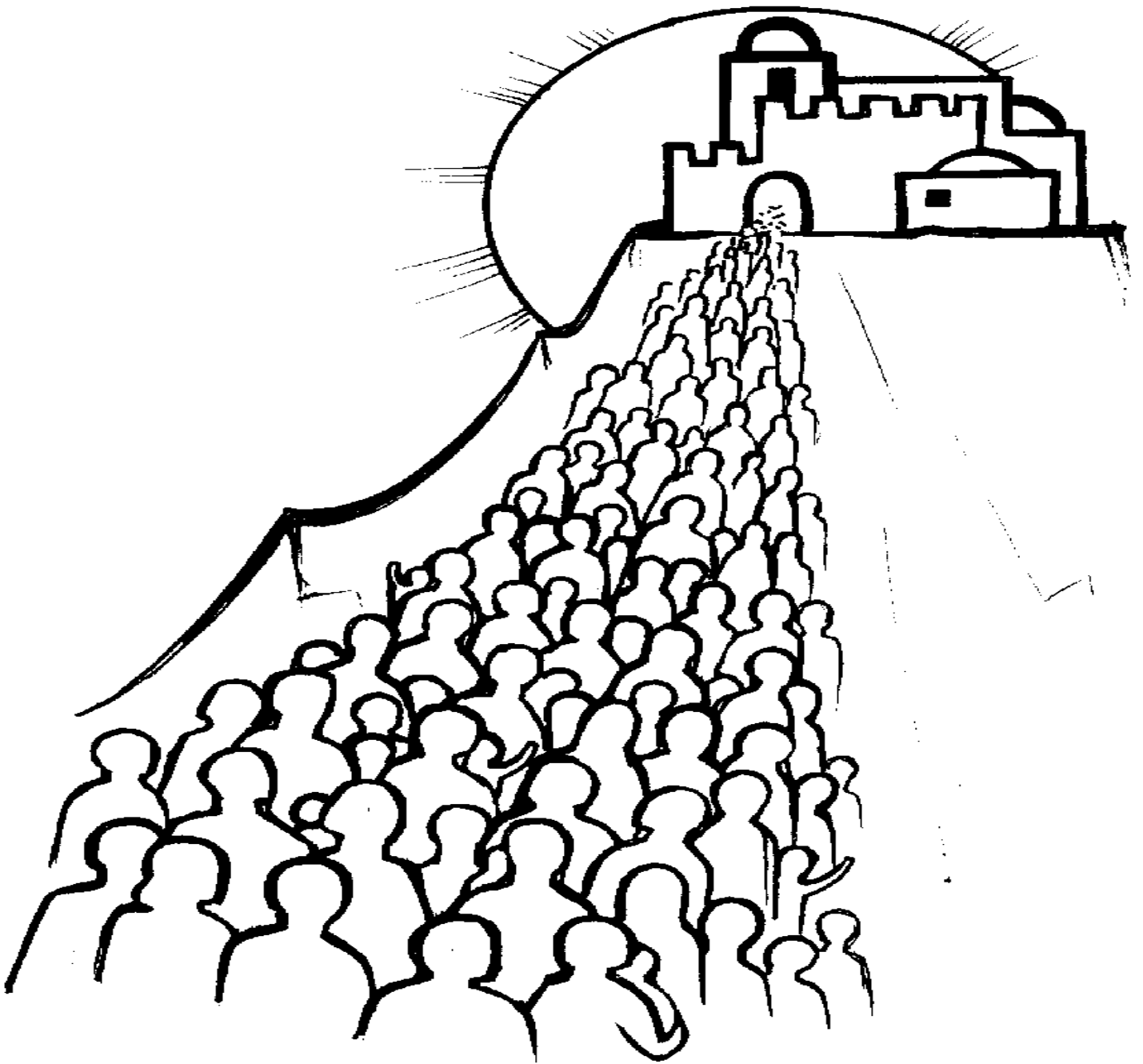


Newydd

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

November 2008

60p



The Rectorial Parish of Aberavon

www.parishofaberavon.org

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883630

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

rector@parishofaberavon.org

The Team Vicar

892306

The Reverend Anthony Cockram
The Vicarage, 44, Ynys-y-Gored, Port Talbot, SA13 2EB

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The Parish Deacon

01656 784840

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

deacon@parishofaberavon.org

The Benefice Wardens

Mr Len Jones (also Parish Reader) 898939

ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Paula Durnell (also Parish Treasurer) 770829

pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

office hours only

886740

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

The Parish Office is open on

Mondays

from 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday

from 10am to 1pm

Thursday

from 12pm to 3pm

Weddings and Baptisms

To arrange a wedding or baptism please call the Parish Office on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday at the times above

From the Rectory



Remember remember
the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.

I see no reason
why gunpowder, treason
Should ever be forgot.

ordering its
commemoration was
removed from the
laws of England and Wales.

Days such as this are very much a
part of our life as human beings,
and every culture
throughout the
world has its special
days that are
cherished because
of what they teach
about history,
religion or
community life in
general.

Thus run the
lines that for
centuries have
reminded us of
the 1605 plot
to blow up the
Houses of
Parliament and
so kill the King
and his lords
who would not
allow the open practice of Roman
Catholicism.



The 'Gunpowder Plot' conspirators
Starting with Thomas Bates, Robert Wintour,
Christopher Wright, John Wright, Thomas Percy, Guy
Fawkes, Robert Catesby and Thomas Wintour

The commemoration of the event
was ordered by Parliament as a day
to give thanks and rejoice that the
plot had been foiled, and in 1606
King and Parliament commissioned
a sermon to be preached on this
day each year - the first being
delivered by the Bishop of
Chichester, Lancelot Andrewes.

It was this sermon that defined how
the event would be commemorated
for the next four hundred years,
though in the latter part of the 19th
Century the Act of Parliament

From this year on we will have
special cause to remember the 5th
November as the day Fr Matthew is
licensed as parish priest of Treharris
- and because of its association
with such a long standing tradition
as the 'gunpowder plot' we will
never find it difficult to remember
on what day that service took
place.

Similarly, religion has its special
days. It became essential, in the
early years of the Christian faith, to
move away from the Jewish
ancestry and the law that said:
"Remember the sabbath day, and keep it

holy." (Exodus 20 v8).

The Jews still keep Saturday as their Sabbath day, so that they might remember the day of rest that God instituted at the beginning of time. Muslims and others keep Friday as their holy day. But for the Christian it is Sunday, and in our Christianisation of the ten commandments of Exodus 20 we chose to interpret the sabbath day as now meaning for us Sunday - the day when Jesus rose from the dead and so brought about a change in humanity that was to be eternal and profound in its effect.

In the latter years of the 20th Century the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher wished to reform the Sunday trading laws that were very much out of date, as well as remove legislation that blocked the power of trade on Sundays, and thus prevented people from fully enjoying the benefits of a day of leisure in a modern consumerist society. Despite the attempts of the "Keep Sunday Special" campaign the law was changed, and a compromise was reached that shops over a certain size could open for no more than six hours of trading. The major concession to the Christian churches was that



none of these shops is allowed to open on Easter Day.

It would be a nonsense to suggest that it is only since this relaxation of the laws on Sunday trading that people have stopped coming to church on a Sunday, but it would be equally silly to believe that it has had no impact upon attendances - especially in the run up to Christmas when people want extra time to go shopping.

We choose to do with our time whatever pleases us the most, and sadly we choose not to come to church on Sundays for a variety of reasons that are often as nonsensical as blaming Sunday trading for the decline in church attendance, which had already begun many years ago.

It is inconceivable that the Jew would give up Saturday as the Sabbath, or the Muslim a Friday as their principal day of prayer. And yet as Christians we excuse ourselves from the regular, frequent and essential commemoration of the Resurrection of Jesus for reasons which are simply ludicrous, and upon which our forefathers would pour scorn.

Underlying our commitment to **Sunday** worship is the relationship we have with Jesus Christ. To pass

off his invitation to the altar on a *Sunday* is to relegate our relationship with him to a position lower than that of many of our friends. And we excuse ourselves with an air of indignity when questioned about Sunday attendance, because we know deep down that we are actually wrong, and that excuses are a poor substitution for genuine and real commitment to the Lord.

And whilst all of this is true week in and week out throughout the Anglican churches of the United Kingdom, never is it more prevalent that when we are on holiday.

To be separated from the altar on a Sunday can be unavoidable - for example in a Muslim country where there is no local Christian church, or when travelling in an aeroplane or ship that is in transit during the whole of a Sunday. Sickness can separate us from the altar on Sundays for long periods of our life, and sudden emergencies that occur in every home from time to time might also prevent our coming to receive Holy Communion. Genuine problems with transport can mean that we are unable to get to a church despite our earnest desire to be there. But these are the **exceptions** to the rule that we make every effort to keep **our** holy day - **our** 'sabbath' as a day

of rejoicing that Jesus rose from the dead for us.

Too many of us have such a lax attitude to Sunday worship that it is really no wonder that we cannot make people see how our religion is meaningful and necessary. We give the impression it is something we pick up and put down at our convenience. And for most of us that is definitely not what we have been taught in our youth, and not the example set by our parents and grandparents.

There is a real need for us all to take this seriously. It is about far more than the future of the Church - though that in itself is serious enough - it is about our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and our true commitment to him as Lord and Saviour.

To the often asked question: *why don't people go to church on Sunday anymore?* we need to find an honest answer that includes me and you. Why don't we go to church on Sundays? What sort of Christians are we?

With every good wish

Nigel Canine

Fr Nigel

Advent Conversations

The Archbishop invites you to join him for worship and an informal chat as we prepare for Christmas.

Mulled wine, mince pies and café-style worship are the order of the night, and there are three venues you could attend:

Williams Memorial Hall
Coychurch
Wednesday 3rd December

St John Baptist High School
Aberdare
Wednesday 10th December

Bishop of Llandaff High School
Cardiff
Wednesday 17th December

All begin at 7pm, but places need to be booked, so please put your names on the list at the back of each church and tick which venue you will attend. We will see about lifts etc when we know who wants to go.

This is your chance to ask any questions you want: the Archbishop has no agenda for the meetings other than to respond to your conversation.

Autumn Fair

St Paul's Church Committee invite you to their Autumn Fair at the Church Hall on Friday 7th November at 7 pm. Tickets are £2 and include Tea or Coffee and a Mince Pie, available from the Committee. All are welcome.

Leave of absence

St Agnes has no permanent organist for the moment, as Anne Griffiths is unable to play whilst her sight is so bad. Hopefully an operation later this month will help to relieve the problem. We wish her well.

Out for lunch

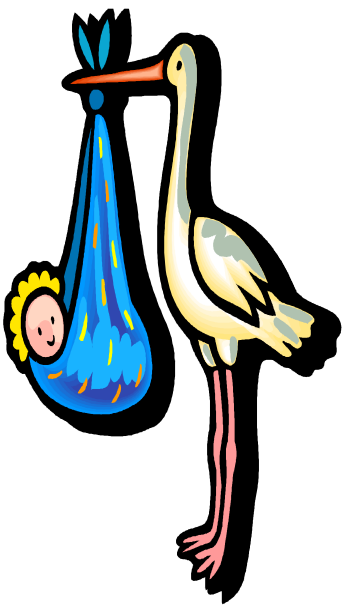
St Agnes' congregation invite you to lunch at La Memo on Sunday 30th November, and St Mary's congregation to lunch in the hall on Sunday 7th December.

If you want to go please put your name on the list at the back of church or phone Liz Jones on 794559 for St Agnes' and Christine Morris on 774982 for St Mary's.

Congratulations:

to Len Jones who celebrated his 65th Birthday in October;
to Barbara Morris on the occasion of her 75th birthday, and to Arthur Roberts, who was 80 at the beginning of November;

to Christine and Brian Morris who celebrate their pearl wedding anniversary this month and Paula and Steve Durnell whose silver wedding was on 22nd October;



to Cerys & Gareth Mills on the birth of their new baby, Emily, who will be baptised later this month;

to Vanessa (who sings regularly in the St Mary's choir and whose son Joseph is the young bass at the back) and family on the birth of a daughter, Jessica. The choir says:

"Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Vanessa, David, Joseph a James a Chroeso i Jessica."

to Liz and Colin Jones who have just become grandparents to Carys, born in Canada last month to proud parents Mark and Lynsey.

Saint Mary's Grand Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for Saint Mary's Grand Raffle, the 1st prize is £100, 2nd prize a Luxury Hamper, 3rd prize a tin of Chocolates and we have various other prizes. Tickets cost 25p each or £1 a book of four, so why not buy a ticket and give yourself a chance to win that £100 just in time for Christmas, available from the Fun Raising Committee. Don't forget, you've got to be in it to win it. Tickets will also be on sale in the Shopping Centre in the week of 11th November.

It's only just begun.....

by Fr Anthony

The first service in the new Holy Trinity took place on July 20th 2008, and the building was packed.

After the opening service we started to store quite a few of our beautiful new chairs in their specially designed cupboard , but soon found that we had to get many of them out again for regular use!

The church is much more visible now, and much more attractive too. It has been absolutely great to welcome back a continuing trickle of old faces as well as a number of new friends.

Some of the local children visited us, perhaps out of curiosity during the latter stages of the final preparation days, and several of them have stuck with us.



Our own little George Quick was the first to be baptised in the New Church and it was a truly wonderful occasion . George has been a great inspiration to all of us, and always says "thank you" after he's come up for a blessing at Sunday Eucharist. Pretty good for a three year old, don't you think?! And we are all learning a great deal about Thomas, James , Henry , The Fat Controller and general railway life, as he instructs us from his vast store of knowledge.

George's baptism was quickly followed by Isabella's and it's a great privilege to see how important her family are taking the promises which they made, especially as Isabella remembers that Fr Anthony got her wet , and cries every time that she sees him!

Mike Isaac has mastered the intricacies of the roof ventilation and the electronic blinds, and most of us can now set the door alarm. Fr Mathew was unfortunately rather heavily disturbed during the very early days and there can be little doubt

that he is pleased at the way in which our leaning curve has shaped up!

The kitchen, although small, is fully functional. Apart from its regular use for coffee and cakes on Wednesday, it has also responded magnificently to the challenges of the Luncheon Club. We can sit 30 people down, to eat and drink in the narthex, and the catering team have honed their operational skills to perfection over the past two months. The way in which they utilise their space is enough to make sub-mariners envious, but soon we will need to expand social gatherings into the Church itself. Money has been found to complete the small garden between the Church and Holy Trinity House, to erect the sadly necessary security fence and to purchase and install both a loop system as well as the electronic mechanism necessary to ring the re-cycled old church bell.


Our Open Day on 6th September was well attended, and it was good to be able to point out to our visitors so much of the new church content which had been recycled from the old building. The new wooden furniture has all been beautifully crafted from old pew wood by our dear friend "Jeff the Joiner", and looks truly magnificent.

So, we were ready for the great day when Archbishop Barry arrived to consecrate our New Church - and what a wonderful day that was.

Sunday September 28th 2008 was all that we could wish for. Even the sun was shining! We managed to provide seats for just over 140 people, and at the final count we could have accommodated at least 20 people who kindly made their communion earlier in the day in order to relieve place pressure.

Archbishop Barry presided at the Eucharist con-celebrated by Fr Nigel, Fr Anthony, Fr Mathew, Fr Andrew Tweed, Fr Steven Kirk, and assisted by our deacon, Jane. The sanctuary also accommodated five servers, and we were all able to breathe in, but only just!

The consecration stone from the old church had been fitted into the sanctuary wall, and it was moving in a very special way, to watch the Archbishop sign it with the oil of Chrism.

Gill and Joan had organised the celebration lunch at the Aberavon Hotel with military precision, and there was no way in which you could escape eating exactly what you had ordered! They are to be thanked and 

congratulated for their enormous effort and attention to detail. Work which ensured that our day of celebration continued through the afternoon, until its completion after some fine singing by the Port Talbot Cymric Choir. Again "Jeff the Joiner" is to be thanked for his efforts in organising this treat.

Susan and Fr Anthony were both moved and speechless at the beautiful gift with which the congregation of Holy Trinity presented them, and as soon as the latest diet is over, the single malt Welsh Whisky will be savoured with delight!

A wonderful day, a wonderful eight weeks, a wonderful three years, and truly wonderful Christian friends who richly deserve all the blessings which they have received. Blessings which, in the words of Archbishop Barry, will surely renew us all for the continuing mission of God's Church in Sandfields.



Joined together in marriage

Please pray for
Karl Stewart Robins
and Hannah Mandi
Minto



who were married last
month at St Mary's.

May God richly bless their life
together.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be only one service on
9th November, and that will be at St
Mary's at 10.30am.

Note the change of time to
accommodate a two minutes
silence.

A member from every congregation
will bring forward a wreath to lay at
the High Altar, and there will be a
special act of commemoration and
dedication.

Thanks

Barbara Morris would like to thank
everyone for their kind gifts and
cards on the occasion of her 75th
birthday last month.

Fr Matthew's address

The Reverend Matthew Gibbon
The Vicarage
13 The Oaks
Pentwyn
Quakers Yard
Treharris
CF46 5HQ

Choir

This is a busy time for the St Mary's
Choir as we prepare for
Remembrance Sunday when we
hope to sing an Anthem by John
Ireland based on the words
"Greater love hath no man than to
lay down his life for his friends".
This anthem is to be found on most
Cathedral Musicc lists for that day -
so who needs to go to Westminster
Abbey when you can hear it all in St
Mary's. !?!?!?

Howell Price

St Agnes' Cake



Fr Matthew presents Alison Murray with a cake donated and made by Ann Williams, who painted a picture of the church on the cake.

Alison very kindly cut up the cake and sent some of it to church to share with parishioners at coffee the following Sunday, and it was delicious.

Many thanks to all who bought tickets - we raised £137 for the Building Fund.

Thanks also to Ann Williams for her kindness.

Mary Jones

Christmas Cards

On Sunday 14th December you are invited to bring one Christmas card to your usual place of worship and place it on a special notice board, making a donation to the work of the Church Army Hostel for young single homeless people in Cardiff at the same time.



This is a very worthwhile project, and we can use the money we save from sending cards to people we see at least once a week to help those who are not fortunate enough to know security and love.

Use Scout post to save money: see page 23

In sickness

As well as remembering in our prayers those who regularly receive Holy Communion at home we send good wishes to Alan Davies, John Wilson and Shelia O'Callaghan.

Sheila has been in hospital recently and John and Alan are at home.

Christmas Bazaar

Holy Trinity Church will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday November 29th. The Bazaar will be opened by the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot at 12 noon and will run through the afternoon until 4 pm. A refreshment stall will be available and all of the usual attractions of Autumn Fayres will be on offer. Homemade produce, bottle stalls, gentle music through the services of our professional DJ, a gigantic raffle and delights too numerous to mention.

But this Bazaar will also have a different dimension.

You will be dazed, and your breath will be taken away when you see the specially designed and hand crafted Christmas selection. Hand stitched and embroidered seasonal items which are already being snapped up and pre-ordered by amazed members of the congregation. A special stall will sell items which are unobtainable elsewhere, and there can be little doubt that when word gets out, the pressure on our design and manufacturing team to pre-sell their produce will be enormous.



But there is no need to worry. They will withstand the attack in order to ensure that everyone will get the same opportunity to buy all of their limited stock on the day of the Bazaar. So make a date in your diary now. Don't miss this event, it may never be repeated.

Fr Anthony

Coffee Morning with Festive Stalls

Everyone is invited to come along to our Coffee Morning with Festive Stalls and Grand Raffle Draw on Saturday 6th December at 11 am in Saint Mary's Centre. Tickets are £1, and include a cup of Tea or Coffee and a Mince Pie, available from the Committee.



St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for October is number 217, Mr. Matthew Lewis.

Cheese and Wine Evening

A Cheese and Wine Evening was held recently in S Mary's Centre, when the guest speaker was the ex-Mayor of Neath Port Talbot, Cllr Anthony Taylor, who was accompanied by his wife Annette. He gave a most detailed and interesting account of his year in office. He spoke highly of Fr Matthew, of whom he said was not only a good Chaplain, but had become a really good friend. After his talk, Anthony asked if anyone would like to ask questions. Quite a few took him up on the offer, and he answered them all. Christine thanked him for giving up his time, and giving us such an excellent talk. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Christine and the committee for organising the event and to everyone who came along that evening and supported the church.

A fond farewell

There was excellent singing, a lovely atmosphere, over a hundred people, and some tears at Fr Matthew's farewell mass and party.

We wish him well in his new ministry in Treharris, and assure him of our prayers; we are pleased that he has been called to a position of leadership where he can further develop his people skills; we are delighted with the time he has spent with us - but of course we will miss him.

It will be strange for us without him, and of course he will find it quite difficult at first having to get to know a new group of people in a different situation. But he will rise to the occasion with a smile and will acquit himself well.

We will see him on 5th November and at Diocesan events in the future.

His laughter, spirituality and love for people served us well here in Aberavon, and will provide the people of Treharris, Trelewis and Bedlinog with a wonderful new beginning.

For The Fallen

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Laurence Binyon



Laurence Binyon, the poet and art critic, was born in Lancaster in 1869. He worked at the British Museum before going to war, having studied at Trinity College, Oxford where he won the Newdigate poetry prize. Whilst on the staff of the British Museum he developed an expertise in Chinese and Japanese art.

His best known poem is *For The Fallen* (1914), most notably the fourth stanza. He also published work on Botticelli and Blake among others. He returned to the British Museum following the war. His *Collected Poems* was published in 1931, and he died in 1943



From the Registers

Communicant figures for September

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
7th	29	51	57	41	
14th	42	59	26	50	
21st	37	46	29	47	
28th		50		116	

Monthly Income for September

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£4,847.57	£2,997.91	£2,457.42	£21,869.45	

Monthly Payments for September

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,499.05	£3,115.26	£2,374.37	£10,098.90	

The Benefice Account for September

Paid in	£7887.92	Paid out	£8669.76
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Income for Holy Trinity

includes £20k grant received towards building works/fees for new church. Expenditure includes £8,441.66 from said grant. Without these figures,

Income for St Agnes'

does not include the money being received for the Building Fund. In a month the St Agnes' Building Fund has risen from £500 to over £5,500. Many congratulations to all concerned: this is a remarkable achievement.

The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Megan Renowden

Megan Thomas

Alan James Voyce

Granville Margetson

John Owen Ellis

Stephen Collins

Graham Mundy

Ellen Jenkins

Frederick Christopher James Cornish



*Rest eternal
grant unto them, O Lord*

*and let light perpetual
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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

Holy Baptism

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



Ffion Charlie Morgan Davies

and

Sinead Jorja Davies.

Pray too for their parents and godparents.

Magazine price

There will be no change in the cost of *Newydd* next year it will remain at 60p per month. But, if you pay for the year you can save 20p and just give £7, which should be put in an envelope with your name on it and the word "MAGAZINE" so that where possible we can reclaim the Gift Aid.

It is only possible to reclaim the Gift Aid on annual payments of £7. 60p is not a valid amount for Gift Aid claims from the tax people.

Weed Free

Thanks to the hard work of Gerald Cole and Linda Lewis there is a huge difference in the area outside the St Mary's Centre. We are grateful to them for their time and hard work.

Sound systems

The systems at St Agnes' and St Mary's have been thoroughly overhauled, and work on the installation of the induction loop for the hard of hearing has been completed at St Agnes' but has yet to be carried out at St. Mary's - though by the time you read this it may also have been completed there too.

At St Agnes' we are grateful to the Friends for paying for the work, which came in £500 under budget at £1961.50

So far work repairing St Mary's has come to £505.25



Companion Dog Show

at St Mary's Centre on Saturday 29th November

Judging commencing at 1pm

in aid of the restoration work at St Agnes' Church

(by kind permission of the Welsh Kennel Club)

Judge: Mrs Pam Butler (Penrhiwgoch)

Entry fee £1 pedigree classes and novelty classes (taken on the day)

Trophy for best in show and best puppy in show

Rosettes for first reserve in all classes.

Special rosettes for B.I.S., R.B.I.S. & B.P.I.S.

Novelty classes as well as pedigree classes.

Entries take from 12pm on the day of the show

Any enquiries to Margaret Harris on 881893



Scout Post at Christmas

You can save yourself money and support the Scout Association by sending your local Christmas cards through the Scout Post.



You can order them from:

Maureen Gange at Holy Trinity, Marian Preece at St Mary's, Jean Walsingham at St Paul's and Allison Murray at St Agnes'.

Advent Carols

On Sunday 7th December we will have an Advent Carol service at St Mary's at 6.00pm

Thank you

to Brenda Hazel for the gift of new altar linen at St Mary's in memory of her late husband Ray

Posada

On the first Sunday of Advent we will be using a Mexican tradition to begin our preparations for Christmas.

Figures representing Mary and Joseph will be handed out at one of the masses and parishioners will be asked to take them home and the following day to go to someone else's house with the figures, say prayers there, enjoy some fellowship and leave the figures behind.

The following day the process is repeated with another family, and on Christmas Eve the figures are brought back to church to be placed into the crib, having visited over twenty homes in the Benefice. You will be able to sign up to take part when the lists appear at the back of church.



The PCC

With apologies from Jane Slennett, Len Jones and Maureen Gange, the Parochial Church Council met on Sunday 12th October 2008 and:

- ♦ congratulated Father Matthew on his forthcoming appointment as parish priest of Treharris and Trelewis;
- ♦ approved the proposed sale of the former Rectory at 29 Ynys Street;10
- ♦ approved the proposal to invite the Charity Commissioners to amend the will of the late Mrs. Hazelwood so that St Mary's can access the capital sum invested;
- ♦ approved an Equal Opportunities Policy and a Health and Safety Policy (*that will be available shortly at the back of each church for your information, and on the web site*);
- ♦ received a report from Fr Anthony on the "beginning of the end" of the work at Holy Trinity, and the fact that it was debt free;
- ♦ noted that no one over 80years of age could volunteer to take on any responsibility within the church or do work in the church or grounds when no-one else was present because of an insurance company policy;
- ♦ approved the aim of the St Mary's Church Committee to build on the heritage of the church;
[Saint Mary's is a Grade II listed building and we have medieval stonework in the tower, gravestones from the 12th and 13th century, fine Victorian glass, and a fine organ. Various organizations such as the Church Tourism network will be contacted and invited to come and see the church. We hope to be able to attract grant aid from various bodies for the church];
- ♦ accepted that the electric lights at St Mary's need to be changed (*this will be looked into in more detail as to what fitments will be suitable*);
- ♦ felt that the opportunity to raise the churches profile went well, with visitors to all the churches. Holy Trinity had some people who called in on the day and have started to come to church. We spent £200 on publicity and had 900 leaflets delivered with newspapers apart from the 1000 cards which were delivered by hand.

Worship Watch

South Wales Police in Port Talbot have launched a scheme to harness the help of neighbours living around places of worship to stop vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour.

Residents living close to or overlooking a local place of worship are to be sent a letter inviting their help, in which Police Inspector Karl Eenmaa assures people that he finds crime against religious buildings "totally unacceptable."

Sector Inspector Eenmaa goes on to say:

"I have committed policing resources to tackle this problem. I would ask that if you see *anything* suspicious either in or around your local place of worship, would you please report this to South Wales Police. You do not have to give your details and can remain anonymous if you wish. I simply ask that you make the call and explain the nature of the problem, giving a location for the incident. If you have information regarding local people involved in thefts or burglaries at places of worship, we do work in collaboration with Crimestoppers on telephone number 0800 555 111 who would more than welcome your call."

Numbers to use are:

Segeant Tony Powe	07794395909	Port Talbot area
PCSO Sean Williams	07805301536	Port Talbot area
PC Chris Noblett	07805301572	Port Talbot area
PC Gareth Bradley	07794395710	Port Talbot area
PCSO Andrew Balzano	07805301549	Port Talbot area
PCSO Chris Rees	07805301558	Margam area
PCSO Ryan Penny	07805301577	Baglan / Port Talbot
PCSO Emma James	07805301578	Baglan / Port Talbot

At a meeting with local religious leaders, at which Fr Nigel was present, the police emphasised that for emergencies and serious incidents you should always dial 999.

This scheme only operates in the above areas at present, but it is hoped to run them in Sandfields and the rest of the County Borough soon.

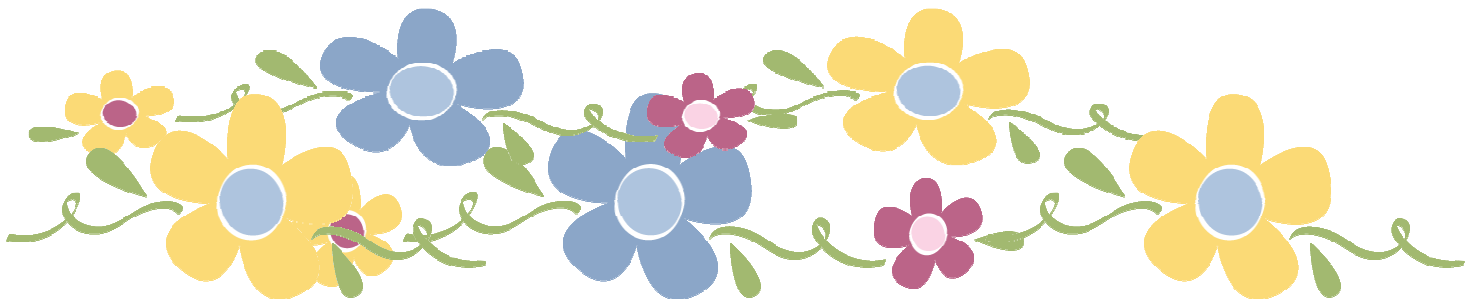
Who pays for the flowers that decorate the church?

Each church relies on members of the congregation making donations towards the cost of flowers every week. There are major appeals and Christmas and Easter, partly because of the increased cost at these times of the year, and partly because of the amount of flowers we use at these two major Christian festivals.

But every week, outside Advent and Lent, we place flowers in church in order to give praise to God through his creation, and to draw our minds to the beauty of his love in bringing all things into being.

Some people have made a habit of choosing a week in the year when they will give money for flowers in memory of a departed loved one: others do so to commemorate special anniversaries or occasions that have meaning in their family.

At present every church needs to invite more people to take part in this scheme, because there can often be a shortage of money for flowers at the ordinary times of the year, and because as older members of the congregation die we forget to mention to others how things actually get done - and so no-one replaces them.



If you would like to help with the cost of flowers your donations should be placed in an envelope marked "Flowers" with your name on the front so that if you pay income tax we can reclaim the Gift Aid from the Inland Revenue. If you require flowers for a special Sunday (but there are no flowers in Advent and Lent) put that date on the envelope too, and put the envelope onto the collection plate when you are next in church.



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows

©

American Night



The Friends of St Agnes' invite you to let your hair down and dress up as your favourite American character in a night of fun and food on Wednesday 12th November at the church. Fireworks will be let off (just a few) and there will be plenty to eat - though you need to provide your own drink.

Tickets are £5 each. There will be soup, hot dogs and hamburgers. Prize for the best dressed American character.

Thanks from the Friends

The concert to launch the Centenary Appeal of St Agnes' Church raised over a thousand pounds, and the Friends are grateful to everyone for their support.

It's the poorest who will suffer

This is what charities and churches are left wondering following the £2 trillion bail out of the banking system by governments across the world.

The World Bank warned that the "unprecedented turmoil" in the financial markets, could do "serious and in some cases permanent damage" to the world's poorest people. This year, 100 million people have been driven into poverty, and the bank's President said that number "will grow."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking in London, at the end of a meeting of Christian and Muslim scholars, was asked who was responsible for the financial crisis. Dr Williams told reporters: "I was going to say Satan. . . The root problem is human greed." The priority given to the poor by Christianity and Islam was not always reflected in the realities of economic activity, he said.

Ernese Skinner, policy and campaign manager of the Charity Finance Directors Group (CFDG), warned that the crisis could see matched funding from local authorities dry up, as they tried to

recoup their losses after the collapse of the investments they had made in Icelandic banks. "It is the unfortunate who will suffer most," she warned.

Local authorities and charities, which are believed to have invested about £1 billion in the banks, are not able to apply for relief under the Government's Financial Services Protection Scheme, she said. For example, 99 charities, valued at a total of £230 million, have investments in the Kaupthing Bank in Iceland, and most of these are British.

CFDG has written to the Treasury to ask it to extend the financial services guarantee to cover all losses by charities — including churches — after a meeting with Lord Myners at the Treasury. The Charities Aid Foundation, in a joint statement with CFDG and other charity groups, has urged charities affected by the Icelandic banking crisis to say who they are, so that the scale of the problem can be assessed.

The Church of England's national stewardship and resources officer, Dr John Preston, said that giving had held up well in past downturns. "But for capital funding projects like the church-roof appeal — those could be much tougher in that environment."

Not satisfied with the news coverage from your own church?

We can only put into the magazine what we know about, and what we are sent. If you think there's more going on in your church that should be reflected in the magazine you should make sure you send it in to Denise at the Parish Office. If you have access to email **please** type it and email it to her because it saves times if Denise doesn't have to type it all out.

It is especially important to have news about people - significant birthdays and anniversaries, births, sickness (where the individuals are willing to share such information), joyful events that have happened in families or success stories. Reports of what happened last month are welcome, but it's better to have positive news about what is going to happen. Publicity and communication are essential to parish life.

But we can only put in what we know.

Dates

Later this month I will be inviting all groups to send no more than two representatives to a meeting to discuss the way in which we organise events and put dates into our diaries.

I am very aware, since my arrival, that so few bother to check the diary in the office before making decisions about holding events in each church that inevitably lead to clashes of diary commitments.

There are also differences of

opinion about how we organise publicity for events and there areas of pricing and collecting money that we need to address in order to make the hard work that goes into our events even more profitable in terms not only of fund raising but of building community.

Watch out for the date to be announced in church, and please make every effort to have no more than two representatives from your group present to help us plan properly and effectively. You will need to bring next year's significant dates with you to the meeting.