

*Newydd - June 2009* 1

# *Newydd*

*The Parish Magazine  
of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon*  
[www.parishofaberavon.org](http://www.parishofaberavon.org)

*June 2009*

**60p**



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**The Parish Secretary**

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***The Parish Office is only open on***

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Monday   | 12pm to 3pm |
| Tuesday  | 10am to 1pm |
| Thursday | 12pm to 3pm |

To arrange a wedding or a baptism please call at the office  
 on Mondays or Thursdays.

Contact details for the sub wardens of each church  
 will be found on the inside back cover.

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

Post cannot be received at the  
 Parish Office, please use the  
 Rectory address for any mail that  
 you wish to send to the Benefice.

## From the Rectory



This is a very busy time for us, as we engage in our first Parish Festival month, and by the time you read this the flower festival, which launches the month of activity, will be almost over. The generosity of people providing funding for our activities is very much appreciated. Afan Landscapes, Côr Afanedd Choir, Pheonix Club, and many individuals, have helped tremendously by their financial support. We have the following events to look forward to:

**Saturday 13th June** Benefice Fete at St Paul's church grounds

**Wednesday evenings at 7pm** Music Recitals at St Mary's  
10th June Swansea Ladies Exelsior Choir (Choral Recital)

17th June Adam Chial (Piano Recital)

24th June Catrin Harris - Mezzo Soprano (Vocal Recital)

1st July Jayne Morris and Howell Price - Pianists  
(Piano Duet)

**13th to 18th June** Art exhibition by pupils of Glan Afan School  
at St Mary's

**Saturday 20th June** St Agnes' Dedication Festival & Lunch 12pm

The Côr Afanedd Annual Summer Concert is at St Mary's tonight at 7pm, and although not really a part of *our* festival we are pleased to be able to advertise it in thanks for their generous donation.

**Tuesday 30th June** Fashion Show at St Agnes' 7pm

**Friday 3rd July** American Evening at St Mary's 7pm

**Sunday 5th July** Parish Bring & Share Tea in the St Mary's  
Centre 3.30pm followed by our own Songs of  
Praise in St Mary's Church at 5.30pm

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We have sent out 1000 small posters, 100 large posters and 4 extra large poster, and have given out to people 500 postcards inviting them to join us at our events. Invitations to the flower festival that launches the month have been posted to 50 people, including all the local councillors. We have put the details of the events on the parish, diocesan and county council web sites, and we have contacted the local newspapers. A stand has been booked at the Aberafan Shopping Centre from 1st June to 5th July.

We have certainly told people what is going on: whether they come is up to them.

What is the purpose behind all of this?

It is to show to those who have no contact with the church that we are very much alive and active. It is also an opportunity to reach out to those who have perhaps stopped going to church, with an invitation to come to something that isn't worship, and may be a first step to a re-introduction to the community of faith. The invitation to the local councillors and others is way of introducing them to things that are happening in their community of which they might not otherwise be aware.

Put in a simple way it raises the profile of the church: and that is never a bad thing.

Without realising it, all these events are in themselves missionary work. It is having contact with people, as individuals and groups, that we might otherwise not see or have an opportunity to speak with.

Remember the old saying that it is from little acorns that mighty oaks grow.

Sowing seeds is always a risky business, but it is a worthwhile thing to do. One can never know what the crop will produce. Last year when we held our open churches day there was a mixed response in each church: but one or two people came back to church as a direct result of us advertising that we were there and we were open - and they have stayed with us. This is a very good thing.

Later this year we will have another opportunity to keep open our churches, and to invite people to come and join us on *Back to Church Sunday*, which is being observed on the last Sunday in September, and is a national campaign of the Church of England and the Church in Wales. But more of that next month.

For now we look to how we can help

the parish by responding to the activities that are planned and encouraging others to join us in a spirit of fellowship and fun.

Amongst all of this, work is well under way to welcome Jonathan Elcock into our midst, and on Sunday 28th June there will be one mass in the Benefice at 10.30am at St Agnes' Church.

It is the only service that morning, there will be no eight o'clock at St Agnes, we want everyone to come along and meet our new assistant curate. As usual after the service there will be light refreshments before people go off for their lunch.

Finally, may I record my thanks to everyone who has undertaken work at Holy Trinity House to make sure Jonathan will move in to a nice clean property, and to all those who have sent messages of congratulation, came to the Cathedral, and have remembered me in your prayers on the occasion of my installation as a Canon of Llandaff Cathedral. The outpouring of good will and affection has been very moving and humbling.

With every good wish

*Nigel Canice*

Fr Nigel.

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## ***Songs of Praise***

You are invited to make suggestions of hymns to be sung at the Songs of Praise service on Sunday 5th July.

There is a list at the back of each church for you to place your suggestions, and if there are so many different hymns that it would not be possible to sing them all we will place the ideas in a large box and pick out the number we need by ballot. If you want something someone else has suggested put a tick next to it.

## ***In memoriam***

June Thomas was able to give to St Agnes' a cheque for £540 - the money received for the building fund in lieu of flowers for Hilda's funeral, from her family and friends.

The daughters of the late Doug Lewis recently presented St Agnes' building fund with a cheque for £1000 in memory of their father, and sent a card with these words:

"Please can you, on our behalf, thank all of St Agnes' congregation and in particular the 'Thursday gang' who took such great care of Doug and made his final years a time of friendship and spiritual fulfilment. The enclosed cheque is for your building fund. Long live St Agnes' - Sue and Diane."

***St Agnes' has also received an anonymous donation of £500*** for the building fund, which we acknowledge with gratitude.

## ***Holy Baptism***

The following have recently been baptised

Jessica Elizabeth Dale

David James Dale

Joseph Antonio Devries

Please pray for them, their parents and godparents, that they may be faithful to the promises that have been made.

## ***Award***

We are delighted to report that Joan Oxley is to receive an award from the Welsh Assembly Government for her work with those with Alzheimer's and especially her relationship with Tonna hospital, and we warmly congratulate her on this recognition of many years service, encouragement and determination.

## *A letter from Sheila O'Callaghan*

I have been home from hospital for several weeks and back in Church. There was a time when I didn't think I would see St Agnes' Church again, but the support I received from all my friends in Church made me fight to get back.



I would like to thank everyone who came to see me in hospital, for the cards, gifts and good wishes. To Fr Nigel and Fr Anthony for bringing me Communion in Cimla and Caewern and to the Hospital Chaplain at the Princess of Wales, also to Jane our Deacon. They were all a big help to me.

A big thank you to Fr Nigel for ringing me on my mobile on Christmas morning. He held up his phone and all at St Agnes called out Happy Christmas. It was lovely, although it did make me cry. I will never forget this.

God Bless you all.

Sheila O'Callaghan



*'Dim chi ddewisodd fi; fi ddewisodd chi.'*

*Joan 15:16*

Please pray for

**JONATHAN ELCOCK**

To be ordained Deacon in the Church of God

by Barry, by divine permission,

Lord Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Llandaff

in his cathedral church of

SS Peter & Paul, Dyfrig, Teilo & Euddogwy

on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009

and for the Clergy and People of

The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon where he is

to serve as Assistant Curate.

*Holy Trinity Vicarage, Fairway, Port Talbot. SA12 7HG*

## ***Pray, my brothers and sisters***

As you pray for Jonathan in these final weeks before his deaconing, pray too for David Morris and Sarah Ann Rogers, who have sent cards asking for our prayers, and for Marjie Flipse, who has asked for our prayers as she prepares for her ordination to the priesthood.

## Architect's reports

We have received interim reports from the architect regarding his inspections of St Mary's, St Agnes' and St Paul's. These indicate that we will be looking to fund essential work on these three churches that could easily total £300,000 at today's costs - and these are his estimates rather than prices from competitive tenders.

When he has completed the reports he will send copies to the Archdeacon of Margam, who will be asking searching questions about whether or not spending such amounts of money can (a) be justified in terms of the mission plans of the Benefice and (b) be raised by a small group of people in each church - although in reality it is the responsibility of the PCC to find this money not the individual congregations.

We will have to complete a mission audit, which will look at a range of issues we need to consider in relation to the need for four buildings in an area of our size. We will then have to take forward our plans to the Diocese and have their agreement to proceed with what is a very costly list of repairs.

The architect has been asked to carry out inspections on the halls at St Mary's and St Paul's.

## New phone number

Please note that when Jonathan Elcock moves into Holy Trinity House the phone number will be:

**01639 893972**

This number has changed and is not the same as the one used by previous occupants of the house.

His email address is

[curate@parishofaberavon.org](mailto:curate@parishofaberavon.org)

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## *Another blue flag year for Aberavon beach*

Aberavon Beach has once again been acclaimed as being one of the best beaches in the world. For the second year running the beach has received the coveted European Blue flag award, acknowledging its excellent water quality and facilities for Neath Port Talbot residents and tourists to enjoy.

The beach is one of 38 across Wales to have been awarded this highly sought after international recognition.



The authority has invested almost £4m over the past decade to improve facilities at the beach as part of its commitment to regenerate the beachfront and promenade.

Neil Thomas, Co-ordinator for Sport and Active Living for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council said: "This is a tremendous accolade for Aberavon Beach which will in turn further boost tourism in our county borough. In these difficult economic times, people can come to Aberavon Beach knowing that it's up there with the best in the world.

This compliments our other world class tourism attractions such as Margam Country Park, Afan Forest and the industrial heritage of the Neath Valley area. Awards like this don't just happen. It is the result of a lot of hard work and investment and I am delighted to see the council's plans for the future of the seafront coming to fruition."

Up until the mid 1960's Aberavon Beach was once a vibrant destination for miners and their families. But, changing economic and social conditions led to its decline. However, in 1998 the authority adopted a strategy to improve the physical environment of the area, increase tourism and leisure facilities and ultimately, achieve Blue Flag status for the first time in 2008.

The authority has attracted a variety of funding from the Welsh Assembly Government and European Funding to enhance the physical environment of the beach and provide new facilities. More than £1.5m was spent on improving parking facilities near the beach, landscaping the surrounding area, installing new promenade railings and improving the signs, lightings and street furniture.



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# *The Faithful Departed*

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Royston Millon

Freda Williams

Valerie Bevan



We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.  
Please pray for the departed and all who mourn their loss.

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← from page 9



Almost £2m was invested in improving leisure facilities, including the development of a sandcastle play area and skateboard park for the children and £950,000 funded the new amphitheatre, piazza and toilets.

In addition, the beachfront was brought to life by the introduction of modern sculptures.

It is estimated that well over £30m of private sector investment has taken place on the seafront since the inception of the seafront strategy.

This investment has helped rejuvenate the area and boost the local economy for residents and visitors alike. The result is a new improved image for Aberavon that local residents are proud of and is attractive to visitors and investors.

## ***St Mary's Church Committee***

Mary McCarthy reported that we had £1821.64 available to spend in the current account at 19th May 2009. Our monthly payments from the account are in the region of £3,000, so we are still finding it difficult to keep going each month, despite the fantastic work carried out by the 'funraisers' whose latest fund raising exercise was a sponsored walk that raised just over £500! Many thanks to all who took part.

It was agreed to ask the Church in Wales to release money from shares held in respect of work that can be carried out on the St Mary's Centre to help with repairs to drains and new signs to replace the stolen lettering on the hall.

A grant of £500 has been awarded by CADW (the Welsh heritage body) to help repair the roof of the church. It has to be claimed by 31st December this year.

The committee received and noted the interim report of the architect on the fabric of St Mary's Church.

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The two youngest members of the recent sponsored walk raised over £150 for St Mary's!



## ***St Agnes' Church Committee***

Following the agreement of the church congregational meeting that the new boiler was to be the priority on the list of work that needs to be carried out at St Agnes' the Committee agreed to approach the Welsh Church Acts Fund, the Pantyfedwyn Trust and the Diocese for grant aid towards the costs involved.

It was agreed to hold a Victorian Market Day in November, and we will let you know the actual date as soon as we can confirm the day Santa Claus is visiting the Civic Centre - we have written to the council to enquire.

What we need from all the congregation is a commitment to dress up in Victorian costume and decorate their stalls accordingly.

Hot turkey and pork rolls will be on sale amongst other things. We need your ideas and your input NOW!

Mary Edwards has kindly agreed to co-ordinate the selling of raffle tickets, and this year the raffle will be underwritten so that all the

profit will come to the church. We need you to start selling the tickets as soon as they become available in the summer, so that we can capitalise on the generosity of the sponsors.

The interim report of the architect was received and noted, pending his final report being received by the Archdeacon.

A 60's night will be held on the 16th September and a car treasure hunt on 15th July.

In the autumn it was noted that the Friends of St Agnes will be hosting a Murder Mystery Night.

## ***Confirmation***

This year confirmation will be administered at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl on Wednesday 24th June at 7.30pm.

Some of you may wish to travel with us to support the candidates from the Benefice, but all of you should please pray for them in the weeks that lie ahead.

# Chernobyl Children Wales

by Rachel Attew

Chernobyl Children Wales is a registered charity founded in 2000. Its primary aims are to provide recuperative holidays to children affected by the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine, the fall out of which primarily landed on Southern Belarus. From this disaster, instances of thyroid cancer and diabetes have dramatically increased and still affect the country today. During the summer, children will be visiting the parish to spend two weeks where they will eat non-contaminated food, improve their immune system and have plenty of fun taking in part in many activities and events. They will also receive medical checks during their stay. If you would like to become involved or would like to possibly host in the future, please contact Darren or Rachel Attew on 01639 790389. We look forward to introducing you to the children in the summer.

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The World Nuclear Association, which describes itself as "representing the people and organisations of the global nuclear industry" insist that that long term effects of the Chernobyl disaster have been minimal.

On their web site they say that:

- ◆ "The Chernobyl accident in 1986 was the result of a flawed reactor design that was operated with inadequately trained personnel and without proper regard for safety;
- ◆ the resulting steam explosion and fire released at least five percent of the radioactive reactor core into the atmosphere and downwind;
- ◆ 28 people died within four months from radiation or thermal burns, 19 have subsequently died, and there have been around nine deaths from

thyroid cancer apparently due to the accident: total 56 fatalities as of 2004;

- ◆ An authoritative UN report in 2000 concluded that there is no scientific evidence of any significant radiation-related health effects to most people exposed. This was confirmed in a very thorough 2005-06 study."

**However,** in other parishes Fr Nigel has met families affected by the disaster who have come over for such a break, and has seen for himself the very real fear with which they live, and the very real belief they have that their countryside is contaminated. The work undertaken by Chernobyl Children Wales is to be commended: it provides peace of mind, apart from anything else, and that is priceless. it is also a wonderful way to show people how we should care for each other.

***Fibromyalgia Support Group  
South Wales***

***hold meetings regularly at Saint Mary's Centre  
the 2nd Tuesday of each month  
12.30 pm - 2.30 pm***

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***For any inquiries please contact:***

***Yvonne Singleton 01639 681468 or Linda Cardy 01639 769097***

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## *Holy Days*

### **Corpus Christi, Thursday 11th June**

Sung Mass 10am St Agnes'



### **St Agnes' dedication festival, Saturday 20th June**

There will be a Sung Mass at 12 noon on Saturday 20th June followed by lunch, and the AGM of the Friends of St Agnes' Church.

### **Ss Alban, Julius & Aaron, first martyrs of Britain**

Mass at St Agnes' Monday 22nd June at 6.30pm

### **The Birth of St John the Baptist, Wednesday 24th June**

Mass at Holy Trinity at 9.30am and St Mary's at 11.00am

### **Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles, Monday 29th June**

Sung Mass at St Agnes' at 6.30pm



### **St Thomas the Apostle, Friday 3rd July**

10am Mass at St Paul's



## *Walsingham 2009*

If you are going to Walsingham this year you must now pay Jennifer the outstanding balance.

If anyone wishes us to pray for a specific intention at Walsingham, please write the name / purpose of prayer on the list at the back of church.

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## *Daily Readings from Scripture*

|                            |                             |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2009  | 2 Corinthians 1: 1-7        | Matthew 5: 1-12       |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2009  | 2 Corinthians 1: 18-22      | Matthew 5: 13-16      |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 3: 4-11       | Matthew 5: 17-19      |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Romans 3: 21-25. 28         | Matthew 7: 21-27      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 4: 7-15       | Matthew 5: 27-32      |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21      | Matthew 5: 33-37      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 6: 1-10       | Matthew 5: 38-42      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9        | Matthew 5: 43-48      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11       | Matthew 6: 1-6. 16-18 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 11: 1-11      | Matthew 6: 7-15       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 11: 18. 21-30 | Matthew 6: 19-23      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | 2 Corinthians 12 : 1-10     | Matthew 6: 24-end     |

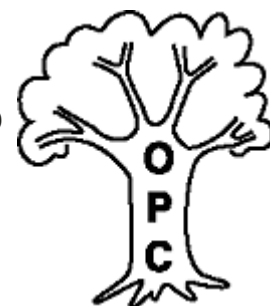
## Daily Readings from Scripture

|                            |                             |                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2009 | 2 Timothy 2: 8-13; 3: 10-12 | John 12: 24-26       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2009 | Genesis 13: 2. 5-18         | Matthew 7: 26. 12-14 |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Jeremiah 1: 4-10            | Luke 1: 5-17         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Genesis 16: 1-12, 15-16     | Matthew 7: 21-29     |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Genesis 17: 1. 9-10. 15-22  | Matthew 8: 1-4       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Genesis 18: 1-15            | Matthew 8: 5-17      |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Acts 12: 1-11               | Matthew 16: 13-19    |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 | Genesis 19: 15-29           | Matthew 8: 23-27     |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2009  | Genesis 21: 5. 8-20         | Matthew 8: 28-34     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2009  | Genesis 22: 1-19            | Matthew 9: 1-8       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2009  | Ephesians 2: 19-22          | John 20: 24-29       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2009  | Genesis 27: 1-5. 15-29      | Matthew 9: 14-17     |

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## *Older peoples council*

Neath Port Talbot is the first local authority in Wales to set up an Older Persons' Council (OPC). The aim of the OPC is to strengthen links between the Council and older people within the County Borough so that they have an opportunity to get involved in a wide range of discussions to make sure the voice of older people is heard.



### *Partners and links*

The Older Persons' Council works closely with many partners and is funded through Strategy for Older People funding via the Welsh Assembly Government.

### *Partners:*

Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Local Government Association

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Neath Port Talbot Public Health Service

Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Services

Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board

Abertawe Bro Morgannwg NHS Trust

You can find out more by contacting Carolyn using one of the following

Phone: 01639 763418

Email: [opc@npt.gov.uk](mailto:opc@npt.gov.uk)

and you can find out more about the whole thing by visiting the website [www.nptolderpersons council.org.uk](http://www.nptolderpersons council.org.uk)



Did you know you don't need a computer at home to access the web site? You can call at the library and ask them to help you see it on their public computers.



## *St Mary's 200 Club*

The winner for May is number 82, Mrs. Morfydd Richards. Just a reminder that the £10 subscriptions are now due. Anyone wishing to join can pay the £10 annual fee by cash or cheque made payable to St Mary's Church.

Contact Christine Morris on 774982 or Marina Williams on 883322.

## *Congratulations*

To Mrs. Peggy Davies who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.



## *Fr Andrew Tweed's 25th Anniversary*

We offer our sincere congratulations to Fr Andrew Tweed as he celebrates 25 years of priesthood on 1st July .

Many of you know him well, and knew his parents too, and it is with great pride and affection that we remember with thanksgiving his ministry to the church in the last twenty five years.

## *News about our friends*

Margaret Morgan is now at home, having spent some time in Neath Port Talbot & Cimla hospitals; Joyce Davison is still in Cimla.

Colin Jones is now a resident in the Maes y Bryn Nursing Home; Eileen Cowley is still quite poorly; Nancy Jenkins, the mother of Gerald Jenkins who runs our web site for us is a patient at Neath Port Talbot. Betty Lane hasn't been able to get to St Agnes for a while and we have missed her. Val (James) and Bernice (Thomas) 's sister Pat is in hospital and we wish her well.

Please remember all of these in your prayers.

## *USPG*

Thank you all for your support for USPG during Lent this year. We have collected, in the Lent boxes, a total so far of £977 and each church contributed as follows:

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| St Mary's    | £423.67             |
| St Agnes'    | £367.76             |
| St Paul's    | £179.34             |
| Holy Trinity | still to be counted |

There are still a few boxes to come in - we are anxious to send the money off as soon as we can.

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## *Letter from Australia to the Aberavon Mothers' Union*

The following letter was written to the Mothers' Union from Heather Connell, Bellingen, Australia.

3rd March 2009

What a mixture of weather around the world. The fires in Victoria are about 1800 kilometres away from us, and the terrible floods in Queensland about the same difference or even perhaps another 400 kilometres away. It is amazing the way God works on people's hearts, so many millions of dollars donated and the food, clothing, caravans for people to live in till they can rebuild. One of our members Gwen Martin died in January, she had been a member since 1950. She had been a nurse during the War, they had no children, and had been a matron in a country town and helped for years at the Far West Children's Home in Sydney after she married and also with children with Autism. All these things you find out at the funeral, Champion Golfer, Hockey player and many other things we didn't know before. Her nieces and nephews told us lots of things at her funeral, she was buried the day before her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday, her memories will stay with us a long time.

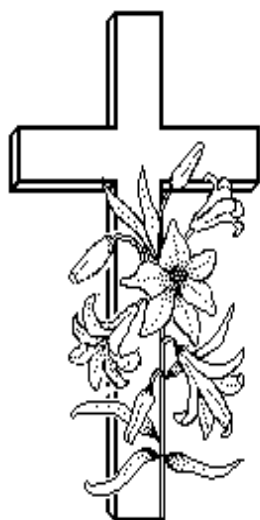
15th March 2009

Bang, Crash, there is a big storm going along the mountains, and I'm sitting on my veranda here writing. Storms never used to worry me till a couple of years ago when the lightning struck the phone during the night about 2½ ft from my head, now I jump when it flashes, lots of noise no rain yet. Anyway the rain keeps on pouring and on Sunday night a flood came up and the roads were blocked for 3 days, with floods over the roads and a land slide on the mountain. The Waterfall Way the road is called from the coast to Armidale. The Dorrigo Mountain rises 3,000 ft in 7 miles and has 2 big waterfalls in that length, so a lot of dirt and rocks and flooding water covered the road. There were so many helicopters flying over for 2 days we thought that there was a terrible disaster, you may have even heard about it over there. Now this terrible oil spill on the Queensland beaches is causing problems.

—————→

We had a pancake night at the St Barnabas Church but we couldn't go but we had vegetable pancakes at home. Now Mothering Sunday is coming up, I always make a Simnel cake and it usually turns out ok. Did I tell you the young family moved in next door on the 7/7/07? The wife hurt her discs in her back and hasn't been able to look after the kids by herself. Ainsley 11 years, Mikalya 8 years and baby Alex was 9 months old. So hubby driving semi-trailers 5 nights a week and doing all the washing etc. when he was home, they had to get home help. Then Bryce tore the ligaments in his arm and was off work for 5 months, then to top it all off baby Alex was diagnosed with Leukaemia. On the 21<sup>st</sup> December they had to fly to Sydney immediately, Bryce and Kerriane are down in Sydney because Kerriane is in such a bad state with her back, the girls are being looked after by the helpers at their homes, but this last week they have come home to their own beds, and the ladies stay here. This town of Bellingen must have the most generous people I know. As they were only renting and with no income they were worried sick that they wouldn't be able to pay the rent, in our little town places are hard to get, they would have to store their furniture and have nowhere to go. \$325 a week they pay, so a couple of other

neighbours and I started fundraising and everyone is marvellous. I've been able to pay their rent ahead several months and pay other bills for them. We have some really wonderful musicians around here, have you seen the movie 'Shine' the story of David Helfgott, well they live here just out in the valley and we had a really great afternoon of music in our school hall, over 400 people came to hear and help the fundraising. David and another well known pianist from Brisbane I think, played duets. In our Bellingen High School Youth Orchestra, a fantastic girl Suzanne played the Flute, Esther Henderson played the Violin and Claudia Douglas the Cello. You would pay at least \$100 a ticket, we only paid \$25 and had afternoon tea as well. We took over \$9,000 and Camp Creative made it up to \$10,000 then an anonymous donor gave us another \$10,000 then the Masonic Lodge in Coffs rang to say they are giving \$1,000 and we have 5 beautiful paintings and photos and a garden windmill in my spare bedroom to raffle after Easter, we will draw it at a B.B.Q at a neighbours over the road in June. They expect to be down there in Sydney for 8 months. Bellingen people always get behind those in need. Last week just in the street \$4,000 was given for the Bush Fire Appeal to Red Cross.



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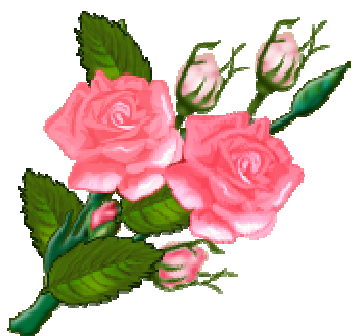
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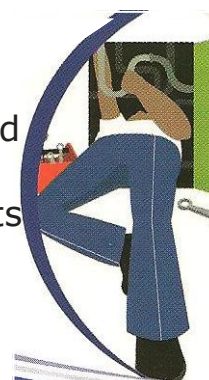
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## Canterbury urges caution

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned the "systematic humiliation" of MPs over their expenses is a threat to democracy in Britain.

Dr Rowan Williams said the daily press revelations could erode people's confidence in the political system.

Writing in *The Times*, he said:

"Many will now be wondering whether the point has not been adequately made."

His comments came as the ex-SAS officer who gave the expenses data to the *Daily Telegraph* defended their publication.

John Wick, who passed the details on from an anonymous source, said he had "no regrets" about exposing the expenses system's "rotten core". "Parliament will be a better place, society will be a better place," he added.



The churchwardens decided to keep a close watch on Desmond's expense claims

### ***'Generous instincts'***

In his article, Dr Williams agreed that action was needed to restore confidence in the political system and that the "no rules were broken" mentality that featured in many MPs' responses represented a "basic problem" in contemporary moral thinking.

But he argued the point had now been made and that further revelations could have a damaging effect. He went on to say that

"The continuing systematic humiliation of politicians itself threatens to carry a heavy price in terms of our ability to salvage some confidence in our democracy."

## Pray for Sri Lanka

Church leaders in Sri Lanka have called for political dialogue and equality for all peoples, after the government claimed victory in the long-running civil war on the island.

Aid agencies working in the northern part of the country warned of the huge humanitarian cost of the conflict.

Hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians - some reports saying up to 300,000 - were said to be displaced. The agencies complain that it is still difficult to verify numbers, owing to limited media access to the conflict zone.

The Bishop of Colombo, the Rt Revd Duleep de Chickera, said this week that the end of the war marked “a decisive point in the history of our beautiful and beloved country”. He lamented that “for too long, too many lives have been lost.” Christian Aid reported that thousands of civilians who escaped the fighting were being held in camps by the Sri Lankan government. These were “severely overcrowded and unable to meet basic food and shelter needs”.

Darishini Mahandren, the Christian Aid programme officer in Jaffna, in northern Sri Lanka, said people were arriving every day in a malnourished state, having been cut off from fishing and farming opportunities for months. The aid agency is working with local organisations to provide relief, and it hopes to provide counselling for those traumatised by the war.

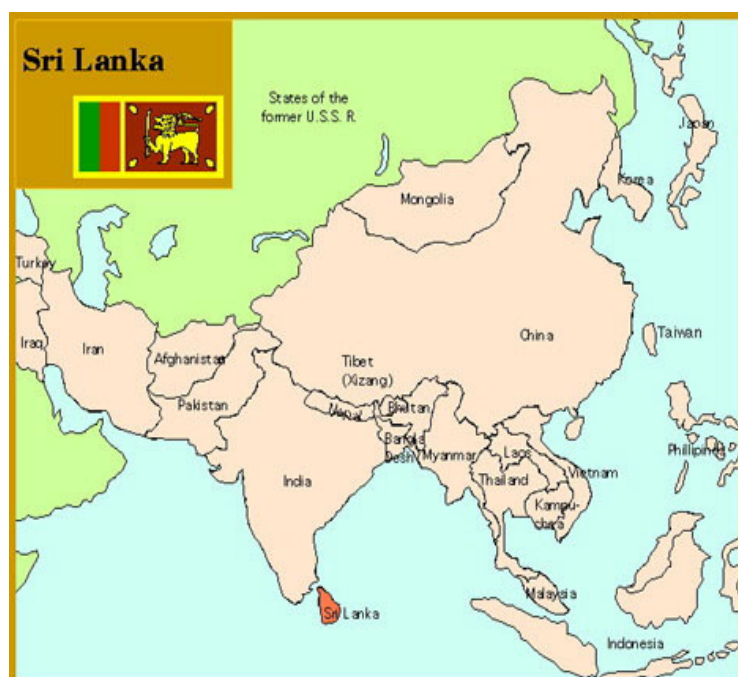
Save the Children described the temporary camps as “chaotic”. It found in a survey of 100 shelters that 72 per cent of families had been separated.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said that it had been forced to suspend the distribution of emergency supplies, after government forces blocked access to aid camps.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo, Dr Oswald Gomis, called for the people of Sri Lanka to forget their ethnic, political, and religious differences, and begin the “great task of nation building.

“The war will end only on the day that we grow into nationhood realising that we are all one people in one country with equal rights.

We have to realise the fact that we are a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-cultural community.”



## ***St Paul's Church Committee***

St Paul's church committee decided to hold their autumn fair on the first Friday of November, and their seasonal lunch on the first Friday of December.

The hall has had quite a lot of work carried out but there is much more to be done, especially to the roof. New tables are needed, as we have lost some tables.

Some needles have been found in the grounds of the church, which pose a danger to health. A needle box ("sharps box") will be provided for the safe disposal of such items.

The interim report of the architect was discussed and noted. The problem in finding adequate resources with a small congregation was discussed. No conclusions were reached.

Jane Slennett has agreed to spend more time at St Paul's to help the congregation feel a sense of belonging, and to offer encouragement and help to the Sunday School.

The possibility of changing times of services was discussed at some length, but it was felt that there was no "perfect" time and that in the present circumstances 9.15am

would have to be the time for the Sunday Eucharist.

## ***ACS day of prayer***

On the day we welcome Jonathan Elcock to the Benefice - Sunday 28th June - we will remember the work of the Additional Curates' Society in our prayers and offer the mass for an increase in vocations to the ordained ministry.

Almighty God, give us priests:  
to establish the honour  
of your holy name;  
to offer the holy sacrifice of the altar;  
to give us Jesus in the holy sacrament;  
to proclaim the faith of Jesus;  
to baptise and to teach the young;  
to tend your sheep; to seek the lost;  
to give pardon to the penitent sinner;  
to bless our homes;  
to pray for the afflicted;  
to comfort mourners;  
to strengthen us in our last hour;  
to commend our souls;  
Almighty God, give us priests!  
Holy Father, you gave us Christ as the  
shepherd of our souls;  
may your people always have priests  
who care for them with his great love.  
We make our prayer,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever  
and ever. Amen.

## *Please pray for Chile*

*by Any Bowman USPG missionary*

When I started working with indigenous Pehuenche communities in Chile's Andes mountains, the first thing that struck me was the care expressed by the community for children and the elderly; there was a great sense of solidarity.

Their faith was expressed in everything they did – even with a short prayer before cutting down a tree. It was marvellous to be a part of. The importance they attached to their faith was much greater than I have found elsewhere: their services lasted longer and the church was a centre of the community.

The gospel message had transformed the people. People in Britain and Ireland grew up in a society that has been blessed with the gospel for centuries, so we tend not to notice the benefits we receive from living in a Christian culture that's nurtured us for hundreds of years. But this community in the mountains first heard the gospel message only 25 years ago. The gospel has made this area a more peaceful and secure place.

Meanwhile, neighbouring communities, which are yet to embrace the gospel, have tremendous problems with violence and alcoholism – their unhappiness is perhaps because they are overlooked by the Chilean authorities.

I received so much from working with the Pehuenche. Seeing the importance of their faith and how dependent they were on the Lord was a real education. I realised how important it was for development to have a spiritual dimension, and for mission to have a development dimension.

Mission agencies are an important development vehicle for change because they provide pastoral support and spiritual growth alongside development initiatives, with families making their own decisions. Done in this way, a tiny amount of money can bring about a massive change.

*Andy Bowman recently completed 16 years as a USPG Mission Companion in Chile.*

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## *Llandaff Cathedral Festival*

The Cathedral is also having a festival time in June, from the 6th to the 14th.

Centred around Cathedral Evensong a series of recitals will take place in co-operation with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and will benefit the Cathedral organ appeal. The full details of the programme appear on the next page.

During the Festival afternoon tea and light suppers are available on weekdays from 4pm and weekends from 1pm (with light lunches) in the Festival Marquee. There is a licensed bar from 6.00pm daily in the Festival Terrace.

Lunch in the Marquee Sunday 7 June from 12 noon

In addition there are two associated ticketed events:

Italian Supper Wednesday 10 June,  
after the Piano Recital (approx 8.30pm)

Champagne and Canapes Sunday 14 June, from 12 noon  
Tickets (£10 adult £5 child) are available at the Cathedral from one week before the Festival and during all events.



**Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama**  
**Coleg Brenhinol Cerdd a Drama Cymru**

## *New Reader*

On Saturday 4th July Simon Burton will be admitted as a reader (formerly lay reader) in the Diocese with a licence to preach in the parish wider church community. The admission will take place at the Cathedral during Evensong at 6pm, and it would be good if some of us could be there to support him.

Simon deserves our admiration as well as congratulation, as the course of study is not easy to follow when you are in full time employment and have returned to study after many years. We hope he will enjoy exercising his ministry amongst us to the full.



Eglwys  
Gadeiriol

Llandaff Llandaf  
Cathedral

# *Llandaff Festival Programme*

## **Saturday 6 June**

4.30pm Cathedral Tour

A relaxed and informative tour of the historical building, with light lunches and teas served during the afternoon

7.30pm Opening Concert – Faure Requiem; Mozart Coronation Mass  
Llandaff Cathedral Choir;

## **Sunday 7 June**

4.30pm Lieder Afternoon – Strauss Four Last Songs; Mansel Thomas Songs  
Megan Llewellyn Dorke,  
with James Southall Accompanist.

## **Monday 8 June**

6.00pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm An evening of brass celebration; Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition  
RWCMD Brass Ensemble;  
Director Kevin Price

## **Tuesday 9 June**

6.00pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm A summer's evening in Venice – Badinerie Historical Performance Ensemble;  
Director Simon Jones

## **Wednesday 10 June**

5.30pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm Piano Recital – Matthew Drinkwater  
Third year RWCMD student, Matthew, presents a vibrant 7 exciting exploration of piano works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms, Liszt and Bartok

## **Thursday 11 June**

6.00pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm Mavron String Quartet – Haydn, Schnittke, Purcell

## **Friday 12 June**

6.00pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm Brahms Piano Quintet

## **Saturday 13 June**

5.00pm Open Rehearsal – Llandaff Cathedral Choir  
6.00pm Choral Evensong  
7.30pm Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society; Brahms A German Requiem

## **Sunday 14 June**

10.45am Festival Thanksgiving Service

## *From the Registers*

### **Communicant figures for April**

|      | St Mary's | St. Agnes' | St. Paul's | Holy Trinity |  |
|------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
| 5th  | 46        | 69         | 35         | 47           |  |
| 12th | 53        | 64         | 36         | 53           |  |
| 19th | 37        | 57         | 21         | 34           |  |
| 26th | 38        | 54         | 22         | 44           |  |
| 29th | 38        | 58         | 31         | 39           |  |

### **Monthly Income for April**

|  | St Mary's | St. Agnes' | St. Paul's | Holy Trinity |  |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
|  | £2,876.62 | £4,110.74  | £1,885.11  | £2,382.54    |  |

### **Monthly Payments for April**

|  | St Mary's | St. Agnes' | St. Paul's | Holy Trinity |  |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
|  | £3,451.20 | £4,116.29  | £2,490.64  | £1,903.12    |  |

### **The Benefice Account for April**

|                |        |                 |        |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| <b>Paid in</b> | £8,967 | <b>Paid out</b> | £7,295 |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|

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### **Individual church contact details**

#### **St Mary's Subwardens**

Mr Len Jones  
01639 898939  
ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Jean Moloney  
01639 881516  
jmoloney@parishofabeavon.org

#### **St Paul's Subwardens**

Mr Ivor Morgan  
01639 883829

Mrs Val Rees  
01639 896584

#### **St Agnes' Subwardens**

Mrs Edna Williams  
01639 886649  
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John  
01639 887030

#### **Holy Trinity Subwardens**

Mr Mike Isaac  
01639 793501  
misaac@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Gill Davison  
01639 870528

# *Parish Worship*

## **On Sunday the Holy Eucharist is celebrated**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>in St Agnes' Church, Forge Road</i>        | at 8am and 9.15am |
| <i>in St Paul's Church, Pendarvis Terrace</i> | at 9.15am         |
| <i>in Holy Trinity Church, Fairway</i>        | at 11.00am        |
| <i>in St Mary's Church</i>                    | at 11.00am        |

Evening Prayer is sung at St Paul's at 6pm each Sunday

Occasionally we hold a Benefice Mass in one church, so please consult the web site and look inside the magazine to check times.

**[www.parishofaberavon.org](http://www.parishofaberavon.org)**

## **On Weekdays the Holy Eucharist is celebrated**

|           |                        |                                 |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday    | at 6.30pm              | in St Agnes'                    |
| Tuesday   | at 10am                | in St Paul's                    |
| Wednesday | at 9.30am<br>& at 11am | in Holy Trinity<br>in St Mary's |
| Thursday  | at 10am                | in St Agnes'                    |
| Friday    | at 10am                | in St Paul's                    |
| Saturday  | at 10.30am             | in the hospital chapel.         |

Please look inside the Magazine for times of services on Holy Days.  
Details may also be found on the parish website.