

Newydd

60p

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

www.parishofaberavon.org

St. Paul's Centenary Year

May 2011



From the Rector

rector@parishofaberavon.org

01639 883630



I am not sure how to begin!

We have all spoken so much about what has taken place here since Palm Sunday , and we have chatted about the events that have unfolded in our midst that I feel like the first disciples talking about that first Holy Week and Easter so long ago.

The drama that has unfolded was superb: the response of the community truly wonderful, and your response as parishioners was outstanding. Alongside the drama the worship from Palm Sunday through to Easter night was brilliant, and the Archbishop was very impressed with evensong, and with what he saw taking place at the beach.

I am going to print for you two newspaper reviews in full, because I think they deserve to be read in their entirety.

This is what “The Guardian” newspaper had to say on Monday 25th April:

The once a decade passion play by the German town of Oberammergau may be the most famed around the world, but it's hard to believe any version can have the heart and soul of Port Talbot's one-off, multi-platform production, which played out over the Easter weekend. Co-directed by and starring the Welsh town's favourite son, Michael Sheen, this spectacle of angels on fiery bicycles, ghosts, snipers perched on the roof of the shopping centre, and shrines to lost futures was so much more than just an epic piece of street theatre.

Hewn with tenderness from the memories of locals, and largely performed by them – with a little help from a fine band of professional Welsh actors, and interventions from local heroes such as Paul Potts and the Manic Street Preachers – this final production in National Theatre Wales's launch season, created in collaboration with Wildworks, was like watching a town discovering its voice through a shared act of creation. Fact and fiction, myth and memory, rumour and reality, even the living and the dead stalk side by side. I'm prepared to bet that over the last three days, Port Talbot was one of the happiest places on Earth.

Beginning on Friday on Aberavon beach, Owen Sheers's story tells of a town in thrall to a sinister and heartless corporation, ICU, who puts profit before people in its quest to plunder the town's resources. But when the Company Man arrives on the beach to

make an announcement and a suicide bomber makes a move, catastrophe is only averted by the intervention of a softly spoken loner with no memory. He is later revealed as the Teacher (Sheen), a local man who 40 days earlier disappeared but who has now returned. As he gathers followers around him and becomes a focus for the Resistance, the Teacher is perceived by ICU as a danger who must be removed at all costs.

The Gospel of St Mark is the template, but everything is given a neat twist. The Last Supper takes place in the Seaside Social Club, the garden of Gethsemane is a patch of housing estate grass, God the Father becomes a roofer who knows that sometimes one slate must be sacrificed to save a whole house. The hand of Wildwork's visionary Bill Mitchell is everywhere in a show that may be on a vast scale but it understands that it is not the grand narratives but the small stories of individuals that glue the theatre and community together, and it rewards its audience's patience with a gift. This production is transforming and uplifting, and Port Talbot's future starts the very second The Passion ends.

and this is what the Western Mail had to say:

Michael Sheen's extraordinary exercise in live theatre came to an end last night after 72 hours. Arts Editor Karen Price watched him change Port Talbot in the eyes of the world

After three days of non-stop drama, Michael Sheen's The Passion came to a harrowing end last night as his modern-day Messiah was crucified on Port Talbot's seafront.

Thousands of people had followed him in procession as he carried his cross through the town, making his final poignant journey to Aberavon beach. Against a backdrop of the town's imposing steelworks, his character then met his fate in this epic contemporary retelling of the traditional Easter story.

During the 72 hours that The Passion was staged, Sheen not only pushed the boundaries of modern theatre to new limits, but also brought together a community and showcased the Welsh steel town he calls home to the world in a different light. The Passion was drama at its very best – creative, ambitious, raw, passionate and relevant. Above all, it was also accessible and inclusive.

Featuring a community cast of more than 1,000 people and bringing more than 10,000 visitors to the town from as far afield as America and Europe, as well as reaching thousands more fans across the globe through online streaming, it was one of the most ambitious cultural projects ever undertaken.

And as the sun beat down throughout the production, onlookers spoke of the way in which Sheen had changed the perception of Port Talbot forever.

"This has been the most exciting thing to have happened to Port Talbot," said

Christine McDyer, who celebrated her wedding anniversary with her husband Patrick during the reimagining of the Last Supper in the town's Social Seaside and Labour Club, which featured performances from the Manic Street Preachers and classical singer Paul Potts.

"You just don't want it to end," she added.

Hollywood actor Sheen spent two years developing *The Passion*, which was the spectacular finale to the opening year programme of National Theatre Wales. He was determined to showcase the talents of the community and prove that Port Talbot was more than just a town on the M4 corridor which is bypassed on the way to Swansea. He achieved that and so much more.

With co-director Sheen and the small principal cast staying in character for the duration of the event - which ran from Good Friday to Easter Sunday - the drama unfolded in "episodes" at locations right across Port Talbot.

The dramatic mountains, sandy beach, bustling shopping centre and even the giant concrete pillars supporting the town's bypass all provided backdrops to the action. In fact, Sheen spent the first night sleeping on the mountain and the second inside a police cell.

The story, developed by Abergavenny-raised writer Owen Sheers, centred on corrupt company ICU, fictional owners of Port Talbot, who wanted to dig up the town and create a second bypass, referred to as a "Passover", but they were met with fierce opposition from the Resistance. Meanwhile, Sheen's character - a teacher from the town who had been missing for 40 days and 40 nights - returned as a modern-day Messiah.

From the opening moments on the beach at dawn on Good Friday, when Sheen was "baptised" in the sea, to the official launch that afternoon, which saw thousands of people line the promenade, the production constantly blurred the boundaries between reality and fiction.

With cast members cleverly planted among the crowds, onlookers were often taken by surprise as the person standing next to them turned out to be one of the performers. And audience members, who included Sheen's Canadian actress girlfriend Rachel McAdams and classical singer Katherine Jenkins, were always part of the action - one moment as anti-ICU protestors during an evening rally, the next as guests at the final event at the social club (the Last Supper), which was among the buildings threatened by the new Passover.

Co-directed by Bill Mitchell of WildWorks, *The Passion* took the audience on a relentless emotional roller coaster.

There was raw anger as ICU's callous boss, wonderfully played by Hywel Simons, talked of ripping the town apart, and everyone wiped away tears as Sheen's character was brutally beaten and made to wear a crown of thorns after he was captured by the

armed ICU security men, who had the the audience looking over their shoulders all weekend.

There was some light relief at the Last Supper when spectators were guests at the venue's final gig.

As they tucked into a plentiful buffet – from chicken legs to French Fancies, which could probably have fed 5,000 – they were entertained by Potts and the Manics, who did a religious reworking of A Design For Life.

After Sheen had torn up some sandwiches to share the bread among his disciples, they took to the floor for some line-dancing, which everyone was invited to join. The Passion cleverly melded words, music and imagery and while it was a large-scale performance, it also felt intimate.

Watching an award-winning actor of Sheen's calibre perform on home territory was certainly something special, but he was careful to ensure that everyone else shone too. And watching the young performers taking their turns in the spotlight after months of rehearsal brought a lump to your throat.

Despite his impressive CV, which includes major films like The Queen, Twilight and Frost/Nixon, Sheen told the Western Mail that The Passion was "the most meaningful" project he had been involved in.

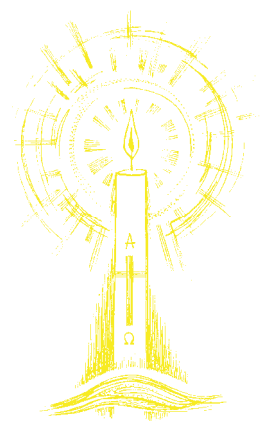
One onlooker from Port Talbot summed up the occasion with one simple sentence, saying: "If my father were alive today, he would be so proud."

Indeed, watching the drama unfold made us feel privileged to be part of such a momentous occasion.

And proud to be Welsh.

Alleluia! He is Risen!

Of tremendous significance for us was the very last phrase that ended the whole production. Having just seen Michael Sheen's teacher character wrapped in a shroud all seemed to be over; then, the Stranger (the John the Baptist type character) came and stood on the top of the stage set, took off his hat, and behold, it was the Teacher: Sheen's character was not dead but alive, and in contrast to the understanding that this was the end he bellowed for all he was worth: "It has begun!" - and that was the ending of the drama and a challenge to everyone to see how life can be transformed. Now, it is over to us.



Critics shamed

There have been critics, of course, but they have truly found themselves outnumbered by the many thousands of people who came to be a part of this event.

The critics also find themselves set apart by their sheer ignorance of what has taken place.

Urging people not to take part, and condemning that about which they actually knew nothing at all, they have appeared to be foolish and inept.

No-one who saw the story unfold and who has any Biblical knowledge could have failed to recognize the stories of redemption that were told in a modern way. And no-one with a sense of history could have failed to see the classic workings of the Medieval Mystery Plays unraveling on the streets of a 21st Century town, watched by the eyes of the **world**.

Opportunities grasped

This was a once in a life time chance for the Church to be on the streets as well. And you took that chance firmly by the hand.

St Mary's saw literally thousands of people outside it, and many hundreds come in.

The banners that fly from the towers are a superb testimony to what we stand for,

and everyone who visited spoke warmly about the welcome they received.

Fr Matthew, Jane and I are so very proud of you all for your support and your hard work.

On returning home on Easter night from the seafront I sat down and sent an email to the production team on our behalf. It said:

It is Easter night and it's almost midnight and I have just got home. I could not go to bed and then take five days off without sending you this.

First, let me tell you that the Archbishop was impressed.

Words cannot really describe what has happened in Port Talbot in this last week, but especially over the last three days. The project has had an immense affect on people, and I know that so many, many **many** people are enormously grateful to have been able to be a part of it.

The actual story telling was amazing; the narrative, the play on words, the dramatic effects, the use of music, all of it combined to produce great results. The biblical themes and portrayals were very moving, and though The Teacher was not Jesus he bore a remarkable similarity!

On Friday and Saturday at St Mary's we gave away over 460 copies of St Luke's Gospel to visitors: we gave away over 700 bottles of water in the last three days, and welcomed many more people into the building. Some had stories to tell, and we

were pleased to be able to listen: but I will share one with you. A young man came into the church on Friday in deep distress, and crying pitifully. I won't go into detail because in a small town like this word gets around and people can be identified. He was in a crisis situation, and on the verge of committing a serious offence. He left determined not to carry on with his plans. On Sunday evening he brought his young daughter to see the procession outside St Mary's. He has had time to rethink and re-evaluate.

After the scene at the beach tonight people started asking how they could learn more about Jesus!

But more than all of that, you have given a sense of unity, a sense of purpose and a sense of belonging to an awful lot of people. You have offered them a renewed sense of worth. To use the technical jargon of the day, you have engaged in capacity building within the community, and you have succeeded more than anyone could have imagined was possible.

Thank you.

Lastly, when I contacted you originally with my deep concerns, you came and listened: you responded to our initial concerns; you have borne in mind all that I spoke with you about, and we are so very grateful.

Wherever I go, and people are speaking about all of you, they use four words: gracious, accessible, generous and gentle. You have so much to be proud of, and you have made this Easter one that will never be forgotten by the Anglican Church in Aberavon, and by thousands of others.

I hope you can all now have a well-earned rest.

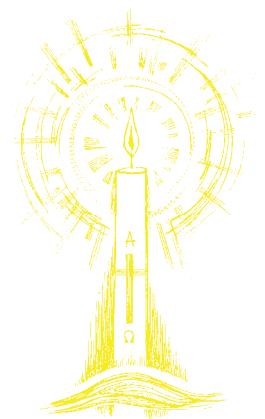
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

My hope, indeed, is that you all now have a well earned rest - because you truly deserve it.

With my prayers and good wishes

Nigel Canice

Fr Nigel



From the Registers

The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian Funeral:



Alan Heycock

Cynthia Painter

Moira Harris

George Davies

Audrey Toomey

David John Thomas

Peggy Doust

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

Baptisms

Please pray for
Molly Joan Ellinsworth



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

Communicant figures for March 2011

6th	139
13th	135
20th	141
27th	124

New Lights at the Parish Centre

New lights have been installed outside the Parish Centre, these are dusk to dawn lights which are on for the safety of those using the building and security for the night time. They may come on in the daytime if it is overcast and a very dull day.

200 Club

The winner for March at Holy Trinity was Hettie Wilson, and at St Mary's was Brenda Hazel.

St Agnes' Manyfold

The winners for March are George Forrest, Diane Jenkins & Christine Matthews.

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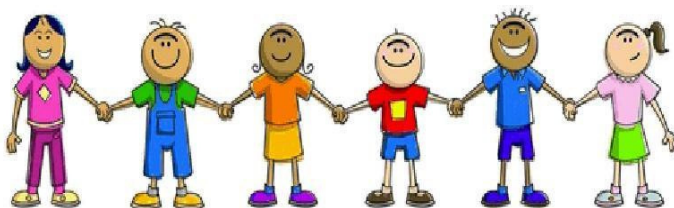
You drink - we drive

At the St Mary's Parish Centre

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

Congratulations

To Mr. Dennis Fowler who celebrated his 80th birthday on 28th April.

Quiz with Buffet

St Agnes' are hosting a Quiz with Buffet on Wednesday 4th May at 7pm. Tickets £3.50, available from each Church. Bring your own drinks. All welcome.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

In the light of all that we have done to be involved with The Passion, it has been decided to postpone this event, which deserves more time and effort to make it work properly.

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.

Friends of Holy Trinity

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 11th May at 7pm in Church to discuss the setting up of a Friends of Holy Trinity. All are welcome.

Friends of St Agnes

The Friends of St Agnes Church will be holding an evening's entertainment of "What's my line?" at St Agnes Church on Wednesday 18th May commencing at 7pm, followed with Cheese and Wine. Tickets are £5, available from Church.

Quiz with Nibbles

All are warmly invited to a Quiz with Nibbles on Friday 20th May at 7pm at the Parish Centre. Tickets £3.50, available from each Church. Bring your own drinks.

Lent giving

Congratulations to all who supported the lunches and the coffee and tea cakes events held throughout Lent. We raised £868.70 for USPG which is a truly wonderful start.

Now it's time to return your Lent Boxes please, so we can get off the cheque as quickly as possible.

Town Festival

Neath Port Talbot Festival hold their Fiesta Day on Saturday 28th May in town, where we shall be having Benefice Tables. We need lots of home made cakes, pasties etc. This is another great opportunity.

Thanks

Jeff and Dorothy John wish to thank everyone for their best wishes on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary which was on 25th March

St Paul's Centenary Celebrations

There will be a Benefice Mass at 10.30am at St Paul's, on Sunday 5th June when the preacher will be Bishop David Wilbourne. Mass will be followed by lunch at Blanco's.

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 June 2011 19th May

and for items sent by email directly to the Rector:

For June 2011 25th May

Schools Concert for Christian Aid

The Benefice is holding a concert in St Mary's on Tuesday 24th May to help raise funds for Christian Aid.

Local primary schools will be performing from 6.30pm and we hope to have the church open from about 5.30pm for people to come in.

As well as raising money for Christian Aid, this could be a great way to get involved with the Town Festival, other than having a stall at the Fiesta Day.

Just a thought

By Simon Burton



Those who know me will know that I am not a vegetarian! I enjoy beef, lamb, pork, venison, chicken, pheasant, rabbit and have even eaten rook, pigeon and hedgehog.

But you don't have to be a vegetarian to object to cruelty to animals, and cruelty in the way our food is produced. I don't have a conscience about eating animal flesh, but I do have concerns that there should be no cruelty in the rearing and slaughter of these beasts .

Over the years there have been many issues raised about the breeding of chickens and turkeys, and in the USA there is a huge concern about the way cattle are bred for food production. So many animals live in conditions that should make us ashamed, just to provide us with meat for the table.

Reading the Church Times on the 18th March I read a letter from the Bishop of Monmouth about the production of foie gras.

The geese and ducks are force fed in small cages in which they do not have room to turn round in. A tube is put down their throats and up to 2kg. of grain forced straight into their stomachs. This causes their livers to swell up to 10 times their normal size, and many birds become too sick to stand or hold up their heads.

I have never eaten foie gras, as it has always been too expensive, but after reading the Bishop's letter, even if I won the lottery I would NEVER buy it. This is cruelty just for the sake of profit and I personally cannot see how any Christian could condone this barbarism by buying foie gras. Prince Charles has banned the use of foie gras by his chefs, and there was some very bad publicity recently when his wife ordered some in a restaurant!

The Bishop of Monmouth said in his Church Times letter that this is something to give up not just for Lent but forever. And I couldn't agree more.

Messages of thanks

From Margaret Williams:

To everyone for their cards, flowers and gifts on the occasion of my 70th birthday.

From Ken Tucker:

My mother Doreen Tucker recently celebrated her 90th birthday. As a lifelong member of St Mary's [even though ill health had prevented her attending Church recently] she would like to pass on the following message via the Parish Magazine.

Doreen Tucker wishes to thank the many friends from the Parish who sent her cards, gifts, flowers and chocolates on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Her day began with a visit from close family and the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot Councillor Lella James who presented her with a beautiful plate bearing the Borough Coat of Arms. A special thanks goes to those from St Mary's who visited her on her birthday and made her special day even more memorable.

From Sandra Jones:

Sincere thanks to everyone who sent get well wishes, telephone calls and gifts during my recent illness. I have to undergo some further treatment and hope to be back 'in circulation' in the not too distant future. Meanwhile special thanks to Fr. Nigel for his visits and prayers and also Fr. Matthew.

From Barbara Townsend:

To my dear friends in the Benefice,
I would like to thank all my friends in the Benefice for their kind thoughts, prayers, cards and flowers during the recent sad loss of my husband Byron. My gratitude to Fr. Nigel, Fr. Matthew and Jane and all my friends in St Mary's for the support they have given me these last few years throughout Byron's illness, it was a great help and comfort to me.

You have given

to Traidcraft	£136.45
to Biblelands	£144.00
to the Japan appeal	£413.60

You have received

from the Diocesan Mission Fund	£3000.00
from the Diocesan Missioner	£500.00
from the Archbishop's Mission Fund	£500.00

Thank you all very much.

**Give, and it shall be given back;
good measure,
pressed down,
running down,
will be placed over,
For the measure you give
will be the measure you receive.**

The Friends of St Mary's

Way back in November when I was asked to join the Friend's of St Mary's committee, little did I think that we would soon be embarking on a launch party to make St. Mary proud! I am overwhelmed with the support that has been shown for our fledgling group, and for that I thank you all, but, once again I am calling on you to come out in your millions and support our first event - our Launch Night!

Therefore on behalf of the Friend's of St. Mary's committee, I would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite you all to our launch night on May 6th 2011 at 7.30pm in the church. It will be an evening to gather together to enjoy soloist Naomi Morris and Tonna Male Voice Choir. There will be light refreshments on the evening, and it is an open door event, with no charge, so come along with family and friends and enjoy. This will be the first occasion in our programme of events, and details of these will be available on the evening. We aim to gather our community together in fellowship and to realise the full potential of the building we call home.

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Daily Scripture Readings

9 th May 2011	Acts 6: 8-15	John 6: 22-29
10 th May 2011	Acts 7: 51 – 8: 1	John 6: 30-35
11 th May 2011	Acts 8: 1-8	John 6: 35-40
12 th May 2011	Acts 8: 26-40	John 6: 44-51
13 th May 2011	Acts 9: 1-20	John 6: 52-59
14 th May 2011	Acts 1: 15-17. 20-26	John 15: 9-17
16 th May 2011	Acts 11: 1-18	John 10: 1-10
17 th May 2011	Acts 11: 19-26	John 10: 22-30
18 th May 2011	Acts 12: 24 – 13: 5	John 12: 44-50
19 th May 2011	Acts 13: 13-25	John 13: 16-20
20 th May 2011	Acts 13: 26-33	John 14: 1-6
21 st May 2011	Acts 13: 44-52	John 14: 7-14
23 rd May 2011	Acts 14: 5-18	John 14: 21-26
24 th May 2011	Acts 14: 19-28	John 14: 27-31
25 th May 2011	Acts 15: 1-6	John 15: 1-8
26 th May 2011	Acts 15: 7-21	John 15: 9-11
27 th May 2011	Acts 15: 22-31	John 15: 12-17
28 th May 2011	Acts 16: 1-10	John 15: 18-21
30 th May 2011	Acts 16: 11-15	John 15: 26 – 16: 4
31 st May 2011	Zephaniah 3: 14-18	Luke 1: 39-56
1 st June 2011	Acts 17: 15. 22 – 18: 1	John 16: 12-15
2 nd June 2011	Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24: 46-53
3 rd June 2011	Acts 18: 9-18	John 16: 20-23
4 th June 2011	Acts 18: 23-28	John 16: 23-28

More Daily Scripture Readings

Quiz with Buffet

All are welcome to a Quiz with Buffet on Wednesday 4th May at 7pm at St Agnes Church. Tickets £3.50, available from each church. Bring your own drinks.

Launch of Friend's of St. Mary's

The Launch of the Friend's of St Mary's Church will take place on Friday 6th May, in church at 7pm

Dates for the diary

What's My Line, a Friends of St Agnes' fund raiser : May 18th 7pm

24th May Schools concert for Christian Aid at St Mary's at 6.30pm

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

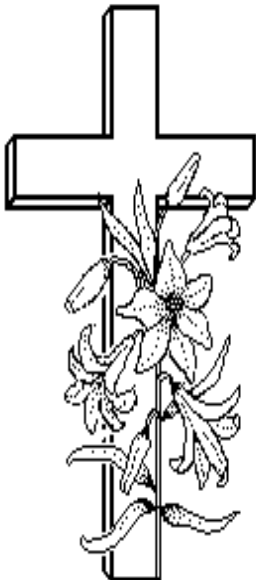
**Fibromyalgia Support Group
South Wales**

***hold meetings regularly at Saint Mary's Centre
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Yvonne Singleton 01639 681468 or Linda Cardy 01639 769097



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Fr Matthew writes

I don't know about you but I can't seem to find much time to read books for pleasure. Holidays become my opportunity to go onto to Amazon.co.uk and order a stack of paperbacks which I then work my way through. A few years ago one of the books I took away with me was 'Shadows of the Workhouse' by Jennifer Worth.

In 'Shadows of the Workhouse', Jennifer Worth tells of the experiences of people whose lives had been affected by the workhouses in the 19th and 20th centuries.

What is quite compelling about the book is the way in which the expected tale of a harsh, hopeless life is actually balanced by the community spirit fostered by these institutions. Jennifer Worth writes of a District Nurse who worked out of a convent in one of the poorest areas of what we now know as London Docklands. Nursing and delivering babies in Poplar brought this nurse into contact with people who were dealt no good cards in life, yet made the most out of their poor and simple lives.

The one thing that shines through the lives of these London residents was their deep sense of community. Yes, the workhouses were undoubtedly harsh and unforgiving places, but they did provide an option for the poor and destitute. The buildings, which inevitably housed far more people than they were designed

for, added to this sense of community. The tenement buildings had balconies which faced onto a courtyard where people met, exchanged gossip, even had the odd disagreement.

If you drive to one of the tower blocks in Cardiff Bay or any other urban area, the balconies face outwards, rather than inwards. Now privacy is no bad thing, but have we pursued it at the expense of fostering community? Have we become so obsessed with the individual that we have lost our sense of community?

Moving to the Benefice of Aberavon, I find myself living on the Sandfields and enjoying the distinct sense of community. People started coming up to me to introduce themselves and have a chat.

Over the course of the last thirty years I have lived in some villages where a sense of community is almost tangible and others where there appears to be no community spirit. From the earliest times people have have either readily or begrudgingly accepted their need for community. Individuals have unique strengths and talents, things we can offer, but we also have weaknesses and things we can't do. Recognising this reality and celebrating it allows us to enter into a community where some teach, some practice medicine (or worse, dentistry), some sing, some draw, some play football, some minister and other offer what they can.

In the book of Genesis where we discover how God created the world, we see the detail and diversity of creation. How land and sea, earth and sky, man and woman complement each other and allow life to be lived. Community offers us the the opportunity to live life more fully.

One of our great strengths in the Benefice is our sense of community. The Benefice's involvement in Michael Sheen's 'Passion' is a recent example of how we are seeking to engage with the wider community. The wonderful service we had to pray for the production was a visible sign of the community gathering together. How powerful and moving it was to see our community gathering in worship. One of the things the passion has already achieved is an awareness in church and community of the breath of people working to build our community. Representatives carried candles representing Barnardos, the RNLI, local choirs and many more.



I want to affirm what we are already doing in terms of engaging as church with the community around us. I want to say 'we're doing a great job' and we need to keep going!

So let's be prayerful and aware of the opportunities God gives us to play our part in our local communities. If the church is at the centre of the community, then we are truly walking with Jesus. The example of the Gospel is that Jesus travelled to towns and villages and got stuck in. He didn't detach himself from the communities he was in but demonstrated the love of God in a powerful way. This is our challenge in this benefice, to be the face of God in our towns and communities.

Matthew Trichy

Fr Matthew

Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys

Saturday May 14, 2011

*Rhondda Fach Sports Centre
East Street
Tylorstown
Rhondda*



12 noon

Concelebrated Sung Mass*

Preacher: Bishop Lindsay Urwin

Administrator of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

2.30 pm

Pilgrim Prayers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
followed by Prayers and Liturgy of Healing at the Shrine

*Priest Associates of the Shrine OLW are invited to concelebrate

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for your devotion
during lunch time.

Children's and Youth Activities and Festival Fun from 10.30 am and
throughout the day. Licensed Bar during lunchtime Refreshments
available, My Pilgrim Shop

*Anyone want to go? It's closer than Walsingham!
Let Jennifer Lewis or Paula Durnell know.*

Condon Funeral Service



Funeral directors

John Condon M.B.I.E.

Michael Condon M.B.I.E.

**Glanafan Court Funeral Home
48-50 Margam Road,
Port Talbot
SA13 2BN**

01639 883688

01639 885452

24 hour service

Support, care
and reassurance
when it matters most





With only ten minutes to go the Rector's zip wouldn't budge!

Thursday 5th May

Yet another in service training day has been arranged for a Thursday, and on this occasion Fr Matthew is also on holiday at the time. So there will be no mass at St Agnes' on Thursday 5th May - BUT there will be a service of prayers and readings led by Simon Burton, one of our Lay Readers. So you can still go to church and enjoy your fellowship and coffee afterwards.



STOP PURSE DIPPING NOW!!!!!!



To avoid being a victim of a purse or handbag theft please follow the preventive measures and discourage the purse snatchers.

H

old your handbag close to your body or use a bag with a long handle and carry it with the strap across your shoulder.

A

void writing your pin number down and] **DO NOT** keep a copy of it in your purse.

N

ever leave your bag unattended, in your shopping trolley or on a pushchair. Keep your bag where you can see it.

D

o only keep items in your bag that you need. Leave other valuables at home. Keep your keys separately from you bag.

B

e aware of what is going on around you when you open your handbag or purse. Keep the bag closed and zip fastened at all times.

A

lways try to keep your purse close to your body or carry it in a concealed front pocket.

G

et advice from you local Community Safety Team. Ring 01639 889161 for a **FREE** Anti Theft Pack

**AVOID THE HEARTACHE
LOOK AFTER YOUR PURSE**



*Good Advice
from South Wales Police*

from the Area Dean

Dear Chapter and Deanery Officers,

I have just been able to book the Margam Area Deanery Conference for:

Monday 27th June 2011 at St. Theodore's Port Talbot

7.00 p.m. Mass, followed by coffee etc. in the Parish Hall

Business meeting to commence at 8.00 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. Richard Jones, Diocesan Stewardship & Resources Officer who will be introducing us to three new stewardship resources and bringing materials for us.

Please book the date in your diary and please let your parish representatives know.

Thank you and best wishes,

Fr. Colin.

Was it a Wednesday?

I was fascinated to read that a Cambridge academic believes that the Last Supper took place on the Wednesday, not the Thursday, before Christ's crucifixion. Professor Sir Colin Humphreys, a materials scientist, says in his book *The Mystery of the Last Supper* that he has solved what he describes as "one of the thorniest problems in the New Testament": how Christ's arrest, interrogation. and trial before two separate courts could possibly have all happened in the hours before Friday morning.

He says he has used "science and the Gospels hand in hand" to prove that there is no contradiction with the assertions of Matthew, Mark, and Luke that the Last Supper was a meal marking the start of the Passover. He suggests that Jesus used a different calendar from the one conventionally accepted by Jews at the time.

I don't know about you, but I think that often the simplest explanations are the best. Maybe they just stayed up all night: and on Friday morning took Jesus to Pilate who then sent him to his death.

What I do know, though, is that it happened. It was followed by the resurrection, and it all changed the world. And that's what the Church has always called a mystery!

Fr Nigel.

Parish Directory

Rector

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Forge Road,
Port Talbot
SA13 1US

01639 883630

rector@parishofaberavon.org

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Porthcawl,
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deacon@parishofaberavon.org

The Reverend Matthew Trick
Holy Trinity House
Fairway
Port Talbot
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curate@parishofaberavon.org

The Benefice Wardens

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pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Elizabeth Jones

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The Parish Readers

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Mr Simon Burton

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The Parish Treasurer

Mr Michael Howe

01639 794138

treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

The Parish Office

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office@parishofaberavon.org

St Mary's Subwardens

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mccarthy@parishofaberavon.org

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lbeckett@parishofaberavon.org

St Paul's Subwardens

Mrs Ann Rees

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ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John

01639 887030

Holy Trinity Subwardens

Mr Walter Wheeler

01639 773208

Mrs Gill Davison

01639 870528

gdavison@parishofaberavon.org

The Mothers Union

Mrs Joan Oxley

01639 774366

Sunday Worship

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

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

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

01639 883630

rector@parishofaberavon.org