

60p

# *Newydd*

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

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

*St. Paul's Centenary Year*

*March 2011*



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

**9th March 2011**

**Services in all four churches**

**No excuse for not being able to begin Lent with God**

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## *From the Rector*

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At the beginning of February I experienced something that had never happened in my entire ministry: I had to refuse to baptise a child because the child's father refused to give his consent to the baptism taking place.

Since 2003 the law has given to both parents (even when they have never been married) certain rights and responsibilities. Where the child's father is named on the birth certificate he has the right to object to the baptism taking place, and must agree to sign the Baptism application form.

It was very unpleasant having to explain to the child's mother why it was not possible for me to continue with the arrangements, and extremely sad that I had to do so. But the Church is not above the Law.

Having taken the advice of the Diocesan Registrar ( the legal officer of the Diocese) and spoken to the Assistant Bishop ( in the absence of the Archbishop) I realised that there was no way around the refusal, and had to make the visit that I did not want to make, and do something I think is wrong.

But the Church is not above the Law.

In the twenty nine years since I was ordained there has been a huge surge in

the legislation that we now have to follow, and great changes in many laws that one had come to know almost by heart from carrying out weddings and so on.

It would be lovely to think that we could just go on pretending that none of this applied to the Church - but we cannot. We are all citizens of the State, and we are as bound by the new rules and regulations as much as anyone else - even when we disagree with them and think that they are wrong.

The present government has indicated its wish to remove some of the burden of health and safety regulations in order to make life somewhat simpler, and to allow for some common sense to prevail: but that will still leave a very large amount of regulations in place that one has not only to be aware of, but implement. Ignorance is no excuse in law, and some of the regulations are there to provide protection to people in the work place, and in places where the public gather - including our churches.

We can complain until we are out of breath, but it will not make the slightest difference: the Church is not above the Law.

We could ignore the law, and the regulations we are asked to implement,

and when we go to court we can have our say about why we think the law is an ass - but if we have no sound legal ground for making a stand we will just end up looking foolish and giving the impression that the Church somehow thinks itself superior to others; that, somehow, we believe we should not have to do what everyone else has to do.

Imagine if we all decided to drive on whichever side of the road we chose without regard for anyone else! Not just chaos, but death would reign.

As the Rector, one of my responsibilities is to lead the PCC in knowing and understanding what is expected of them, and taking measures to comply with the regulations that affect us in all walks of our church life.

One of the first things I realised when I arrived here is that Denise worked alone in the Parish Office and that there was no way she could possibly know who was walking in through the door. We had a security camera fitted so that she could see who was coming in through the door to the office. As an employer the PCC has obligations to ensure that Denise is safe at work, and the environment in which she works, and the facilities that are available to her, enable her to do her job properly.

It is the responsibility of Churchwardens and the PCC to see to all this sort of thing: but it is my job as the "leader" to ensure that the PCC understands this.

As well as installing the camera we have taken steps to ensure that the office environment in which Denise works has been improved, and that she has a decent desk, a good quality computer, access to a telephone and so on.

But it is not just in the office that we have such responsibilities: they affect church life too.

Our insurance company, for example, sends out regular bulletins about safety in churches, about complying with fire regulations, and ensuring that people realise they are not supposed to work at great heights just using a ladder. There are a whole range of issues that need our attention and our compliance.

We might rant and rave about the legislation, and we might complain about having to implement it: but we are not above the law.

On our web site we have a copy of our Health and Safety Policy and our Equal Opportunities Policy. Believe it or not, some grants for which we apply require us to send a copy of these documents before we are awarded any funds. These things are taken seriously - and quite rightly, because for the most part they have been formulated to offer protection to people from the unexpected but possible results of misfortune in the work place - and a work place is not just somewhere people are paid to do a job but anywhere that has volunteers working or people regularly gathering for a specific function.

Twenty nine years ago I would not have imagined that I would have to refuse to baptise a child; I would not have imagined that the Church would have to enforce fire regulations, building regulations and health and safety regulations, to have policies and procedures to cover the things we do today. But what I could never imagine is a reality: and I have to deal with that.

So do you.

You are not above the law either. And you are all required to comply with the regulations that are in place as much as any member of the PCC.

**Together** we have to ensure that our places of worship and our halls are safe, and **we** have to understand how we are all accountable in law for the carrying out of the things that are necessary in order to make challenges in the courts as few and far between as we can.

All of us know that we live in an age in which more and more people are willing to sue over apparently trivial things. How much more likely then are they to take us to the courts if someone falls off a ladder at great height because we have refused to take seriously the need to implement the regulations about working at heights, or is killed because of a fire when we have not worked out how we would implement a fire evacuation procedure, or is attacked at work because we had not thought through a policy about working alone in an office.

Laugh if you want; complain if you must; cry if you feel like it - but it could be your family who have cause for complaint if we don't willingly and properly execute our legal duty of care to everyone who uses our buildings and our grounds.

We are not above the law, however much we might like to be.

With every good wish

*Nigel Canise*

**Father Nigel.**

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## From the Registers

### *The Faithful Departed*

The following have received a Christian Funeral:

Justine Sarah Duggan

Olive Foley

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

### *Communicant figures January*

2nd	114
9th	128
16th	138
23rd	81
30th	148

### *Olive Foley*

It was a great shock to hear of the sudden death of Olive Foley, and we extend our deepest sympathy to Erika and Martin and their families.

A large crowd attended the funeral at Margam Crematorium, with people from all the walks of life with which Olive was associated. It was good to see so many church people present.



## Lent Lunches

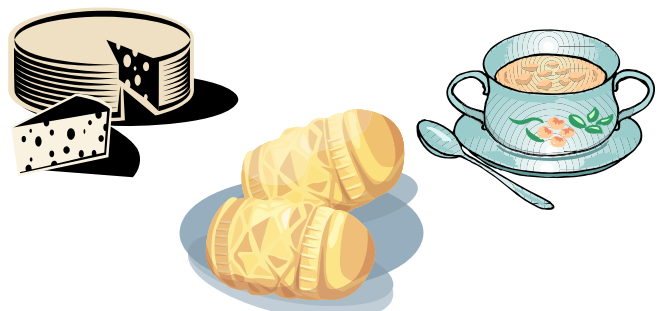
Our Lent Lunches start on Ash Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup> March) at St Mary's after 11am Mass, and on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at St Agnes'.

These lunches are not just for those who usually go to church on those days, but for everyone who wants to help raise money for our missionary society USPG, and support the work of the Church in the Third World.

It is an ideal way to take part in a Lent fast, and by co-operating together in the two centres it is a wonderful way of working together and not having to have four of everything.

If you can find the time to go to one or the other of the lunches each week it will really help to boost the funds available to USPG and to bind us together as one people of God in the Benefice.

An indication of numbers is always helpful for these occasions, and you can let Jean Moloney (at St Mary's) or Edna Williams (at St Agnes') know if you are coming - but you are very welcome to just turn up!



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*Rhieni a Plant*

# Pat's

*Parent and Toddler Group*



Every Monday  
from 1.15pm to 2.45pm

Every Thursday  
from 9.30am to 11.30am

All are welcome

Regular visits from Language and Play  
Health care advice

## *St Paul's Centenary*

Have you any photographs, memorabilia or other items of interest which would assist in compiling the history and life of St Paul's Church.

Any items would of course only be borrowed and safely returned. Please contact Tony Llewellyn on 771283.

## *Centenary Service and Lunch*

St Paul's are planning the same Centenary celebration as St Agnes' last year which was well supported by the Benefice and a remarkable success. Blancos has agreed to put on the same lunch at the same price - £15 per person.

We will need the same support from the Benefice (minimum of 100 for lunch to take place) and so need names now from anyone who has a link with St Paul's who wants to be with us on 5th June for the Centenary Mass and Lunch at Blanco's.

Forms are available at the back of each Church to be returned by Sunday 3rd April with the £10 non-refundable deposit and will be collected by Edna Williams at St Agnes', Joan Oxley at Holy Trinity, Barbara Morris and Marjorie Williams at St Marys' and Hilda Mears at St Paul's.

## *Men's Fellowship*

Nine men from the Benefice gathered together at the Rectory on 7th February for a very productive meeting which resulted in the formation of an Aberavon Men's Fellowship.

The next meeting is going to be on the 16th May at Holy Trinity when there will be a buffet and an opportunity to discuss the future programme of the Fellowship.

An open invitation is extended to anyone who is interested.

## *200 Club St Mary's*

The winner for February is number 89, Sian Evans.

## *Irish Night*

All are warmly invited to an Irish Night for St Patrick's tide on Friday 18th March at 7pm at the Parish Centre. Tickets £3.50 available from Church.

This is an opportunity to socialise and raise funds for the Benefice all at once.



## ***Items for the magazine***

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

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

For April 2011

19th March

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

For April 2011

25th March

## ***Confirmation Classes***

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. It is not too late to join the adult class, please speak to Fr Nigel.

## ***Annual Vestry Meeting***

The Annual Vestry Meeting will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church.

All those whose names appear on the Electoral Roll are entitled to attend, speak and vote.

## ***The Friends of St. Mary's Church***

We need your help!

Please can you give us the names and addresses of anyone who has had a connection with St. Mary's, who might be interested in becoming a Friend, to help maintain the church.



Please contact any member of the Friends of St Mary's committee:  
Pat Crofts, Linda Perry, Monica Selway,  
Cerys Mills, Helena Lewis, Billy Lewis,  
Jean Maloney, Mary McCarthy.

*Many thanks  
Cerys Mills, Secretary.*

## *Just a thought*

*By Simon Burton*



The other night I was watching Secret Carribean presented by Sir Trevor McDonald. On the island of Monsaratt, which was devastated by a volcano twelve years ago, there is a no-go area, considered too dangerous to even visit let alone live in.

People still live on the other side of the island, and one of them is a photographer interviewed by Sir Trevor. 'Why do you stay here?' he asked? 'It is lovely here' the man replied, 'You can leave your car keys in the ignition, leave your doors unlocked and once when I was in the post office it poured with rain and when I came out someone had closed my car windows.'

What a lovely place to live! It made me think of the days when I was young many moons ago. We never locked the house doors, but then we lived in the countryside and my Dad always said if anyone could get past a German Shepherd, a Jack Russell and two Labradors they deserved to rob the place.

Many people have commented that it would be really nice to be able to leave our churches open. Our insurance company has no objection to this at all, and you will find even today that many country churches are unlocked during the daylight hours - though the valuables such as candlesticks and crosses are locked away.

It is such a shame that in this day and age town and city churches could not be left open so that people could go in and say a prayer or just have a time of peace with God.

I would love to see our churches open now that Neath-Port Talbot has been declared one of the safest places to live in Britain. It is nice to have St. Agnes' open on a Saturday morning, even though at the moment it is only church people coming in.

The thinking behind the coffee morning on a Saturday is to try and get people to come inside the building in the first place. In a way the tea, coffee and chocolate are an extra!

Why not tell your non church going friends about the church being open for two hours and maybe others will find the peace of God in His house. It might just be that your words are the push they need to give them the confidence to go through the open door.

## *Free Solar Panels*

NSA are inviting applications from households in Sandfields and Aberavon for details simply send your name and address to  
NSA, (PV for FREE), Ty Arian, Silver Avenue, Port Talbot, SA12 7RX

As a result of the recently announced "Feed in Tariff", New Sandfields Aberavon (NSA) are able to offer the installation of Solar Photovoltaic ( PV) "free of charge" to registered social landlords, local authorities, owner/occupiers, community organisations and others in the Sandfields and Aberavon area.

### **What are PV Panels?**

Photovoltaic panels are installed on the roof and use solar gain to generate electricity.

How does the scheme work?

The system is installed, operated and maintained for the 25 year lifetime of the contract "free of charge". The client or householder can use the free electricity generated by the PV installation. The "Feed in "generation tariff is collected by the scheme operator.

Any unused excess electricity generated will be sold back to the grid.

The client / householder will receive an annual payment based on the amount of electricity generated. The client/

householder may receive an additional payment based on the "profitability" of the overall scheme. At the end of the contract period the system becomes the property of the householder/client. The client can make a partial investment and collect a "pro rata" percentage of the feed in tariff.

Green Renewable Wales Ltd on whose behalf NSA are promoting this programme, is a not for profit cooperative energy services company registered in Wales.

For the registration and acceptance of a Photovoltaic system "PV For Free" being installed on your roof, you will need to sign an acceptance form which will lead to a legal binding document for the installation.

If you are an owner/occupier you will sign up directly to the bona fide organisation. If you are a tenant of a Registered Social Landlord you will have to gain their permission.

By agreeing to install low carbon technologies in your home you are helping the environment by reducing carbon emissions from the electricity generated from a renewable source.

For further advice on energy savings and solutions please contact: Bob Cherryman  
PV for FREE project manager on 01639 870067



# *Mother Language Celebration*

celebrating

International Mother Language Day  
hosted by Dr. Brian Gibbons.

Fr Nigel and the PCC had been invited to  
the event by the Port Talbot Tigers to  
celebrate the diversity of cultures and  
languages that exist within Neath Port  
Talbot.

The Neath Port Talbot Tigers is a club run  
by volunteers and works with people of all  
ages and backgrounds to promote better  
race relations through sporting and social  
activities. The club hopes to benefit the  
wider community by bringing people from  
many backgrounds together for a  
common purpose by providing activities  
they enjoy. They encourage members to  
volunteer and participate in all aspects of  
the club's many activities which help  
members develop confidence,  
organisational and communication skills  
with the added benefit that they are  
integrating with the local community  
thereby promoting better race relations.

Each year secondary schools in Neath Port  
Talbot hold special events during this  
week to celebrate Diversity. The event  
opened with a group of students  
performing a traditional Irish Dance which  
was excellent. Two secondary schools  
were represented: Cwrt Sart and Dyffryn.

Cwrt Sart gave a very moving  
performance in sign language of 'Ben' by  
Michael Jackson which was very warmly  
received as were Neath Port Talbot  
College with their performance of 'Reach  
for the Stars', also in sign language.

Dyffryn School performed La Marseillaise  
in the language of Welsh!! Our own  
Steffan ap Dafydd gave a rendition of  
'War' written by Ellis Humphrey Evans  
and spoke of his father's experiences of  
war.

There were a number of guest speakers,  
including a member of the police, who  
spoke about Integration and Equality  
within the South Wales Police force. Karl  
Napieralla, Director of Education Leisure  
and Lifelong Learning spoke about  
diversity and integration in our schools.

All volunteers taking part in poetry  
readings, music and dance, including  
Thai, Chinese, Arabic, Polish, Spanish and  
Indonesian, showed a respect and dignity  
for their own culture and ethnic origin  
which was quite touching.

The highlight of the evening for me was a  
primary school that performed a  
"Bollywood Spectacular" which was  
vibrant and colourful. They certainly  
deserved the applause they received.

I look forward to next year's event and I  
can certainly recommend it to you all.

*Paula Durnell*

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## 2011

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*Daily Scripture Readings*

7 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Tobit 1: 3; 2: 1-8	Mark 12: 1-12
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Tobit 2: 9-14	Mark 12: 13-17
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Joel 2: 12-18	Matthew 6: 1-6. 16-18
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Luke 9: 22-25
11 <sup>h</sup> March 2011	Isaiah 58: 1-9	Matthew 9: 14-15
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Isaiah 58: 9-14	Luke 5: 27-32
14 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Leviticus 19: 1-2. 11-18	Matthew 25: 31-46
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Isaiah 55: 10-11	Matthew 6: 7-15
16 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Jonah 3: 1-10	Luke 11: 29-32
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Esther 4: 17	Matthew 7: 7-12
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Ezekiel 18: 21-28	Matthew 5: 20-26
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	2 Samuel 7: 4-5. 12-14. 16	Matthew 1: 16. 18-21. 24
21 <sup>st</sup> March 2011	Daniel 9: 4-10	Luke 6: 36-38
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2011	Isaiah 1: 10. 16-20	Matthew 23: 1-12
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2011	Jeremiah 18: 18-20	Matthew 20; 17-28
24 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	Luke 16: 19-31
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Isaiah 7: 10-14. 8-10	Luke 1: 26-38
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	Micah 7: 14-15.18-20	Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2011	2 Kings 5: 1-15	Luke 4: 24-30
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2001	Daniel 3: 25. 34-43	Matthew 18: 21-35
30 <sup>th</sup> March 2001	Deuteronomy 4: 1. 5-9	Matthew 5: 17-19
3 <sup>1st</sup> March 2001	Jeremiah 7: 23-28	Luke 11: 14-23
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2001	Hosea 14: 2-10	Mark 12: 28-34
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2001	Hosea 5: 15. -6: 6	Luke 18: 9-14

**Fibromyalgia Support Group  
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***Yvonne Singleton 01639 681468 or Linda Cardy 01639 769097***

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## From Fr Matthew

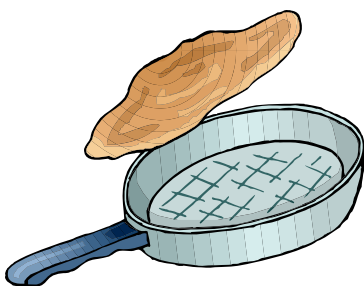
The season of Lent might be commonly overshadowed by Easter but Lent mustn't be overlooked as it is an important season of prayer and reflection for the Christian.



This annual opportunity to pray, step back and reflect takes us deeper into who we are and how we're living our lives. In short it makes us look at the good, the bad and the ugly, and see what needs transforming through the power of God's Spirit.

But prayer and reflection during Lent can also increase our awareness of the wider world which can be lost in the busyness of our lives. The author Paula Gooder reminds us that 'the meaning is in the waiting'. When my old Biology teacher wanted to introduce a new topic to the class, she would dust down the blackboard and emphatically pronounce "chalk and talk time!".

So to get back to basics: what is the season of Lent about?



Well as we hopefully see spring break through the fairly dismal winter we have experienced, the days will

lengthen and the 40 days and nights which make up Lent begin. Of course there is the necessary pit-stop for pancakes first!

Now don't think me a conspiracy theorist who is making too much out of numbers, but in the case of Lent the number 40 could well be significant. In Genesis there were 40 days and nights of rain which caused the great flood. The Hebrew people spent 40 years in the desert before reaching the promised land. Fasting has long been a Lenten tradition and Moses set the example by fasting for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments. Jesus also fasted for 40 days when he was in the desert preparing for his ministry.

Fasting alongside prayer and reflection are obviously key spiritual disciplines noted in the bible, however the result of these disciplines is the important issue for us to explore. By using these spiritual disciplines we can grow in our relationship with God and we can even deepen our sense of compassion for people and the world around us.

And what the world needs this Lent is Jesus - and Christians who can be a voice of love, mercy and compassion in their communities and the world. The world needs a church filled with people who can accept the hardship of living in tough economic times and a broken society and still look beyond self-interest.

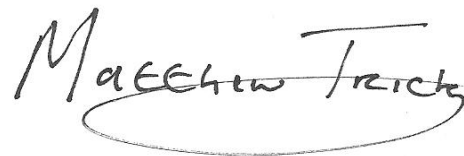
This Lent our thoughts can easily turn to the Middle East in its current political turmoil. We can think of the people of Libya and Bahrain and Egypt.

In Egypt, despite the fact that people are living in a time of transition and uncertainty after the promised resignation of President Mubarak, stories emerge in the press of Muslims protecting Christian worshippers at prayer. Could this be the sort of prayerful action we are called to embrace in our own country?

We see the crowds on the streets in other countries of the region calling for an end to totalitarian regimes and we can wonder how we use our freedom and our time when there is no one to oppress us for expressing our views.

We can see how in their poverty people have joined together to force change that they and we hope will be for the good, and we can ask ourselves how well we will support the world's poorest in engaging with the Lent lunches and taking a USPG savings box to help bring Good News to the lives of those poorer than ourselves.

May we spend this Lent praying that God may open our eyes to see Him and his people across the world with clearer vision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Treich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

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## ***PCC Meeting***

The first meeting of the newly elected PCC will be on Monday 21st March after Mass at St Agnes'.

## ***Elections this year***

Each church has to elect a subwarden, and the rector will appoint a subwarden. These people will become the PCC together with the Benefice wardens. Each church has to elect a church committee of not more than 8 (12 at St Agnes') as decided at the January Vestry.

One person will need to be elected at the Vestry meeting to be the Benefice Warden, and the Rector will appoint the other Benefice Warden.

All wardens positions are open to those whose names are on the electoral roll and who are under 75 years of age. People are elected for one year only, but can be re-elected for up to six years, but they then have to stand down.

The PCC will have to appoint a Secretary and Treasurer.

## *Dates for the diary*

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

Masses at

9.30am (Holy Trinity)

11am (St Mary's)

7pm (St Agnes' and St Paul's)

**St Patricktide social**

Friday 18th March 7pm at the Parish Centre

**Launch of the Friends of St Mary's**

6th May at the church 7pm

**What's My Line**

Friends of St Agnes' fund raiser

May 18th 7pm

**28th May Fiesta Day at Port Talbot Shopping Centre**

This is a good fund raising opportunity if we can all pull together.

**11th June Fete in the grounds of St Paul's and Flower Festival in Church**

from 11am

**18th June Friends of St Agnes AGM**

Mass and lunch at 12 noon

The Speaker in the afternoon will be the Dean of Llandaff the Very Reverend John Lewis

**Launch of the Friends of St Paul's**

Friday 22nd July 7pm

**Art & Craft Fair at St Mary's**

Probably 2nd/ 3rd September

**Cluedo - a 'guess who did it' evening**

St Agnes' Friends fundraiser

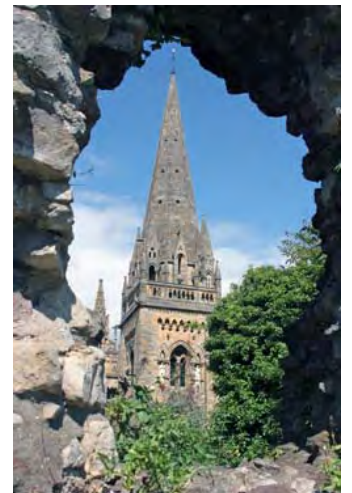
in the church on 19th October at 7pm

**Musical Evening 25th November**

at St Agnes'

## *Fr Nigel at the Cathedral*

This year the time appointed for me to be "in residence" at the Cathedral is in March, so there will be times when I am not around, but although the phrase sounds as though I will be living there I will still be in the Rectory.



On three Sundays I will spend time at the Cathedral: 13th 20th and 27th March. But I will be around and about here too, so I won't have disappeared for three weeks!

In the Diocese of St David's and in Swansea and Brecon being in residence means just that — a three week stay at the Cathedral city.

# *The 2011 Census is coming*

The census has collected information about the population every ten years since 1801 (except in 1941). The next census in England and Wales is on 27 March 2011



**Census answers are confidential**  
Personal census information is never shared with any other government department, nationally, regionally or locally. The information collected is kept confidential for 100 years and is protected by law.

## **Your community and family benefit**

Census statistics help work out the amount of funding allocated to facilities in communities. Local government use census statistics to understand the characteristics of their populations and what facilities are needed.

Everyone needs to take part so that the services and facilities your community and family uses can be identified. These services include schools, hospital and emergency services.

## **A census is a fantastic source of historical information**

By collecting information from every household, a unique and detailed snapshot is taken of modern life, documenting the lifestyle and characteristics of the population. After 100 years, census records are released to the public. These provide a wealth of information for genealogists, historians and family tree enthusiasts.

## **Returning the census form is required by law**

Completing the census is a legal requirement: the few people who don't complete their census questionnaire may be prosecuted for breaking the law, could face a criminal record and may be fined up to £1,000.

## **It's straightforward**

Completing the census is straightforward. Most questions can be answered by simply clicking, or ticking, in a box. The census can be completed on paper or online.

## **Help and support is available**

Help and support is available from online help at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk). Online help contains a wealth of information about completing the census questionnaire. Tools and guides can be viewed, downloaded or ordered from [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk). People can arrange for a home visit if they need help completing their questionnaire. They can telephone the census helpline to book an appointment.

## ***From the South Wales Police***

South Wales Police want you to be aware of two issues:

1. Welsh Water uniforms have been stolen from a sewage works in Groesfaen. These uniforms, which carry the Welsh Water logo, could end up in the hands of bogus callers.
2. It is reported that window cleaners are calling at the homes of elderly people offering to clean windows, there have been a number of reports received of such calls being made to elderly female residents in the Briton Ferry area.

If anyone has any issues they should contact the Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

## ***Condolences***

We extend our sympathy to Barbara Townsend on the death of her husband Byron.

Byron had been ill for a long time, and Barbara has cared for him with great devotion.

## ***New Chasuble***

St Agnes' was presented with a new white chasuble on St David's Day in memory of the late Elsie Evans, a life-long communicant and member of the Mothers' Union.

We are grateful to Barbara & Duncan Roberts for the gift.

## ***Dates for Church Committees to meet***

Please note that, following the Vestry on Tuesday 8th March, each new committee will meet on the following dates:

### **Holy Trinity**

Thursday 10th March 2pm in church

### **St Mary's**

Thursday 10th March 7pm in the Parish Office

### **St Agnes'**

Wednesday 16th March following the 7pm Lent service in church

### **St Paul's**

Wednesday 17th March 1.30pm at the Rectory

# Condon Funeral Service



## Funeral directors

John Condon M.B.I.E.

Michael Condon M.B.I.E.

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Port Talbot  
SA13 2BN

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01639 885452

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and reassurance  
when it matters most



## *In service training days*

The clergy will be unavailable during the day on Monday 4th April, as we are attending a training day at the Cathedral. We will also be unavailable on Thursday 5th May, though we hope to be able to find a priest to come and celebrate at 10am that day at St Agnes.

## *St Agnes' Circle*

The first meeting for 2011 will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.00pm, when we are having a Welsh Evening. This will include Leek Soup and Welsh Cakes. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us. Please put your name on the sheet at the back of church, if you are able to come.

The Circle is a friendship and fellowship group open to everyone - people do not have to be church goers. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month from March to November. We have a varied programme and look forward to welcoming any new members.

*Edna Williams*

## *Flowers*

Many thanks to all of you who donate money to provide flowers for our churches each week - without your generosity we would not have flowers in church.

At Eastertide we always ask for extra donations, as the cost of flowers at this time of the year soars.

Some of you who may not usually donate may wish to help with the cost of flowers for Easter. You may put your donations in an envelope and place it in the collection plate.



R.N ©

The flower-arrangers wound down towards Lent

# Faith & Policy Watch

*from the Mothers Union*

**Government review on commercialisation of childhood to be chaired by Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of Mothers' Union**



In December 2010, Mothers' Union's Chief Executive, Reg Bailey, was appointed by the Government to chair an independent review of the commercialisation of childhood, due for publication in May 2011.

Announcing the Review, Sarah Teather, Minister for Children, said:

*"By reviewing commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood we want to better understand not only how we can help parents resist these things, but also how we encourage all businesses to take their responsibilities as seriously as the best ones already do... most importantly I want specific recommendations on what can be done across both of these broad areas, to tackle the issues parents and children and young people face."*

The Review, which is being coordinated by the Department for Education, will:

- Define excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation of children
- Identify risks of harm to children from commercial pressures and sexualisation; and barriers to parents from exercising parental responsibility
- Identify current channels for consumers to voice concern and any barriers to doing so
- Assess how businesses currently fulfill corporate social responsibility in selling to children
- Inform a set of principles for regulation and practice.

Reg is chairing the review independently of Mothers' Union. The *Bye Buy Childhood* campaign will continue beyond the review, to ensure action is taken to end the commercialisation of childhood.

You can look at what the Mothers' Union does, if you have access to the Internet, by visiting their site at [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org). If you don't have a computer please go to the Library and ask the librarians to show you the site.

The life of the local branches of the Mothers' Union at parish level does not even begin to reflect what this world-wide organisation achieves, nor how seriously it is valued and listened to by government agencies.

It is a shame that so often the Mothers Union is the butt of jokes about making tea and cakes, and a real pity that the publicity machine of Mary Sumner House does not reach beyond the church to the national press. Our local experiences really do not show the Mothers Union as it is nationally and internationally.



Mothers' Union believes children should be valued as children, not consumers. Yet marketers target children's natural inexperience in order to reach the household purse.

Giving children the message that they are what they own, rather than being valued for who they are, can negatively affect their wellbeing. Nearly three-fifths of parents believe that advertising seen by children can be harmful to them. Using sex to sell to children is particularly objectionable and 80% of parents are concerned about the impact of sexualised content in television, films, magazines and the internet on their children.

Our ***Bye Buy Childhood*** campaign aims to empower families to challenge the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood through positive action.

***Join our campaign to say "bye bye" to buying childhood.***

Mothers' Union has launched this campaign in Britain and Republic of Ireland to:

- ⌘ Challenge children, their parents or guardians and wider family to think about their consumer habits
- ⌘ Empower families to address the influence of commercialisation within the home
- ⌘ Engage with the commercial world and take positive action to challenge instances of inappropriate marketing or selling
- ⌘ Hold the UK Government accountable on the pledges made in the coalition's *Programme for Government* to
  - i. address the commercialisation and sexualisation of children; and
  - ii. raise awareness amongst other political representatives across the UK and Ireland

**Visit [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org) to find our more**

# TRELLIS CONFECTIONERY

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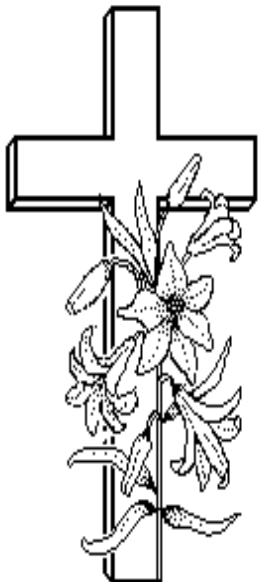
## TRELLIS HANDMADE CHOCOLATES

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## *New Zealand*

Church leaders in Christchurch, New Zealand, are ministering to the population of the city after the fatal earthquake last month, which left hundreds of people trapped under rubble, more than two hundred dead and caused the spire of the Anglican Cathedral to collapse

The Archbishop of Canterbury has written to Bishop Matthews offering his prayers: "The devastation of the Cathedral is dreadful, but, as you have said yourself, it is only a sign of the real human tragedy, whose scale is so serious.

"We thank God that you and your people are there to offer strength and comfort to all those caught up in the personal suffering this has brought . . . I know that the people of Canterbury, in particular, with their historic associations with Christchurch, will be sharing very specially in prayer for you all."

The Chapter and Community of Worcester Cathedral expressed in a statement on hearing the news that they have been "shocked by . . . the terrible loss of life."

Three of the streets nearest to the Cathedral in Christchurch are named "Worcester", "Hereford" and "Gloucester", and a message of sympathy and support has been sent to the Cathedral and city on behalf of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester Cathedrals. Worcester Cathedral has been open each day for those who are concerned about friends and loved ones to pray, to light a candle, or just to sit quietly.

## *News*

Ann John is now resident in Swn Y Môr and we wish her well in her new home;

Duncan Roberts' treatment is going well, and it was good to see him church recently;

George Ridge, Glenys Jones and Mary Roberts are all back in church after bouts of illness or accident;

Doug Gange, Val Mears and Peggy Douse are unwell and need our prayers, as do all those who receive Holy Communion at home, and who are not forgotten.



## *Mothering Sunday*

There will be a special service for Parents and children on Mothering Sunday at 3pm in the Parish Centre.

This year Mothering Sunday is 3rd April.

# *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  
01639 886740  
office@parishofaberavon.org

## **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  
01639 898537  
arees@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Margaret Williams  
01639 776503

## **St Agnes' Subwardens**

Mrs Edna Williams  
01639 886649  
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Paula Durnell  
01639 770829  
pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

## **Holy Trinity Subwardens**

Mr Mike Isaac  
01639 793501  
misaac@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Gill Davison  
01639 870528  
gdavison@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Mothers Union**

Mrs Joan Oxley  
01639 774366

## *Sunday Worship*

9.15am	Holy Eucharist St Agnes' Church Forge Road
9.15am	Holy Eucharist St Paul's Church Pendarvis Terrace
11.00am	Holy Eucharist St Mary's Church St Mary's Place
11.00am	Holy Eucharist Holy Trinity Church Fairway
6.00pm	Evening Prayer St Paul's Church Pendarvis Terrace

## *Weekday Worship*

### **Monday**

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

### **Tuesday**

10.00am	Holy Eucharist St Paul's Church Pendarvis Terrace
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### **Wednesday**

9.30am	Holy Eucharist Holy Trinity Church Fairway
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11.00am	Holy Eucharist St Mary's Church St Mary's Place
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### **Thursday**

10.00am	Holy Eucharist St Agnes' Church Forge Road
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For times of services on Holy Days please  
consult the parish website  
**[www.parishofaberavon.org](http://www.parishofaberavon.org)**

## *Baptisms & Weddings*

Please contact the Parish Office

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

**01639 886740**

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

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

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

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

**Registered Office**

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

01639 883630

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