

Newydd

*The Parish Magazine
of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon*
A Registered Charity

www.parishofaberavon.org

August 2009



Our Lady of Penrhys

*The Blessed Virgin Mary
Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Saturday 15th August 2009*

*Mass at the hospital chapel at
10.30am
and
Sung Mass at St Agnes' at 11am*

*Sunday 16th August
Evening Prayer at St Mary's Cardiff
8.30pm with torchlight procession
and BBQ with fireworks*

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The Parish Office is only open on

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

To arrange a wedding or a baptism please call at the office
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Contact details for the sub wardens of each church
 will be found on the inside back cover.

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

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

From the Rectory



There is only one thing which I can say to start this month's letter, and that is **Thank You** to so many of you for your tremendous generosity on the occasion of my fiftieth birthday. There are times when words seem quite inadequate; but nothing I could say would ever sum up the outpouring of warmth and affection that surrounded the 15th July 2009. You have been most kind; and I appreciate it very much.

As you know, Jonathan Elcock has been unwell, and the doctor has given him a sick note for a month. It has been a very difficult time for him, and at the moment we are not sure what the future holds. Please pray for him and for his family.

Plans that are carefully laid and meticulously executed can be frustrated so easily when events over which one has no control render the plans useless.

I suppose no one knows this better than the commander of an army, whose best laid plans can be undermined by a change in the weather, the unexpected behaviour of the enemy, the breakdown of machinery or even the change of mind of the ruling politicians.



In his poem, written in 1785 about a mouse whose winter nest is destroyed by ploughing, the Scot Robert Burns gave us a wonderful saying most often paraphrased in modern English as '*The best laid plans of mice and men go often awry.*'

The poem reminds us that the mouse is concerned only with the here and now, and has no thought for the past or the future, whereas we human beings tend to dwell on what has been and what will be, and in doing so perhaps fail to see

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what is happening in the present. Moreover, Burns suggests in his poem that the mouse is much more blessed than we are because of this:

“Still you are blest, compared with me!
The present only touches you:
But oh! I backward cast my eye,
On prospects dreary!
And forward, though I cannot see,
I guess and fear!”

I think there is something about us that makes us look at the past somewhat wistfully, and to the future somewhat fearfully. Of course we are encouraged in this by the endless press items that fill us with dread about what might happen, and help us look backwards with a yearning for a more idyllic lifestyle.

The reality of the past, though, is often rather different than the wistful idyll, and the fear of the future is often unfounded as the days and months pass.

Burns has a point about the present. If only we could concentrate on what is and not on what was or what may be.

We cannot change the past; we can seek to mould the future, but we cannot be certain of our place in it; but we are alive today, and so it is today that we must face, and today

we must work, and today we must seek to influence. For what happens today can change tomorrow, but it can't change yesterday.

The mouse whose nest is destroyed does not sit and ponder on how lovely the nest has been, but straightway seeks the best place to build the new nest, scurrying off in search of safety and warmth. Finding a place that is suitable the mouse goes about the job of making a new nest with the materials that are available, and gives no thought to what might become of this nest.

If we could just learn something from that, and concentrate our minds on what needs to be done for the Church of today.

It is foolish not to learn from the mistakes of the past, or to marvel at the achievements and successes of previous generations. But it is equally foolish to become paralysed by the past, as if the present had no real meaning, and no real work that needs to be done. And there is no point in being afraid of the future: we are not there, and it might never be as bad as we think!

The best laid plans of mice and men may indeed go awry, but that is no reason to stop planning, to stop working, or to stop living.

Birthday Thank You

Elsie Evans would like to thank her family and many friends in St Agnes' for all her lovely cards and presents which she received recently on the occasion of her 97th birthday.

Elsie had a lovely day back at Ynys Street and was overwhelmed with the many gifts she received.

Please pray for

Canon Sylvester O'Donnell of Our Lady of Margam who has been diagnosed as having cancer;

Danny Bird, still recovering at home after his hip replacement;

Val Chilcott, recovering from her knee operation;

Tony Llewellyn, whom we have missed at St Paul's lately because of ill health;

Graham Jones (husband of Bella) who has been in hospital;

Joyce Davison, as she settles into her new home at Min Yr Afon;

Please pray for

Bernice Jones who has been in hospital;

Monica Selway, having problems with mobility;

Selby Bailey and Karen;

Myra Williams & Leighton;

and all who receive Holy Communion at home, in hospital and in the nursing homes of our parish.

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Benefice car treasure hunt

The weather was dry and sunny as the cars rolled out of St Agnes' car park between 6.30 -7pm on 15th July. The task ahead for our car "The Mazda Maidens" was a big one: to WIN the treasure hunt! In the car with me (the driver) was Barbara Roberts (not sure if it is a good thing having your mum in your team!) June Thomas and Sheryl Parry.



There were a couple of anagrams first before you left the car park to get your thinking caps on and we knew there was a good vibe in the car when Sheryl resolved "rams bra" into "mars bar"!!

The clues were extremely well thought out – which included counting hanging baskets outside the Civic Centre, scouring St Mary's Church yard as well as looking for the bricked up window, driving up and down the beach front – Franco's must have thought business was on the up as we all frequented the premises looking for the price of a large bag of chips – but left without buying.

We found a new carpet shop, who the minister of Sandfields Methodist Church is, what time Focus is open, where you can get 3 for 2 flea powder (don't ask) what beer they sell in the Sports and Social Club Dalton Road, the list could go on.

Our car was full of laughter from beginning to end with the girls running to get shells on the beach, times off a post box plus many more.

The evening ended in the Bar Gallois where the conservatory was decorated with banners and posters for Father Nigel's 50th birthday. Bar meals were ordered and drinks where flowing (for the non-drivers). Jean Moloney made a wonderful cake which was brought in to a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday".

The Winner was announced and it took a few seconds for it to sink in that it was actually us "The Mazda Maidens" – all that hard work had paid off. Roll on the next one but sorry folks the car is already full....

Many thanks to Father Nigel, Paula and Allison for their hard work in arranging this excellent night – and a 50th birthday that Father Nigel wouldn't forget.

Jayne Owen

We are most grateful to Tony Evans of Bar Gallois for his hospitality and help.

A Birthday to Remember

I think you will all remember important dates in your lives. The day when you started work perhaps; or the day when you met your partner. Perhaps you'll have very vivid memories of the day when your children or grandchildren were born. And I'm sure that most men will remember the day when they were married. They might forget once; but the memories of the consequence of forgetting that particular anniversary will be so deeply engrained that they'll never forget it again!

We can call these particular events "significant days" or "defining moments", and I experienced a particular defining moment on July 3rd this year! I was born on July 3rd 1944 and so I approached July 3rd 2009 with a certain amount of misgiving. I wondered, for instance, what it would feel like to be eligible to draw a retirement pension.

This actually bothered me quite a bit, because when I was younger it used to be referred to as the "old age pension", and apart from a few aches and pains here and there, I certainly didn't feel old.

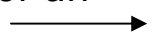
I'd rather hoped that the day would

pass without too much notice. I expected a few cards and the odd remark, but I certainly didn't expect to receive the deluge of cards which arrived through the letter box. And, would you believe it, almost every card made reference to the fact that it would be down hill all the way from here! Great!

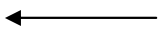
I hadn't really worked out why our friends at St Mary's were pressing Susan and me to come to their American Evening, but they were fairly insistent and so we went. And what an evening it turned out to be. Susan and myself always share the driving. I always drive on the way out, and in order to be fair, she always volunteers to drive on the way back.

I can thoroughly recommend this as a very reasonable division of labour; and moreover, one for which I was very grateful after the "American Evening"! Fried chicken; a quiz which would have had the "egg-heads" baffled, and of course, line dancing. Many of you will know that I'm particularly good at this, but a 65 year old pain in the right leg persuaded me to give it a miss this time! Perhaps I should have taken the medication which Christine Morris suggested in her card!

But the totally unexpected moment of the evening was the gift of an



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enormous cake with its fantastic icing sugar sculpture of Susan and me; complete with a sky remote controller.

The cake, the card, and the gift moved me; but not nearly so much as the realisation of the depth of your affection. It really wasn't so bad being 65 after all!

Thank you for being such good friends.

Tony Cockram.

Quiz with Buffet

Join the fun and test your knowledge at the Quiz with Buffet at St Agnes Church on Wednesday 5th August at 7 for 7.30 pm. Tickets £3, available from the Committee. Bring your own wine.

Jewellery Party

Come and see what gems are on offer at a Jewellery Party with Cheese and Wine at St Paul's Church Hall on Friday 7th August at 7 pm. Tickets £3, available from the Committee.

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A Mountaintop Shrine in the Heart of the Rhondda

The picture on the front cover this month is of the Shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys in the Rhondda Valley. It stands in the heart of the Rhondda, on a mountaintop that divides the two valleys, and it has been there since Medieval times.

'The mountain's brow is the place where most frequently great Mary's miracles are precious ... The simple ones have had a baptism. Let the blind believe that he shall see day; let the cripples come into the choir, a goodly band' (Lewis Morgannwg)

Over the centuries it has attracted men and women, young and old, who have made the journey along the pilgrim paths, singing the praises of God and seeking healing and wholeness.

The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation but by the early nineteenth century there were still signs of people who remained resilient and remade their way along the ancient paths, and today, even today, pilgrimage continues, as people wind their way through the valley roads of South Wales to discover a mountaintop shrine dedicated to Mary, Our Lady of Penrhys.

Startling in its subtlety, standing on the edge of a 60s council estate, tucked behind a bus stop, is the modern statue in Portland Stone, and further down the mountainside tucked between ferns is the holy well. The Shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys remains, and pilgrimage continues.

In Medieval times, the mountainsides were thickly wooded with forests of oak, and it was in the branches of an oak tree that the image of Our Lady of Penrhys was discovered. It was said that it was so beautiful that it could not be moved until a suitable place was built to enshrine it. And so pilgrims trickled until they flowed, flickering tapers lighting up the night.

By becoming a member of The Society of Our Lady of Penrhys you will be placing yourself in a long line of people who have discovered and valued the riches of the Shrine, and honouring Mary and rejoicing in all that God

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has done for her and, through her, the world. The Magnificat, that song of praise and worship which Mary sang, stands at the heart of the Society. With Mary, we proclaim the kingdom of God as a radical reversal of the values of the world, where the lowly are raised, the hungry are filled with good things, and we see the promises of God fulfilled.

If you would like to help promote pilgrimage to the shrine by becoming a member of the Society (joining fee of £10 and subsequent annual donation of £10 a year) then please complete and return the form overleaf, along with your donation.

The Society of Our Lady of Penrhys

The Objects of the Society

To honour Mary, the Mother of God and to deepen faith in Jesus Christ. To promote devotion to Our Lady and pilgrimage to the shrine at Penrhys.

To further, with the aid of Our Lady's prayers, the conversion of Wales and all the nations, and the re-union of Christendom. To seek holiness of life through prayer, the scriptures and the sacraments.

To proclaim the wonders of God through word and deed, and to seek peace and justice throughout the world.

Members of the Society are asked to say the Magnificat each day.

Membership of the Society

Membership is open to all who have been baptised. The joining fee is £10.00, for which a new member receives the Society's badge, membership card and devotional booklet. The joining fee also covers the first year's membership. Thereafter there is an annual subscription of £10.00

Joint membership for married couples has a joining fee of £15 and subsequent annual subscription of £15.00

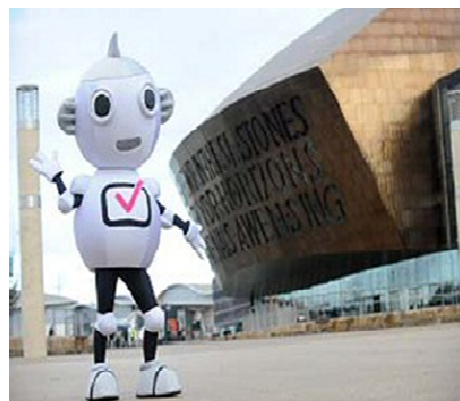
The joining fee for young people's under the age of 18 or in Full Time Education is £5 and subsequent annual subscription of £5

Details of each member's name and address are recorded on a database. To join take a form from the back of church.

It's not so far to Rhondda as it is to Walsingham. Maybe we should consider supporting what's on our doorstep: our very own Welsh heritage.

Digital Switchover

On 31st March 2010 Wales will become the first digital nation in the UK when the Wenvoe transmitter covering Cardiff and south east Wales completes its switch to a digital signal.



Many of you will already be enjoying digital TV through your aerial (Freeview), via satellite, with cable in some areas or through broadband. However, it's important to make sure every TV set and recorder that you plan to use after switchover is capable of working with digital signals. Virtually all households will be able to receive around 20 of the most popular Freeview channels, as opposed to the five currently available on analogue TV. Many households will be able to receive more than 40 channels.

Information and help on switchover is available on the Digital UK website where you can find your options for switching to digital, check whether you live in an area that can currently receive digital television via an aerial, and find out which transmitter group you're most likely to be receiving your terrestrial TV signal from.

If you haven't got a computer or access to the internet, information is also available on the phone. Simply call the Digital UK helpline on 08456 50 50 50. Welsh Language help and advice is available by calling 08458 48 48 48.

The Police are eager to help and if you want to be sure about the suitability of your equipment you can arrange for someone from the police to call and offer advice.

PLEASE do not be taken in by people who call at your house uninvited and offer advice, and perhaps even suggest that you might need a new ariel. If you are in doubt contact your local police station and ask them to send someone to see you.

Digital switch over in this area begins on 12th August 2009, and you will need to retune your Freeview box on that day, and again on 9th September.

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Doll's house exhibition

West Glamorgan Dolls House Club have been holding Dolls House exhibitions for charity for the last 14 years. It began with a group of friends who were interested in miniatures, and has progressed to what it is today.

The exhibition is made up of dolls houses, shops, and miniature scenes. They vary from, Surf shops to Victorian houses, School rooms to an Old London pub, complete with some unsavoury customers! The details are amazing as is the work that goes in to each house or scene.



The next exhibition is at Margam Castle on 8th & 9th August, from 10am, and admission is free, though there is a car parking fee.

No Evensong

There will be no Evensong in the Benefice on Sunday 16th August. We have been invited to St Mary's Cardiff for Ecumenical Vespers (Evening Prayer) with procession, BBQ & Fireworks.

Lifts can be arranged.
Service begins at 830pm

Benefice Mass

On Sunday 9th August there will be a Benefice Mass at Holy Trinity Church. All Benefice masses on Sundays begin at **10.30am**.

Please note the date in your diary now!

Holy Days

The Transfiguration
Thursday 6th August
10.00am St Agnes'

The Blessèd Virgin Mary
Saturday 15th August
10.30am Hospital Chapel
11.00am St Agnes'

St Bartholomew, Apostle
Monday 24th August
6.30pm St Agnes'

The Birth of the Blessèd Virgin Mary: Tuesday 8th September
No mass at St Paul's
Sung Mass at St Mary's 7pm to celebrate their Patronal Festival

St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for July is number 83, Mrs. Adams.

The PCC meeting on 19th July

The main item on the agenda at the last PCC was the Charity Commission registration and its implications.

The first implication that needed considering was that, because the accounts all have to be amalgamated into one, Paula Durnell had decided to step down as PCC treasurer.

Paula has done a fantastic job on behalf of the Benefice, and we are all extremely grateful to her for her hard work and commitment; but working full time means she will not be able to fulfil the demands of the new role.

In her place the PCC appointed Mike Howe as Benefice Treasurer, and we are grateful to him for his willingness to take on the task.

In deciding to appoint Mike, the PCC had to consider Fr Nigel's point that the person appointed needed to have the time to do the job, some experience of accounts and be computer literate, with access to the internet because the Charity Commission want everything sent to them electronically.

The next major implication is that all the individual church accounts

will be amalgamated into one, held in the name of The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon Parochial Church Council.

From 1st September 2009 it is essential that all cheques are made out to The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon PCC.

We **all** need to bear that in mind.

The only church account that will not be closed is the St Mary's Churchyard Account, under the control of the PCC, but required under the Constitution of the Church in Wales.

The individual church accounts will be closed one at a time to make the process somewhat more straightforward.

The finance committee of the PCC will continue in its function of monitoring income and expenditure.

All funds raised will be in the name of the Benefice, but may be restricted to individual churches by the PCC members.

Please remember that this is not something we have sought or desired, but is being imposed upon us by the Charity Commission. At the meeting on the 19th July all the members had to sign a declaration

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to send to the Charity Commission stating that all monies were held in one account in the name of the charity, or soon would be once the declaration was signed.

It was agreed that our bankers would be Barclays Bank plc. and that the signatories would be any two of :the Rector, the treasurer, the benefice wardens, the secretary to the PCC.

All monies that would normally be part of the individual church accounts will be held by the Benefice.

Monies will be paid into the account every Monday, and the sub wardens at each church will be responsible for seeing that this takes place - though of course they do not have to do this themselves they can delegate to the person who is currently the treasurer at their church. Forms will be provided to each church that must be filled in each week and handed to the Office, and an email return will be sent to the treasurer.

The treasurer will keep a list of where the money comes from, and how it is intended to be spent.

The PCC agreed that each church may institute a *Friends of the Church* group who might wish to raise and hold funds for the repair and maintenance of that church, its ornaments furniture, organ, fixings and fittings. Fr Nigel will see to this over the course of the year, as each church accounts are amalgamated into the one Benefice account.

For anyone to withhold money from the Benefice account will be illegal, and all fundraising held to pay bills, the Diocesan Share etc, must be carried out in the name of the Benefice.

Over the next few months all publicity material must be sent to the Office for approval before it is printed and distributed, and all posters will, from now on, carry the name of the Benefice. No prize draw tickets may be printed without the approval of the PCC (they delegated this role to the Rector) and in answer to a question from a member, Fr Nigel reminded everyone that having a raffle using cloakroom tickets is already illegal!

Mass cancelled

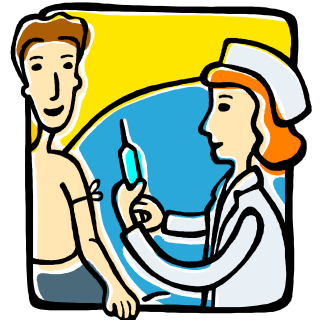
There will no longer be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist on a Friday in the Benefice, unless a major Holy Day occurs on a Friday and cannot be moved to another suitable date.

Condolences

We extend our sympathy to Joan Evans on the sudden death of her brother.

Congratulations

Rachel Williams-Attew has passed her nursing exams and is now a staff nurse.



Billy & Helena Lewis celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on 2nd August.

Joan Jenkins celebrated her 90th birthday on 11th July.

Aled Price celebrated his 18th birthday last month, and Bill Lewis celebrated his 65th birthday last month.

Mair Howells celebrates her 80th birthday this month.

We send them all our good wishes.

Walsingham Cell

The next meeting will be on 1st September. Evensong and Benediction at 7pm at St Agnes'



Everyone is welcome.

Study Group

The next study group will be on 14th September after Mass at St Agnes'. We are working through St Mark's Gospel, and everyone is welcome.

Church Committee meetings

Monday 17th August	St Agnes'
Wednesday 19th August	St Paul's
Tuesday 25th August	St Mary's

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Daily Readings from Scripture

5 th August 2009	Numbers 13: 1-2. 25-14:1. 26-29. 34-35	Matthew 15: 21-28
6 th August 2009	Daniel 7: 9-10. 13-14	Mark 9: 2-10
7 th August 2009	Deuteronomy 4: 32-40	Matthew 16: 24-28
8 th August 2009	Deuteronomy 6: 4-13	Matthew 17: 14-20
10 th August 2009	Deuteronomy 10: 12-22	Matthew 17: 22-27
11 th August 2009	Deuteronomy 31: 1-8	Matthew 18: 1-5. 10. 12-14
12 th August 2009	Deuteronomy 34: 1-12	Matthew 18: 15-20
13 th August 2009	Joshua 3: 7-11. 13-17	Matthew 18: 21-19: 1
14 th August 2009	Joshua 24: 1-13	Matthew 19: 3-12
15 th August 2009	Apocalypse 11: 19; 12: 1-6. 10	Luke 1: 39-56
17 th August 2009	Judges 2: 11-19	Matthew 19: 16-22
18 th August 2009	Judges 6: 11-24	Matthew 19: 23-30

Daily Readings from Scripture

19 th August 2009	Judges 9: 6-15	Matthew 20: 1-16
20 th August 2009	Judges 11: 29-39	Matthew 22: 1-14
21 st August 2009	Ruth 1: 1. 3-6. 14-16. 22	Matthew 22: 34-40
22 nd August 2009	Ruth 2: 1-3. 8-11; 4: 13-17	Matthew 23: 1-12
24 th August 2009	Apocalypse 21: 9-14	John 1: 45-51
25 th August 2009	1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8	Matthew 23: 23-26
26 th August 2009	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	Matthew 23: 27-31
27 th August 2009	1 Thessalonians 3: 7-13	Matthew 24: 42-51
28 th August 2009	1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8	Matthew 25: 1-13
29 th August 2009	Jeremiah 1: 17-19	Mark 6: 17-29
31 st August 2009	1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18	Luke 4: 16-30
1 st September 2009	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6. 9-11	Luke 4: 31-37
2 nd September 2009	Colossians 1: 1-8	Luke 4: 38-44
3 rd September 2009	Colossians 1: 9-14	Luke 5: 1-11
4 th September 2009	Colossians 1: 15-20	Luke 5: 33-39
5 th September 2009	Colossians 1: 21-23	Luke 6: 1-5

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Universities honour Archbishop of Wales with Fellowships

The youngest university in Wales and one of the oldest have both recognising the work of the Archbishop of Wales in degree ceremonies.

In July, Dr Barry Morgan became the first person to receive an Honorary Fellowship from the newly formed Trinity University College. He also received the same award from Swansea University - given in recognition "of his devotion to the dioceses of Wales and to the principles of justice and forward-thinking beliefs that have characterised his long-standing role in the church".

An Honorary Fellowship is the highest honour that a University can bestow, and is awarded to those who have brought great distinction to the University or to the region.

Dr Morgan said,

"Trinity University is the only Christian University in Wales and I am delighted as Archbishop to be its first new fellow. I am also very pleased to accept an honorary fellowship from Swansea University. I used to go to history lectures at Swansea when I was in the fifth and sixth form and later, partly as a result of that influence read history at London where my personal tutor was Professor Rees Davies who had lectured in Swansea. I am very pleased to be honoured by my 'home' university in this way."

Swansea University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Richard B Davies, said: "Archbishop Barry is renowned for being fearlessly outspoken in the name of the principles he upholds. He has also offered constructive leadership in discussions about the devolved powers of the Welsh Assembly Government, always emphasising the importance of maintaining Wales's openness to the wider world."

Dr Barry Morgan is already an Honorary Fellow at the Universities of Cardiff, Bangor, Lampeter and UWIC. He is also Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales.

Clean canopy

Work started on July 27th to clean and paint the bridge canopy over the river at Port Talbot.

Neath Port Talbot Council has employed specialist cleaners, Absolute Canopies from Chepstow, who abseil over the canopy to get the job done.

The authority has been cleaning the canopy every two years since it was erected but this year a more major scheme is being undertaken. Over the last nine years rust has begun to scar the metal framework so the decision was taken to clean the supports back to the metal and completely repaint the whole framework.

The work is expected to take about two weeks but access over the bridge to the Aberavon Shopping Centre and the civic centre will not be affected.

Cream Tea

St Mary's Fun Raisers warmly invite everyone to come along and enjoy a cuppa and a chat at their Cream Tea on Saturday 15th August at 3pm. You will also be able to take home some wonderful homemade cakes which will be on sale. Tickets £2, available in church.

Baptisms

The following have recently been baptised:

Caitlin Lilly Evans

Bradley Scott Thomas

Peake

Fletcher John Martyn Perring



Please pray for them, their parents and godparents.

The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Frances Hooper

Elaine Frances Mackay

Margaret Wyburn

Ketty Ulla Johns

Gordon Albert Jeffery



We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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

20 Newydd - August 2009

celebrate!

This is the Llandaff Diocesan Festival that is taking place in Merthyr Tydfil on Saturday 26th September.

Who is the festival for?

Parishioners of all ages from across the diocese. It is open to all and entry is free. Whether you are a member of junior church: a churchwarden or treasurer; attend regularly or occasionally; are a youth leader or small group leader; someone exploring Christian faith; a Reader or member of a local ministry team: whatever your age, we hope there will be something to interest, equip, inspire you.

Where is it being held?

The brand new Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, just off the A470. The building will be filled with stands, displays, stalls, workshops, activities, seminars.

Parking is easy and free and there is good disabled access and facilities throughout the building.

What are the timings?

The festival itself will open at 10.30am. Before that, there will be the annual diocesan conference for conference delegates, beginning at 9.30am. There will be a Eucharist at 12.30pm. The festival will close at 3.30pm. Come when you want for as long as you want.

Catering

The Leisure Centre has a large, reasonably priced café which serves Fair Trade refreshments. There will also be a simple baguette bar and our own Fair Trade café. Visit the main Festival Café to listen to buskers sharing musical talent from around the diocese. There will also be a new children's play area just outside the festival café (children must be supervised).

What stands and displays will there be?

We have already been overwhelmed with offers of exciting and inspiring stands. In the Festival Hall you will be able to visit a range of stands and stalls; get ideas, advice and information; try out activities; make contacts for the future; hear experience of practical reality and not just theory; take away materials to use.

More details next month

An American Evening

What a great evening we had at St. Mary's Centre on Friday, July 3rd, the day before American Independence Day.

The Apache Bootscooters certainly began the evening on a high note with their excellent line dancing and lively music, eventually persuading many of us to join in. We were out of breath by the end of the dance, but thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Then came the food - Kentucky Fried Chicken, followed by a variety of American Desserts. What a repast!

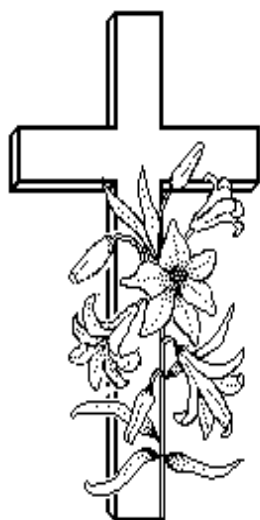
Then a surprise followed for Fr Anthony as it was his 65th birthday on that day. First of all he was given his birthday cake - a delight to behold! (Enough to say that it was made by Mrs. Jean Moloney.) Everyone sang Happy Birthday with gusto. Then he was presented with a gift from parishioners of St. Mary's Church. He and Sue were delighted as it was a meal etc. for two at Blanco's. (I assume that it is Sue who he will take with him!) Fr Anthony cut the cake which was shared between everyone.



Then followed fun and games in the form of Guess the State, an American Quiz, followed by Bingo. Then the prize was awarded for the best dressed American. This was won by a deserving Mrs. Freda Lyford dressed as an Indian Squaw resplendent in a brown tunic, with a black pig-tailed wig and all the Indian decorations, head dress etc. Many of us did not recognize her when we first caught sight of her. The transformation was amazing.

As usual, we must thank those who bought tickets and supported the event - the Fun Raisers for their hard work and last, but not least, our energetic Mrs. Christine Morris, who organized everything on the night. A special thanks to the Apache Bootscooters. Thanks to all for a wonderful evening!

Avril Stevens



Agent for

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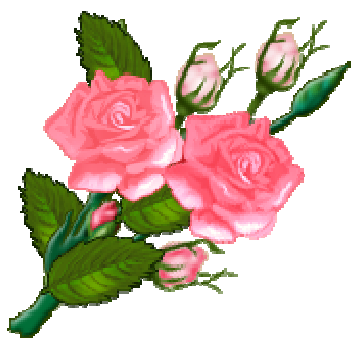
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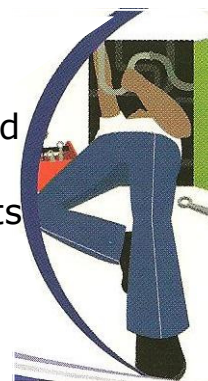
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Swine flu and Holy Communion

The Bishops of England and Wales have issued guidance on the receiving of Holy Communion in areas where swine flu reaches pandemic levels. The guidance is very clear that, in such a circumstance as a pandemic, only the priest will receive from the chalice and every other communicant will receive the host only on the hand, and not directly onto the tongue. This advice conforms to Government advice.

We are not at that stage here in Wales and in this area in particular.

However, part of the advice concerns the practice of intinction *i.e. dipping the host into the cup*.

I print it here for you:

“Studies have suggested that intinction may in fact present a greater risk factor than the common cup. Fingers generally carry a higher level of contamination than lips, so consecrated bread handled by an infected person and then dipped into a common cup will carry a risk of contaminating the consecrated wine. Similarly fingers may dip into the consecrated wine.

Where only celebrants or servers intinct the consecrated bread and then place it on a recipient’s tongue or hands, there is a risk of the servers’ fingers becoming contaminated if the recipient is carrying

the virus. For these reasons communion in one kind only (the consecrated bread) is recommended.”

I therefore intend, with immediate effect, and with the agreement of Fr Anthony and the Benefice Wardens, to suspend the practice of intinction in this Benefice indefinitely.

Anyone who refuses to drink from the common cup must accept that they can only receive in one kind.

I wish to make it clear that the Bishops have re-iterated that “The use of individual communion cups is not lawful and would, in any event, also involve hygiene risks in the context of pandemic flu.”

Furthermore:

“In accordance with the provision of the Sacrament Act 1547, Note 6 to the Distribution of Holy Communion at Home or in Hospital provides that ‘Communion should normally be received in both kinds separately, but where necessary may be received in one kind, whether of bread or, where the communicant cannot receive solid food, wine’.”

As of now we no longer intinct in this Benefice and **everyone** must receive on the hands.

Fr Nigel

The Church in Wales: A small guide to a big picture

Church buildings

1,430

places of worship including cathedrals, parish churches, and chapels

29%

of the Grade 1 listed buildings in Wales are Church in Wales churches. Two-thirds of our churches are listed buildings

1,000,000

people visit our churches and cathedrals each year



£70 million

is the estimated cost of repair to our listed buildings over the next five years

Each of our churches is managed by local volunteer members of the church congregation. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of each church including fundraising.

We take the care of our churches very seriously. We operate a system for overseeing work to our buildings (called faculty procedure) based on professional and expert advice. Every church is formally inspected by a qualified architect every five years.

As well as being places of worship, and venues for weddings (3,538 in 2007), baptisms (8,170 in 2007) and funerals, churches and cathedrals are vital heritage buildings. They are important visitor destinations and places of pilgrimage which we keep open as regularly as possible. They often host unique collections of art and local history; churches promote music and the arts and are centres of community life.

There is a continuing challenge to fund these vital community assets.

***Fibromyalgia Support Group
South Wales***

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

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USPG

We have received a very nice letter from the USPG missionary society thanking us for the £1167.83 we sent from our Lent boxes this year.

St Agnes' Church Committee

At the last meeting the estimate to replace the oil fired boiler with a gas fired boiler was accepted. It will cost £11270 plus the cost of a gas meter.

A Victorian market will be held on Saturday 14th November at the church, and everyone is encouraged to dress up and help create the right atmosphere.

The Archbishop of Wales will preside and preach at the Centenary Mass on the anniversary of the consecration on 20th June 2010. This service, which will be a Benefice Mass, will be followed by lunch at Blancos. To secure your places at the lunch deposits of £5 per person may be paid now.

There will be a Sung Mass on the evening of St Agnes' Day 2010 (21st January) when the preacher will be Fr Andrew Holmes, Vicar of Penrhiwceiber. There will be no morning mass that Thursday.

Priests who had formerly served the church of St Agnes would be invited to both celebrations, together with others who have a link with the parish through Walsingham, Penrhys, etc.

It was agreed to place the heavier chairs found in the Lady Chapel in the body of the church to assist those who find it difficult to get up and down on the existing chairs. The success of this experiment would be monitored in the next few months.

A grand prize draw would be held on 14th November, and all members would be encouraged to sell tickets. The prizes had already been donated. and apart from the cost of printing every other penny made would be profit. Mary Edwards had kindly agreed to help arrange the ticket sales. The first prize is £100 worth of Tesco vouchers.

On Saturday 10th July 2010 the Pontardulais Male Voice Choir will give a Centenary Concert at St Agnes' Church.

On Wednesday 16th September there will be a 60s evening at the church, with a chance to sing the music some remember from their youth. The possibility of a "Good Olde Days" type music evening would be investigated.

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28 *Newydd* - August 2009

Charity registration implications

New Gift Aid Secretary

Another of the problems caused by the Charity Commission Registration process is that we can only submit one claim for Gift Aid, the generous tax rebate we get from the HM Revenue and Customs if we sign a declaration saying that we are an United Kingdom tax payer and want our donations to the church to be classed as Gift Aid.

At present we have one Gift Aid Secretary for each church. We now have to have one Gift Aid Secretary.

Mrs Christine Morris from St Mary's has kindly agreed to be the new Gift Aid Secretary, and in the same way as the accounts will be amalgamated in the next few months, so will the Gift Aid claims.

All monies received from HM Customs and Revenue will be set against whatever cause the donor intended to benefit. So no individual church will lose out on the changes to the system. It is, in effect, a book keeping exercise.

Parish Festival 2010

The PCC were pleased with the way this year's Festival had progressed. Obviously, there are things we can learn from our experience as we plan for next year. Anyone who wishes to be involved in the planning of the 2010 Festival is invited to a meeting at St Agnes' Church on Thursday 3rd September at 7.30pm. In 2010 most events will take place in St Agnes' and then in 2011, which is the St Paul's Centenary, most events will take place there.

Finances

Overall there are no major worries regarding financing the Benefice. We are keeping our heads above water, but there is no great margin for error! Whilst the accounts are being amalgamated there may be times when the figures at the back of the magazine do not appear to make sense! Fear not, it will work itself out in time.

The end of a year

Fr Anthony explained to the PCC that, with Holy Trinity being a year old, they had received a visit from the architect and the builder to look for any defects in the church.

Most of the things that needed to be done were quite minor, but the exterior walls would be repaired as they had so many hairline cracks that it spoiled the appearance of the Church.

Holy Trinity will host the Benefice Mass on the 9th August 2009 at 10.30am, and on Monday 28th there will be a mass at Holy Trinity to celebrate the anniversary of the Dedication. There will be no mass at St Agnes' that Monday night.

Open churches

The PCC emphasised their commitment to keeping all the churches of the Benefice open on Saturday 19th September from 10am to 5pm. Individual churches may wish to do something that would attract visitors on that day.

Messages of Thanks

A great big 'Thank You' to all for their cards and presents from Andrew, Cally and new babe Madison Lily. Love and thanks, Linda, Robert and Matthew.

I wish to thank Father Nigel and all my friends at St Agnes for their kindness and generous collection, when they heard of the loss of my wallet.

Love, God bless you, Muriel.

Permission to proceed

The PCC approved the request of the Rector that, as and when funds allow, all the work needed at each church as outlined in the five year report from the architect, could be carried out, and permission sought from relevant authorities.

Back to Church Sunday

The Benefice will take part in this nationwide event on Sunday 27th September, our harvest thanksgiving, when you are asked to invite back to church someone you know has lapsed. You are also asked to make sure you are there to welcome them that day yourself!

From the Registers

Communicant figures for June

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
7th	37	54	29	44	
14th	39	59	28	34	
21st	41	54	24	34	
28th		142			

Monthly Income for June

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,401.82	£4,627.07	£3,346.23	£1,418.26	

Monthly Payments for June

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,959.33	£4,480.74	£2,544.32	£2,088.62	

The Benefice Account for April

Paid in	£10,885	Paid out	£8,804
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Individual church contact details

St Mary's Subwardens

Mr Len Jones
01639 898939
ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Jean Moloney
01639 881516
jmoloney@parishofabeavon.org

St Paul's Subwardens

Mr Ivor Morgan
01639 883829

Mrs Val Rees
01639 896584

St Agnes' Subwardens

Mrs Edna Williams
01639 886649
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John
01639 887030

Holy Trinity Subwardens

Mr Mike Isaac
01639 793501
misaac@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Gill Davison
01639 870528

Parish Worship

On Sunday the Holy Eucharist is celebrated

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

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

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

www.parishofaberavon.org

On Weekdays the Holy Eucharist is celebrated

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

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