something you teach me.

A while ago I walked next door to say Mass at Holy Trinity and I was told by some of the members that they had offered tea and biscuits to some plumbers doing work on Fairway. This is an example of a natural way in which we can live out our faith in the community.

Towards the end of 2010 some members of St Agnes' attended a meeting about the Fair Trade movement and now at our weekly Saturday morning church café at St Agnes' we serve exclusively Fair Trade drinks and snacks.

The Church is a place where we welcome everyone from any background and draw them into our community. One of the aspects of our faith which baffles most Christians is that God exists in community. We call it 'Trinity' and the way in which this Divine community



relates to each other becomes a model for us too. Easter isn't too far away from us, where we remember how this perfect community of God; Father, Son and Spirit opened up to draw us in so that with Father, Son and Spirit, we may live in an open and inclusive community with God. It's this inclusive approach to building community that we need to adopt in our Benefice.

After ten years we are not a collection of individual churches but a Benefice community which opens itself up and welcomes and serves the wider world.

My firm belief is that this year is one full of opportunity, and to realise all the blessings and plans that God has for us we must keep our hearts and minds set firmly on him.

Peace be with you.

Fr Matthew



HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Fr Nigel, Fr Matthew and Jane.

We extend to you all our sincere thanks for your messages of good will over the Christmas season, and for your gifts.

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Magazine on line

Please remember that for those of you with access to the internet, the magazine can be read on line every month on our web site www.parishofaberavon.org

This is especially useful for those who have difficulty with the size of the type in the printed version, as the on line magazine can be enlarged by as much as 200%

News

Betty Lane is now resident in Maes Y Bryn and Alan Lane is now resident in Plas Cwm Carw.

We send good wishes to Barbara Roberts and June Thomas who have been suffering from shingles.

Our sympathy is extended to Don Wood on the death of his brother Alec.

Joyce Davies has been unwell and was admitted to hospital just before Christmas: we send her our good wishes.

Irene Scoulding is in Cimla, as is Ann John, and we continue to pray for them. Joyce Curtis is now home, and by the time you read this Betty Samuel should also be at home again.

We wish all of you who are unable to get out and about a Happy New Year.

Resignation

Mrs Muriel Jarvis has stepped down from the PCC.

In a letter to the Rector she said that she agreed the PCC was too large in number, and felt this was an opportune time to tender her resignation.

Muriel has given years of service to the Church in this area, and the Rector wrote to thank her for all that she has done for more years than she probably cares to remember.

Have you ever wondered

why some things you think should be in the magazine never seem to be there?

If you have then here's the answer to the problem:

contact Denise at the Office and ask for her to note what you want included or, type it and email it to the Rector, or write it out by hand and send it to the Office for Denise to type.

There are probably lots of things we never put in, because no one tells us until it's too late!

Happy 70th Birthday

To Jeff John, for 16th December last.

Seven Sacred Spaces : Seven things we need.

Find seven Team Leaders

In order for the idea behind Seven Sacred Spaces to work properly we need to identify seven people who would be willing to lead groups of people working in each area: cell, refectory, study, garden, chapter, cloister, public worship.

These people would not be expected to do all the work, but to help co-ordinate people who might have ideas about what we might do in an active and positive way to meet community needs in the Benefice.

Stop thinking we have to do everything

Being the Church doesn't mean that we must do everything ourselves. We might find something that needs doing in the community and be responsible for getting people to do it who have nothing to do with the church, but are interested in our ideas, and want to help.

Stop thinking about ourselves

We all know that there is a lot we need to do inside the structures of the Church; with our buildings, with our worship and so on. But we have to look beyond what we need to become real servants of God by serving other people.

Learn more about what's going on around us

We have to know what people really need in the areas in which we live and not just think we know what they need. In other words it's no good trying to give people what they don't want because they will refuse it! Even worse there may a need

staring us in the face that we have missed.

So, we have to:

Learn to listen more and say less

We must ask questions and listen to the answers, and take on board what people outside the church think and say.

and we have to:

Look and see what's happening

Sometimes needs are staring us in the face. One perfect example of this is the Parent and Toddler Group at St Mary's which is now in its second year. We have to be aware of 'gaps' in provision within the community and make them know to the church.

Believe in ourselves and in the power of God

We are so good at being negative. We need to look at ourselves as God sees us and realise what we can achieve in his name and by his power. We need to know that we all have something to offer, because we can all pray: and prayer is essential to the success of any venture. We don't even need to leave our homes to pray for the building up of God's Kingdom, so everyone, of any age and ability can take part in this process. The things we do need not be of earth shattering relevance to everyone, as long as they help the people who need us at any one time.

PCC Meeting

Present:

Fr Nigel Cahill, Revd. Jane Slennett, Elizabeth Jones, Simon Burton, Edna Williams, Paula Durnell, Jeff John, Michael Howe, Mike Isaac, Muriel Jarvis, Susan Jones, Joan Oxley, Mary McCarthy, Linda Lewis, Len Jones, Denise Tamlyn, Margaret Williams, Val Rees, Hilda Mears, Richard Jones.

Apologies:

Fr Matthew Trick, Allison Murray, Gill Davison, Jean Moloney, Christine Morris, Ann Rees, Elizabeth Thomas.

Port Talbot Passion Play

The Rector has been in touch with the producer, and the issues of concern were addressed.

Mr Richard Jones, Diocesan Resources Officer gave members a booklet and leaflet entitled Giving for Life, and urged the Parochial Church Council to use this as a guide to encourage members and congregations to rethink their way of giving.

Report from Mike Howe on Treasurer's training evening

Mike informed members that our practices are working well within the Charity Guidelines. He will speak to Lloyds TSB about us continuing to have free banking. He explained that we did not have a great response to the request for parishioners to increase their giving after the last Parochial Church Council meeting.

Budget for 2011

A copy of the up to date accounts were given to members. The budget for next year will be £154,427 which is an increase of £2.48 per person per week on top of what we pay now.

Bequest of the late John Thomas

Further delays to winding up the estate have been caused by a need to repair some of the properties before sale.

Loan

Hilda Mears proposed and Len Jones seconded the motion that:
The PCC agrees to borrow £30,000 from the Church in Wales to help with essential repair works in the Benefice. All members agreed.

Other matters

It was suggested we try and have a Nativity Scene in the town centre next year and the Manager Mr Steve Redmore be approached about it. Everyone felt this was a good idea and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Hilda Mears agreed to approach Steve Redmore to discuss it in principle.

On April 29th 2011 Holy Trinity wish to put on a Wedding Party for people to come together to watch the Royal Wedding at the church. It was noted that we would have to have a large screen TV for this and all members agreed that we apply for a TV License for Holy Trinity Church.

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Parish Directory

Rector

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

01639 883630
rector@parishofaberavon.org

Assistant Clergy

The Reverend Jane Slennett
42 Carlton Place,
Porthcawl,
CF36 3ET

01656 784840
deacon@parishofaberavon.org

The Reverend Matthew Trick
Holy Trinity House
Fairway
Port Talbot
SA12 7HG

01639 689660
curate@parishofaberavon.org

The Benefice Wardens

Mr Simon Burton
01639 680702
sburton@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Elizabeth Jones
01639 794559
elizabethjones@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Readers

Mr Len Jones
01639 898939
ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Simon Burton
01639 680702
sburton@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Treasurer

Mr Michael Howe
01639 794138
treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

Mrs Denise Tamlyn
The Parish Office
office@parishofaberavon.org
01639 886740

St Mary's Subwardens

Mrs Mary McCarthy
01639 891818
mccarthy@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Jean Moloney
01639 881516
jmoloney@parishofabeavon.org

St Paul's Subwardens

Mrs Ann Rees
arees@parishofaberavon.org
01639 898537

Mrs Margaret Williams
01639 776503

St Agnes' Subwardens

Mrs Edna Williams
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org
01639 886649

Mrs Paula Durnell
pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org
01639 770829

Holy Trinity Subwardens

Mr Mike Isaac
misaac@parishofaberavon.org
01639 793501

Mrs Gill Davison
gdavison@parishofaberavon.org
01639 870528

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

Baptisms & Weddings

Please contact the Parish Office

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

01639 886740

office@parishofaberavon.org

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

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

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

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