

# *Newydd*

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

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

*February 2010*

60p

St Agnes' Centenary Year



# Dyfrig R Jones of Cwmafan Funeral Directors



Funeral director  
Clive Manchip

(Advanced Certificate in Funeral Director)

**8 Tyr Eglwys  
Cwmafan  
Port Talbot  
SA12 9BD**

**01639 896440**

**24 hour service**

Support, care  
and reassurance  
when it matters most



## *From the Rectory*



On Sunday 10th January it was announced that Fr Anthony will retire in the spring. His last day working in the Benefice will be 30th April.

We are especially grateful to him for all that he has done at Holy Trinity and at the Hospital. There will be time to say a proper thank you nearer his departure.

Not only will we say farewell to Fr Anthony, but obviously to Susan too, and we will miss her, for she has been a tremendous asset to him and to us during the time they have lived here.

I know you are all wondering what will happen about staffing the Benefice when Fr Anthony has left.

All I can say to you at the moment is that we are no further forward in finding a priest for the Benefice than we were before the announcement was made. We have explored many avenues, and we have advertised again in the Church press for two priests: a Team Vicar and an Assistant Curate.

I have made telephone calls to people I think might be interested

and I have asked others to consider whether or not they might be able to recommend someone I could approach.

The need to continue to offer to God our desire for more priests is essential.

Should it be that I will be left alone here for a while there will inevitably be changes to the structure of the week, and to the timing of Sunday services. This will probably end up pleasing nobody - but one has to be sensible and put in place a scheme that will enable me to manage to the best of my ability, and we are all of us going to have to get used to things.

The shortage of priests has been talked about for a very long time: now it is beginning to bite here in this Diocese. Complaining will get us nowhere. We simply need to accept that new ways of doing things are essential.

I will, of course, continue to rely on the active participation and co-operation of you all in order for us to carry on God's work, and you will

#### *4 Newydd - February 2010*

inevitably have to shoulder an even greater share of the work than you are doing at present. I am sure you will respond willingly and positively, as you have been doing for many years now, in a most impressive manner.

This benefice is well blessed with committed and active lay people, and the way you have responded to the call to exercise ministry as lay people is a wonderful example to other parishes.

The Archbishop is aware of our need, but is no more able to find a priest than am I - at present. We continue to live in hope, and we must continue to do our best.

One thing we could do better, though, is to support worship events in each other's churches. There is very little excuse for not turning up at special services to mark an occasion or celebrate a feast just because they are not in the church you usually attend. Lots of people get lifts to church, and even if you normally walk you have only to ask and lifts can be arranged.

Everyone wants a success in their own church when it's a special day, but so few are willing to make the

effort to support each other. This is going to become more important than ever if we have only one priest, for there will be no duplication of services on holy days and for special events.

The Benefice Masses are usually well attended and on the 24th January there were 93 communicants, which is not as good as it could have been, but I and at least 8 others I know of were taken ill that weekend with this awful tummy bug that is going around. I am sure others I don't know about were also struck down for a couple of days. But there are others who just had a day off!

In 2010 there will be six instead of 4 such masses. One extra because of the St Agnes' Centenary and one other because it saves me finding cover for when I am on holiday.

I know that you are worried about how your church life will carry on, but with your support, and with your continued commitment to play an active role in what goes on, and with your prayers, we will manage.

Of course the lack of priests isn't ideal, but it is amazing how things can continue and even progress if

we all take seriously the need to be involved.

I am sure that panicking is not going to help, and undue worry will just give us an ulcer! But through prayer, the support of the Holy Spirit and with our own support of each other we will survive, and hopefully even grow.

Things might be different, they might be unusual, but perhaps we will emerge stronger in faith and more bound together in love.

### ***Congregational meetings***

Last month I mentioned that I would be meeting every congregation at some point during this year to discuss how you feel about the way things are going in your area, and to ask you what you thought the priorities for your church should be, and how you intend to address them.

I would be grateful if you would put these dates in your diary now, and do your utmost to keep them free.

St Agnes'  
Wednesday 14th April at 7pm in the church

St Paul's  
Wednesday 19th May at 7pm in the

church hall.

St Mary's  
Wednesday 16th June at 7pm in the St Mary's Centre

Holy Trinity  
Saturday 11th September at 11am in the church

With every good wish and with prayers

*Nigel Canice*

**Fr Nigel**

---

### ***Healing Mass***

The next healing mass will be on Thursday 11th February at Holy Trinity Church at 7.00pm. It is for everyone in the Benefice.

### ***PCC Meeting***

The next PCC meeting is on Sunday 21st February at the end of Evening Prayer at St Paul's, which begins at 6pm

# *A Phantom of the Opera Night*

organised by the Friends of St Agnes' Church  
on Shrove Tuesday, 16th February 2010 at 7.00pm

Wear a Masquerade mask! Join in the musical  
quiz!

Tickets £3.50 to include faggots and peas supper  
followed by pancakes.

*Please bring your own drinks.*



## *Diocesan study course*

The Diocese is pioneering a study course to help people deepen their knowledge of the Faith, and it has been suggested that we might like to run a 'taster' course in our parishes to give us an idea of what the course would be like.

The monthly study group will use this six session taster course this year, beginning on the 8th February, and if you would like to come along please do so.

The group is open to everyone, and we meet on the second Monday night of the month after the mass at St Agnes'

Living Faith  
growing faith  
deepening discipleship  
building ministry



A 'taster' of the Llandaff Diocesan Discipleship Programme

A six session course

## News

Fr Wayne Coughlin, assistant curate of St Theodore's, leaves the parish this month to assist in the Diocese of St Albans. We wish him God's blessing.

A Church in Wales priest has been honoured in the New Year's Honours List. The Reverend Dr Jean Prosser, from Abergavenny, has been awarded an MBE for services to conservation and to the community. She set up the Village Alive Trust after renovating a church in 2002-03. The conservation group has gone on to renovate 10 listed buildings, and it is restoring its third church.

## Glastonbury 2010

The annual pilgrimage to Glastonbury will take place on Saturday 19th June.

You should place the date in your diary now in order to make sure you don't double book yourselves.

## Penrhys

Another date for your diary is Saturday 8th May when the annual Penrhys Pilgrimage takes place in the Rhondda Valley. If we can manage to get to Glastonbury and Walsingham we should be able to make it to Penrhys!

# MINELLAS

Hats to buy or hire,  
hiring from £15 - £ 40

New spring / summer stock  
Fascinators, bags, scarves and jewellery

Open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm  
(Closed Wednesday all day)  
Saturdays 10am to 2pm

62a Station Rd,  
Port Talbot, SA13 1LZ

Speak with Linda on 01639 891444  
minellaspt@hotmail.com  
www.minellas.co.uk

# GLAD RAGS

Fashionwear Agency

*The inexpensive place to shop for high quality  
fashionwear at low prices*

### Opening Hours

Tuesdays - Fridays	Saturdays
10.30 am - 5.30 pm	10 am - 4 pm
(Closed Sundays & Mondays)	

Mother of the Bride / Groom and Wedding Guest  
Outfits

Evening Wear / Cruisewear Smart / Casual sizes  
8-24 usually in stock

Visit us at 264b Margam Road, Port  
Talbot, SA13 2DB  
(Tollgate Shopping Precinct)  
Just off Junction 38 - M4 Motorway

Tel: 01639 884755  
Mobile: 07854 160640

# ***Lent 2010***

**Ash Wednesday - 17th February  
Mass with imposition of ashes**

**9.30am Holy Trinity Church & St Paul's  
11.00am St Mary's Church  
7.00pm St Agnes' Church**

Our Lenten observance will be a homily on Tuesdays at St Paul's, Wednesday mornings at Holy Trinity and St Mary's and Wednesday evenings at St Agnes'

Once again, we will use Lent boxes to help us support the U.S.P.G. missionary society, and the addresses each week will focus on the work of U.S.P.G.

Your support of this society by the taking of a Lent box is more important than you can begin to imagine in these tough economic times. Do please give willingly and freely.

If you number amongst those who believe that fasting is unimportant, and that "giving up" things for Lent is not as beneficial as "taking up" things for Lent, then please take up giving through the Lent box, and make a difference to the world's poor.

If you are more of a traditionalist and give up something please use the money you save for the same purpose: the work of supporting the poorest of God's people in the spirit of His Love.

## *New rules : new sub wardens*

You might recall reading in a previous edition of the magazine that the Church in Wales has introduced new rules concerning the elections of sub wardens, which brings them into line with the election of churchwardens.

No-one who has served six consecutive years in office is eligible for re-election as a sub-warden, and no-one who has reached the age of 75 years can stand for election.

This will have profound implications for us in this Benefice as we approach the Annual Vestry for 2010, which this year will be held at St Agnes' on Monday 19th April immediately after the 6.30pm mass.



### *Valentine's Evening at St Mary's Centre*

Everyone is warmly invited to come along and join in the fun and games at St Mary's Centre on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm for our Valentine's Evening. Tickets £5 each and includes a meal, available in church.

Bring your own drinks.

10 Newydd - February 2010

## *Police contact details update*

Please note the changes to contact details previously published.



### *Neighbourhood Officers – Port Talbot Sector*

#### **Contact numbers**

Sergeant Melanie Baker	07805301564
PC Mark Davies	07805 301572 (Baglan)
PCSO Sean Williams	07805 301578 (Baglan)
PC Dale Davies	07805301560 (Port Talbot)
PCSO Andrew Balzano	07805 301549 (Port Talbot)
PC Andrew Hedley	07794 395710 (Taibach/Margam)
PCSO Ryan Penny	07805 301558 (Taibach/Margam)

These numbers are not for emergency use, or to report an incident.  
In an emergency please dial '999'.  
For non urgent issues please dial '101'.

You can also log online to [www.ourbobby.com](http://www.ourbobby.com) for updates in your area.

Please remember that in every church there are cards and a box in which you can put **non urgent** complaints that need attention.



## *Women's World Day of Prayer*

All welcome at Sandfields Methodist Church Friday 5th March at 2.30pm

## ***Walsingham Pilgrimage***

This year the Walsingham Pilgrimage will take place from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The cost is £195 inclusive. Anyone interested in going please contact Mrs. Jennifer Lewis on 766168.

A deposit of £20 must be paid to Jennifer no later than Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Cheques to be made out to LDWP, please.

*Jennifer Lewis*



## ***St David's Day Coffee Afternoon St Mary's Centre***

All are invited to come along for a cuppa and a chat the St David's Day Coffee Afternoon on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 3 pm at St Mary's Centre. As usual there will be the famous homemade cakes on sale for you to take home and enjoy. Tickets/Admission £1 (includes Tea or Coffee and a Welsh Cake) available in church.

## ***St Agnes' Day***

The first of the Centenary events was a celebration of St Agnes' Day on 21st January, when Fr Andrew Holmes, Vicar of Penrhiwceiber, preached at the 7pm Mass. Nine concelebrating priests joined Fr Nigel and Fr Anthony, and as well as Jane there was another visitor, Fr David Morris, the deacon from the parish of Merthyr Tydfil St David.

There were about 75 communicants present that evening, and there was a lovely atmosphere in church as the congregation sang with gusto and afterwards stayed on to mingle and eat the plentiful buffet.

Many thanks to everyone for their hard work in getting everything ready for the night, and for the food provided.

*Edna Williams*

12 Newydd - February 2010

## *The Faithful Departed*

The following have received a Christian funeral:

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

Bernard Ralph Wintle	Henry Richard Hanford
Edith Esther White	Dorothy Spear
Kenneth Lodwig	Ronald Williams
David George Voisey	Harold George Jones
Anne Bartle	Lynda Maria Milward
Gomer George Mallet	Sara Jane Ashton
Gary Lee	



## *Friends of St Agnes' Church*

Just a few lines to remind members that annual subscriptions are now due.

Should anyone be unsure of the date their contribution is due please contact me on 884438.

*Sylvan Thomas,  
Secretary.*

## **Rolls Choice Café & Takeaway**

1st Floor Aberafan Shopping  
Centre (next to Library)

*Selection of Home Cooked Meals*

*Wide variety of Rolls and  
Baguettes*

*Welsh Cakes Freshly Baked*

**Telephone: 01639 885374**

*For All Your Floral Needs*



# Margaret Gammonds

Wedding Flowers  
Funeral Tributes

All made to order

Tel: 01639 883291  
& 888537



*Special Prices for  
Special Occasions*

# Rob's Taxis

*friendly and reliable*



*4, 5 & 6 seats available  
wheelchair friendly*

**01639 893183**

*You drink - we drive*

***Free.....  
to a good home***

Gent's wellington boots Size 10  
Gent's 2 speed bicycle 4 years old  
Call Simon on 01639 680702

***Don't forget  
Ash Wednesday  
17th February!!***

**Begin Lent properly and make  
sure you get to church!**

## ***The Mothers Union***

On the 30th January the MU Diocesan and Provincial Presidents were commissioned by the Archbishop at a service at Llandaff Cathedral.

Our own MU once again gave toys to SNAC and Tywyn special unit following their January meeting.

## *What is a rosary?*

Put quite simply it is a string of beads used in prayer.

Beads play a part in the prayer life of many major world religions, and are even used by those who profess to have no particular faith as an aid to getting rid of the stresses of life.



that helps us draw closer to the life of Jesus.

Prayer is an essential part of our daily lives as members of the Body of Christ.

### *Can it do any good to simply say a mantra of words over and over and again?*

Not if you are simply **saying** the words, no. But if you are **praying the words** that is a very different thing altogether.

### *Is it true that only Roman Catholics use the rosary beads?*

No. Beads are used by many Christians in the eastern churches and Coptic churches, and in the last 150 years many Anglicans have learned the benefit of using beads as a sign of and aid to prayer. Other denominations, too, use beads, and when Jane was in Upsalla recently she was presented with a set of beads that fulfil the same function as the rosary beads, though with a different emphasis.

### *Would you say that using the rosary is something everyone should do?*

No. But I would say that it something no-one should despise in others, and that we should all keep an open mind about the effectiveness of an aid to prayer

**The Rosary beads** have a long history, and were used many years before the current use of the prayer "Hail, Mary" came into fashion in the 12th Century. It is believed that originally the Lord's Prayer was recited on each bead, and the string was called the Pater Noster (which is Latin for "Our Father"). A small row exists in London next to St Pauls Cathedral called Pater Noster Row, because it was here that the beads were made for people to use in prayer centuries ago.

The prayer "Hail, Mary" was used by St Dominic in the 12th Century to teach people in France that God truly became a human being, because some of them thought Jesus was not really a man.

*Fr Nigel*

## *News of our parishioners*

Vi Davies has moved to be near her sister in Haverfordwest, and is in residential care.

Simon Burton has had his long awaited hip replacement.

Fred Evans has been in hospital.

Our condolences to Hilda Mears on the death of her husband, Ralph, who has been a resident at Tonna.

We send good wishes to Muriel Harris and Nell O'Brien whom we have missed.

Our good wishes go to Debbie Parkes who has had an operation, and hopes to be back with us in church soon.

Gillian Lawrence had an operation before Christmas and we hope she will soon be able to be back in church.

We send greetings to Betty Lane, Phyllis Adams, Doreen Williams, Doreen Tucker, Gwynne Llewellyn, Margaret Morgan, Fred Daniels, Lily Garvey, Ken & Shirley John, Elsie Short, Marjorie Stewart, Edwin Coombes, Judith Burke, Winnie Kinsley, Elsie Evans, Betti White, Haydn John, Dilys Pugh, Christine Collins, Betty Samuel, Megan Scourfield and all who are at this moment unable to be with us in church, but whom we remember regularly in our prayers.

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen



16 Newydd - February 2010

## *Daily Readings from Scripture*

8 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings 8: 1-7. 9-13	Mark 6: 53-56
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings 8: 22-23. 27-30	Mark 7: 1-13
10 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings 10: 1-10	Mark 7: 14-23
11 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings 11: 4-13	Mark 7: 24-30
12 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings: 11: 29-32. 12-19	Mark 7: 31-37
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	1 Kings 12: 26-32; 13; 33-34	Mark 8: 1-10
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	James 1: 1-11	Mark 8: 11-13
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	James 1: 12-18	Mark 8: 14-21
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Joel 2: 12-18	Matthew 6: 1-6. 16-18
18 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	Luke 9: 22-25
19 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Isaiah 58: 1-9	Matthew 9: 14-15

## *Daily Readings from Scripture*

20 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Isaiah 58: 9-14	Luke 5: 27-32
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2010	Leviticus 19: 1-2. 11-18	Matthew 25: 31-46
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2010	Isaiah 55: 10-11	Matthew 6: 7-15
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Jonah 3: 1-10	Luke 11: 29-32
25 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Esther 4: 17	Matthew 7: 7-12
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Ezekiel 18: 21-28	Matthew 5: 20-26
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	Deuteronomy 26: 16-19	Matthew 5: 43-48
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2010	Ecclesiasticus 15: 1-6	Matthew 16: 24-27
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2010	Isaiah 1: 10. 16-20	Matthew 23: 1-12
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2010	Jeremiah 18: 18-20	Matthew 20: 17-28
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	Luke 16: 19-31
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	Genesis 37: 3-4. 12-13. 17-28	Matthew 21: 33-43. 45-46
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	Micah 7: 14-15. 18-20	Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32

18 Newydd - February 2010

## ***Please note:***

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

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

To arrange a wedding or a baptism please call at the Parish Office on Mondays or Thursdays between 12pm and 3pm

## ***Congratulations:***

to Danny Bird who celebrates his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this month and to Duncan Roberts who celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> last month and to Kathleen Thomas who is 90 on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

to Denise and Ray Tamlyn who celebrate their Coral Wedding Anniversary this month.

## ***St Mary's 200 Club***

The winner for January is number 190, Mrs. Margaret Westacott.

# TRELLIS CONFECTIONERY

34, Forge Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1NU

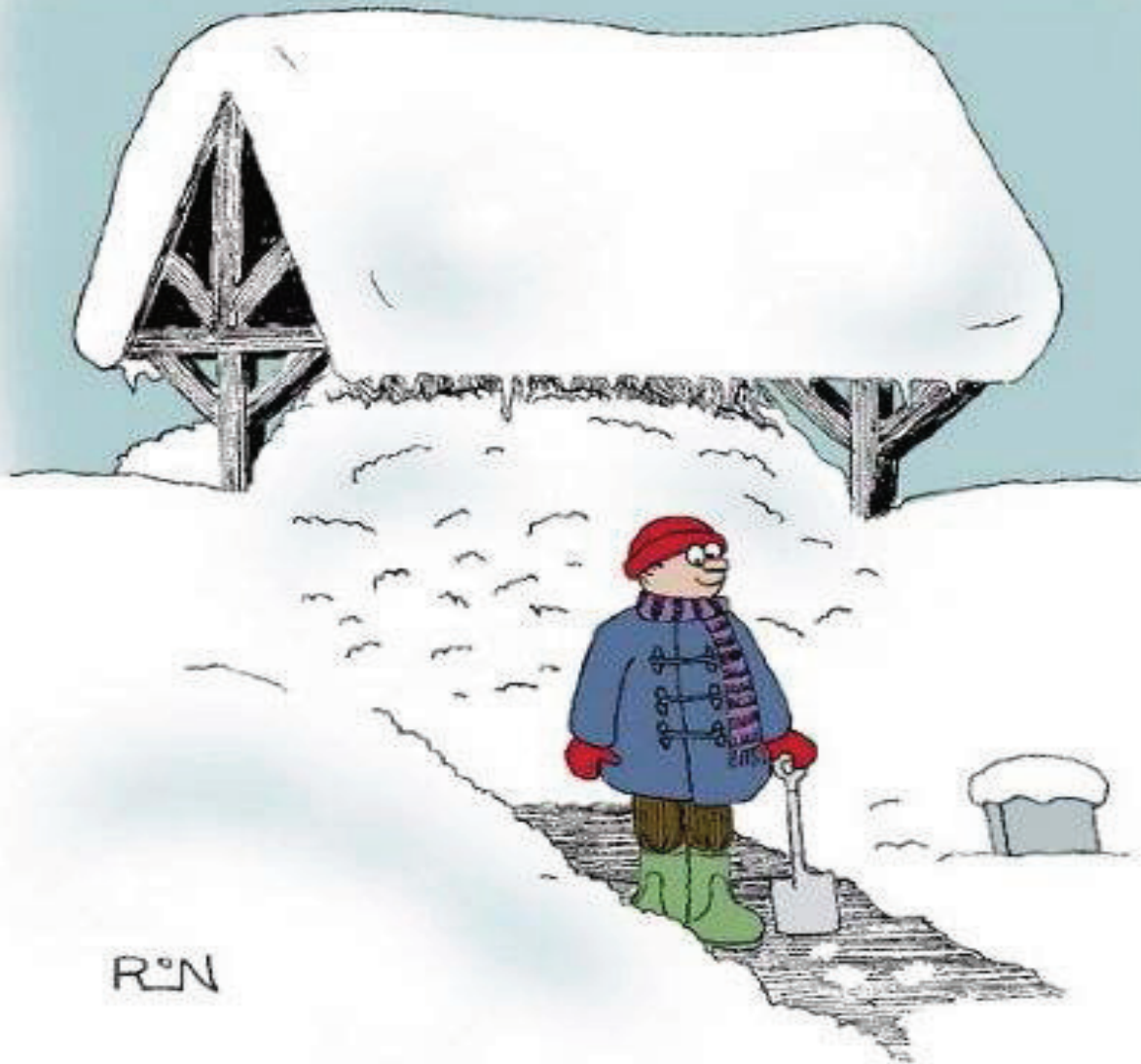
## **TRELLIS HANDMADE CHOCOLATES**

*Have something extra special for Easter, Mother's Day, or Valentine's.  
Maybe hire one of our Chocolate Fountains.*

We design Cakes for any occasion, Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings, Engagements or Anniversary.

**Tel: 01639 888856**

**[www.trellisconfectionery.co.uk](http://www.trellisconfectionery.co.uk)**



Clearing the church path was a good morning's work

©

Although we have indeed been fortunate not to have had as much snow and ice as some other places the bad weather has had an effect upon our attendances, and we hope that as the spring approaches and the cold snap recedes that we will once again be able to welcome back those who have been temporarily housebound.

Many thanks to everyone who worked hard to ensure church services continued without disruption, despite the somewhat icy temperatures indoors as well as out in some cases!

## *Eglwys to Senedd*

The challenge facing devolved Wales is how to create a more confident, compassionate and caring nation, the Archbishop of Wales told Assembly Members and other Welsh leaders at a unique event on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

The Bishops of the Church in Wales hosted a reception at the Senedd, the home of the National Assembly for Wales, to promote partnership work for a better future and to celebrate "believing in Wales".

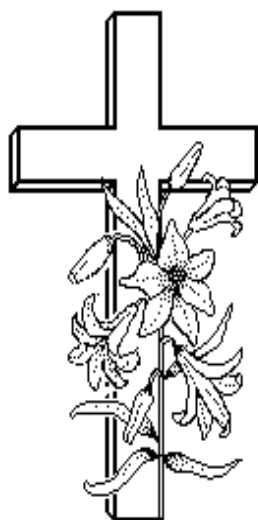
The reception, sponsored by the Presiding Officer of the National Assembly, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas, was led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan. It is the first time for the Church in Wales to host such an event and nearly 200 guests attended. As well as AMs, they included representatives of organisations from the public, private and third sectors across Wales, most of whom already work in partnership initiatives with the Church.



Dr Barry Morgan said, "In a devolved Wales the challenge we face together is: how do we create a more confident, a more compassionate and a more caring nation? No one body can achieve that on its own and that is why the Church, as one of the oldest all-Wales organisations, is keen to work in partnership with the Assembly and others. We believe in Wales and believe that, working together, we can transform the way we live."

Lord Elis-Thomas said, "Disestablishment of the Church to create the Church in Wales was the first great devolution measure of the last century. The second was the Government of Wales Act which established the National Assembly ten years ago.

As a communicant member of the Church in Wales I have valued the support it gives to all of us who engage in public life, and its active participation in the public debates on ethical and democratic issues along with all other faith communities. I am particularly pleased to welcome the whole Bench of Bishops to the National Assembly."



## Cockwell's Funeral Service Cwmavon

*A family concern with a concern for families*

**01639 884585**

Dedicated Chapel of Rest

24 hours service - 365 days a year  
*established over 125 years*

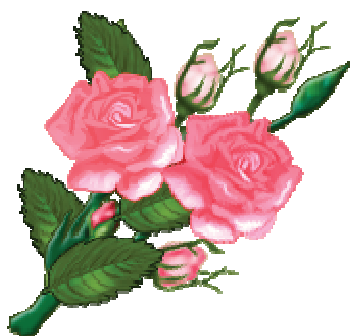
Agent for

**Golden Charter  
Prepaid  
Funeral Plans**

*Funeral director: Andrew Akins*  
3 Seaward Avenue Port Talbot SA12 7LT

## The Lilac Tree Florists

*flowers for all occasions*



**Fairway Shopping Centre  
Port Talbot  
01639 893111**

**Teleflorist**  
we take flowers personally™

## PLAYERS PLUMBING

24hr emergency call outs

From burst pipes  
to bathroom installations

All general plumbing work undertaken

Reliable

Work guaranteed

Free estimates and call outs

**Call Darren:**

07943846957 - 01639 888179



# *A small guide to a big picture*

## The Church in Wales



### *This month we look at*

### *Churchyards*



1,217	churchyards across Wales
8,100	funerals in 2007
125,000	hours of volunteer time in every year maintaining our churchyards
£16 million	of repair works required to our churchyards

Churchyards tell the story of the Welsh nation and record the lives of the people of Wales. They are vital signposts to the past; the land around the church indicates the area known in Welsh as the 'llan'. They are places that offer comfort and solace.

Churchyards are important habitats for wildlife as well as settings for listed church buildings. Churchyards are often vital green spaces in built-up areas.

Our churchyards are essential community assets providing local burial space for communities. Most of our churchyards are maintained by each local Parochial Church Council (even after there is no further space for burials) without any formal state aid. We estimate that in 10 years, two-thirds of our churchyards will have no space for further burials. Community Councils and Local Authorities do offer grant assistance in some places but more help is needed if our churchyards are to continue to serve Welsh communities.



## *Jane's visit to Upsalla*

Thanks to internet check-in Dawn Tilt and I didn't need to leave Porthcawl until 4.30am on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November for our flights to Sweden. We were met there at Arlanda airport by Rose-Marie and one of the prison chaplains who took care of Dawn's visit. (Dawn is a prison Chaplain in Bridgend)

It was good to catch up with Rose-Marie as we travelled to the railway station at Upsalla. She is now chaplain to the Bishop of Upsalla but is still involved in the partnership between our diocese.

I had been feeling quite anxious about the train journey north from Upsalla. Why do I waste time worrying about these things? The journey only took two hours because I had been booked onto the fast train and someone from a neighbouring parish, who happened to be travelling on the same train, managed to sit next to me and get off at the same stop!

The Swedish people have a well deserved reputation for speaking excellent English but I was very

grateful to discover how ready they were to make the effort to use it when in my company.

The Parish of Hudiksvall-Idenor is situated on the coast towards the north of the diocese of Upsalla. Katharina, one of the three full time deacons in the parish, met me at the railway station and we walked the short distance to the vicarage where I was to stay.



Pastor Thomas Grunnesjo and his wife Gudrun made me very welcome. The vicarage is one of the oldest buildings in Hudiksvall, the lights in the windows and candle lantern placed on the steps to the

front door gave my arrival a particularly warm feel.

As a child Thomas, whose English appears effortless, had spent a number of years in Liverpool where his father was pastor of the Swedish church. He and Gudrun apologized that a celebration meant they were travelling to Liverpool early Friday morning and I would be staying at the vicarage alone for the last two nights of my visit!

Continued on page 25



***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***

***Refreshments available - Everyone Welcome***

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

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

# **Sweet Art**

## **Confectionery Supplies**

***Sweet Art is a Wonderland for Sugar Crafters and Cake Makers.***

***We have a wide range of:***

**TINS, BOARDS, CUTTERS, SUGAR PASTE, MARZIPAN, RIBBONS,  
BOOKS, ROLLING PINS, GIFT VOUCHERS, AND MUCH MORE.**

***Come and browse around the shop at***

**26, Forge Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1NU**

**Tel: 01639 898927**

**[www.sweetartconfectionerysupplies.co.uk](http://www.sweetartconfectionerysupplies.co.uk)**

## *Archbishop's visit*

The Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan will preside and preach at a Benefice Mass to mark the 100th anniversary of the dedication of St Agnes' Church on Sunday 20th June 2010 at 10.30am.

Names are now being taken for the lunch at Blanco's hotel afterwards, and menus are printed on the booking forms which must be returned with a £10 per person non refundable deposit by Sunday 14th March. The cost of the lunch is £15 per person, which will include a glass of wine.

We do hope for a great turn out on the 20th.

In June 2011 we will be celebrating the centenary of the dedication of St Paul's Church - so we will be having another 'big bash' in a year's time!

---

← from page 23



The parish hall, *St. Jakobsgarden* is directly opposite the vicarage with the church *Jakobs kyrka* just beyond. One wing of the parish hall consists of administration offices for the parish along with separate offices for the three pastors, two deacons and pedagogues. The second wing is on two levels comprising meeting and teaching rooms, a small chapel, staff room, kitchen and a dining area. A large multi-purpose room links the two wings and opens onto the dining area. The hall is well used during the day and evening.

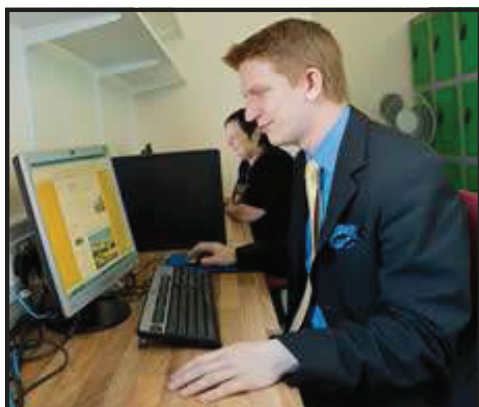
The one Swedish word I quickly learned is 'fika'. This is both a noun and a verb and illustrates the warm hospitality of the people. It is impossible just to have a cup of tea or coffee, you always have 'fika' which means something to eat with your drink, biscuits, cakes, bread and cheese, it doesn't matter what, food is always available at 'fika-time'. Each morning at the parish hall there is an informal staff meeting for 'fika' at 9.30am.

*Jane Slennett*

## ***New Web Site for college***

Those of you with web access might like to look at the new web site for St Michael's College at [www.stmichaels.ac.uk](http://www.stmichaels.ac.uk)

It gives an insight into what goes on in the College, and what facilities it has to offer, as well as hosting an interesting article about the visit of Russian prison chaplains in November 2009. The web site also invites



*A St Davids Diocese ordinand using the computer suite at St Michael's College*

people to become a "Friend" of St Michael's to help maintain the College as it moves through the 21st Century.

Built in the 19th century as a private residence and adapted over the years the College has a unique place in the life of the Church in Wales, and of the Diocese of Llandaff.



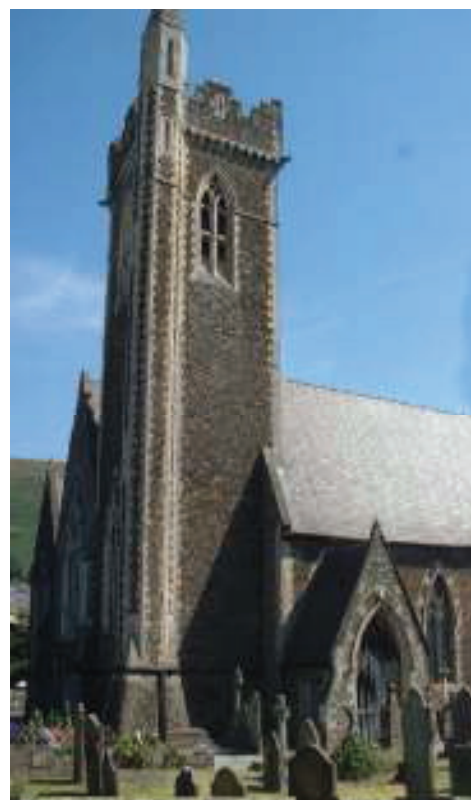
*The 19th Century building is always in need of repair and upgrade.*

## ***Towering problems***

Emergency work to make safe the tower at St Mary's was authorised by the Churchwardens in consultation with the Archdeacon of Margam at the end of January. The work, costing £10,000, was necessary because of falling masonry and worn out pointing.

### ***St Mary's Centre***

A report was discussed on 26th January by the St Mary's Church Committee on the state of the Parish Centre. Repairs costing £46,824 are needed in the next five years to stop the building deteriorating. The Church Committee decided to refer the matter to the PCC for further discussion.



# New Look Home Improvements

82 Commercial Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1LR

Tel: 01639 895053 Mobile: 07875 569216

## 2010

## SPECIAL OFFER

**Bathroom suite, Bathroom fully cladded or tiled (17m<sup>2</sup>)  
Fitted and Installed**

**Cladded £2,800 inc**

**Tiling £3,130 inc**

*Prices subject to survey*

**Offer includes:**

Wall cladding or tiling,  
Bathroom suite complete with  
Period Style taps in chrome and wastes.  
Acrylic front panel and toilet seat.

*We supply and fit*

Shower Enclosures,  
Spas, Whirlpools,  
Ceramic Wall and Floor Tiles,  
and Wall Cladding.

Twin grip bath and four piece pottery.

*A Home viewing service is  
available.*

Removal of rubbish.

*Any additional work required  
will be at an additional cost.*

**We also specialise in  
Disabled Showers and  
Bathrooms to individual  
requirements.**

Call in to view at above address.

**Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 4.30 pm**

**Saturday mornings**

*A family run business with own tradesmen*

## From the Registers

### Communicant figures for December 2009

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity
6th	45	42	25	39
13th	35	51	26	35
20th	33	50	23	45
27th	25	44	20	35

## *The Benefice Rosary Group*

When I moved to Aberavon I missed the public use of the Rosary, so I approached Fr. Steven Kirk about starting a Rosary group. He was happy to allow it as anything that brought extra prayer into the church could only be a good thing. He also warned me not to get disappointed if it failed! Well, 3 years on and we are still going.



We meet after Mass on the last Monday of the month at St Agnes'. We pray the Rosary, sometimes sing a hymn, and finish the evening with tea, coffee and biscuits. I feel a time of fellowship is important after any service or prayer meeting. The group has 8 members and it is lead by 3 of us on a rota basis. Although we meet at St. Agnes', it is open to all, as this is a Benefice group. We would love to welcome new members, so come along to the next meeting, and if it is not for you, there is no pressure of obligation to come again.

Alternatively phone me on 01639 680702 as lifts can be arranged.

*Simon Burton*

## ***Baptisms***



Please pray for the newly baptised, and especially those who have been baptised in our parish recently, amongst them

Lilly Ella Anfield Ashcroft

Please pray too for the parents and godparents.

## ***Benefice Mass***

It was lovely to see so many at St Paul's on 24th January to help us celebrate our Patronal Festival.

The preacher was Fr David Morris the assistant curate of Merthyr Tydfil, who said he was glad Fr Nigel was ill and wasn't there to listen to the sermon! He need not have worried as it was very good.

Lots of people stayed behind afterwards, and it seems it was much better staying in church as the fellowship was so good, and there was a great atmosphere there.

*Ann Rees*

## ***Church hall roof***

Work to replace the roof at St Paul's Church Hall began last month. The roof has been causing problems for a long time, and the church committee decided that constant patching was not stopping the leaks and was a constant drain on resources.

The job is costing £12,500 but will be well worth it, because it comes with a 15 year guarantee and will enable work to be carried out inside the hall too.

Thankfully the money was there to do the job!

## ***St Agnes' bill***

At long last the invoice came for the work to replace the boilers and repair all the leaking pipework.

It totalled £25,000 - £14,000 more than the original job!

Again, as at St Paul's, the money was there in the Building Fund, so we were able to pay the bill and move on with getting money for the remainder of the repair work.

Two donations came in unexpectedly last week, totalling £1008, and a grant cheque for £5000 arrived too! It all helps.

# 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



**The Rector**

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

01639 883630  
rector@parishofaberavon.org

**The Team Vicar**

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

01639 892306  
teamvicar@parishofaberavon.org

**The Parish Deacon**

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

01656 784840  
deacon@parishofaberavon.org

**The Benefice Wardens**

Mr Simon Burton  
01639 680702  
sburton@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Elizabeth Jones  
01639 794559  
elizabethjones@parishofaberavon.org

**St Mary's Subwardens**

Mr Len Jones  
01639 898939  
ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Jean Moloney  
01639 881516  
jmoloney@parishofabeavon.org

**The Parish Readers**

Mr Len Jones  
01639 898939  
ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Simon Burton  
01639 680702  
sburton@parishofaberavon.org

**The Parish Treasurer**

Mr Michael Howe  
01639 794138  
treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

**The Parish Secretary**

Mrs Denise Tamlyn  
The Parish Office  
office@parishofaberavon.org 01639 886740

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

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

**St Paul's Subwardens**

Mr Ivor Morgan  
01639 883829

Mrs Val Rees  
01639 896584

**St Agnes' Subwardens**

Mrs Edna Williams  
01639 886649  
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John  
01639 887030

**Holy Trinity Subwardens**

Mr Mike Isaac  
01639 793501  
misaac@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Gill Davison  
01639 870528

# *Parish Worship*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday	at 6.30pm	in St Agnes'
Tuesday	at 10am	in St Paul's
Wednesday	at 9.30am & 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.

The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon : a registered charity no 1130785