

Newydd

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

July 2009

60p



The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham takes place at the end of the month.

Pilgrims from the Benefice will be travelling to the Shrine to pray not only for themselves, but for the needs of our parishioners.

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 Assistant Curate

The Reverend Jonathan Elcock
 Holy Trinity House
 Fairway
 Port Talbot
 SA12 7HG

01639 893972
 curate@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

The Parish Readers

Mr Len Jones
 01639 898939
 ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Simon Burton
 01639 680702
 sburton@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Treasurer

Mrs Paula Durnell
 01639 770829
 pdurnell@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

To arrange a wedding or a baptism please call at the office
 on Mondays or Thursdays.

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



It is a year since we welcomed Jane Slennett to the Benefice - time seems to pass so quickly - and now, at the end of June we have said a very warm welcome to Jonathan Elcock, our new deacon. I hope that he will be happy amongst us, and settle in as well as Jane. Please note his telephone number is not the same as the one used by Fr Matthew. You will find it on page 2 of this magazine.

June this year was a month of welcoming. The flower festival saw over 280 people come to St Mary's in three days to see the flowers. The art exhibition saw a different group of people, who totalled about 80 over the week. How wonderful to be able to get people through the doors to see the church itself, and perhaps move them to think about what normally goes on there.



Snow White and the 7 dwarves was one of the 23 films depicted in flowers in St Mary's

Of course all this welcoming comes at a cost: and I want to thank you all for the many hours of your time that you gave so freely to make these things the undoubted success they were, and for the all the other work of cleaning and re-arranging the building and helping with publicity and so on that were essential. Thanks too, of course, to the people who made the 23 flower arrangements that were on display, and to the people who sponsored the event to help offset the financial costs involved.

We have other opportunities in September to welcome people to church.

The first comes as part of the Open Churches campaign, when we are asked to keep open our church buildings for one Saturday in order to help people see inside the church, and the other comes at the end of September when we are asked to take part in Back to Church Sunday, which is now a national campaign aimed at inviting back to church someone who has stopped coming over the years.

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The Open Churches Day this year is Saturday 19th September and the Back to Church Sunday is 27th September.

The Archbishop has urged us all to take part in these events, and if you recall we took part in the open church day last year, and there was some interest from people, who did indeed travel to see our church buildings.

Back to Church Sunday is going to be a little more tricky than just opening the doors of the church on 19th September.

If it is to work, Back to Church Sunday is going to need from each and every one of us a commitment and willingness to actually invite someone to worship, and to be there in church to welcome them, and ensure that their experience of worship that day is a positive and happy one.

Back to Church Sunday is a very real challenge to existing congregations as well as to those who have lapsed, because it means we have to know in our hearts why we think someone should be invited back. We have to believe that it is worth them coming; and more importantly we have to ensure that we mean what we say when we tell them they are welcome as they are.

I hope we can rise to the challenges and continue to take every opportunity we can to help engage people with the life of the Church, and make them welcome in our place of worship.

With every good wish, and with prayers

Nigel Cahill

Father Nigel.

What shall we call you?

Quite a lot of people have asked how they should address me since my installation as a canon, and how they should address envelopes, and I just want you to know that I have no problem with you continuing to call me Fr Nigel.

On envelopes the address should be The Reverend Canon Nigel Cahill

If people are writing a letter they should begin
Dear Canon Cahill or Dear Fr Cahill or
Dear Fr Nigel

I really don't mind what you say: but I don't feel there is any need for you to call me 'canon.' Please use whatever title you feel comfortable saying.

Car Treasure Hunt

On Wednesday 15th July there's a car treasure hunt being organised.



Starting from St Agnes' Church between 6.30pm and 7pm at a cost of £5 per car, the journey will lead you in search of a treasure that is indescribable.

Why not get a car full of people and join in the fun?

New organ

Many people at the Cathedral on 31st May wondered why all the scaffolding was in the chancel. The Cathedral is having a new organ at a cost of £1.5 million. They don't have all the money at the moment, but they have pressed ahead with the scheme to have one of the best organs in the UK. The old organ was damaged beyond repair by a lightning strike a few years back.

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Condolences

We extend our sympathy to Elaine Williams, who is the Independent Examiner of the annual accounts for St Mary's. St Paul's and Holy Trinity, on the death of her father, who has been ill for some time.

Cream tea

On Tuesday 7th July at 2.30 pm the Mothers' Union are

hosting a Cream Tea in St Mary's Centre. You are all welcome, and the tickets are £2 each.



Thank You

Haydn and Glenys John would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and all their prayers for Haydn during his stay in hospital.

Laugh-lines from other parish magazines:

- ♦ Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones
- ♦ The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- ♦ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Strawberry tea

On Saturday 11th July at 3.30 pm the St Agnes Circle are having their Strawberry Tea at St Agnes' church and tickets are £3.50.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid

The Benefice sent a cheque to Christian Aid for £1096.72 last month, the result of all your hard work in collecting door to door and organising other events. Well done everyone, and thank you so much for your support and hard work.

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

A small and simple guide has been produced, with a big purpose in mind: to let you know about the active presence of the Church in Wales today. You might be surprised at some of the facts and figures. Importantly, it also spells out some of the challenges the Church in Wales faces at the very heart of Welsh communities. It shows our aspirations for the future and our hope to work with you to achieve them. Each month we will reproduce a page here for you to get a glimpse of who we are and what we do.

Since 1920, the Church in Wales has been an independent Province within the world wide Anglican Church. We continue the tradition of Anglican worship and life within Wales, and we have a presence in every community in Wales. The Church in Wales works closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and other agencies for the benefit of the people of Wales. It is involved in national and international issues.

Organisation

The Church in Wales is led by its Bishops and overseen by a Governing Body consisting of Bishops, and mainly elected clergy and church members. Your local parish is run by a parish priest, its churchwardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) consisting of volunteer members of the congregation. Parishes are clustered into area deaneries which make up a diocese. We have six dioceses in Wales, each led by a bishop. They are St Asaph, Bangor, St Davids, Llandaff, Monmouth, and Swansea & Brecon.

The Archbishop of Wales

is the Bishop of one of the dioceses and has additional national responsibilities. The property of the Church in Wales is owned by a central trustee body (the Representative Body of the Church in Wales) but managed locally through diocese and parish. The Representative Body administers financial matters including pensions and investments as well as providing professional assistance and guidance. Dioceses also hold some property in their own right and organise church schools in their area as well as a host of other activities including social responsibility projects.

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Holy Trinity Fund raising events

A very successful evening resulted when a Mock Auction was held at Holy Trinity on Friday 24th April.



It was the first such event held in the new church building and thanks are due for the magnificent work of the trusty team of helpers as well as that of our guest Auctioneer Mr. Harry Vaughan of Ammanford.

Spring Bank Holiday Saturday found our trusty team in the Port Talbot Civic Square manning a cake stall during the Town Festival.

Yet again, their hard work proving well worth the effort. Well done everyone, between the two events over £550 was raised.

Fr Anthony thanked everyone for their work at the last church committee meeting.

New phone number

Please note that Jonathan Elcock's phone number is:

01639 893972

This number has changed and is not the same as the one used by previous occupants of the house.

His email address is

curate@parishofaberavon.org

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How To Plant Your Garden

First, you come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses

For the garden of your daily living

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

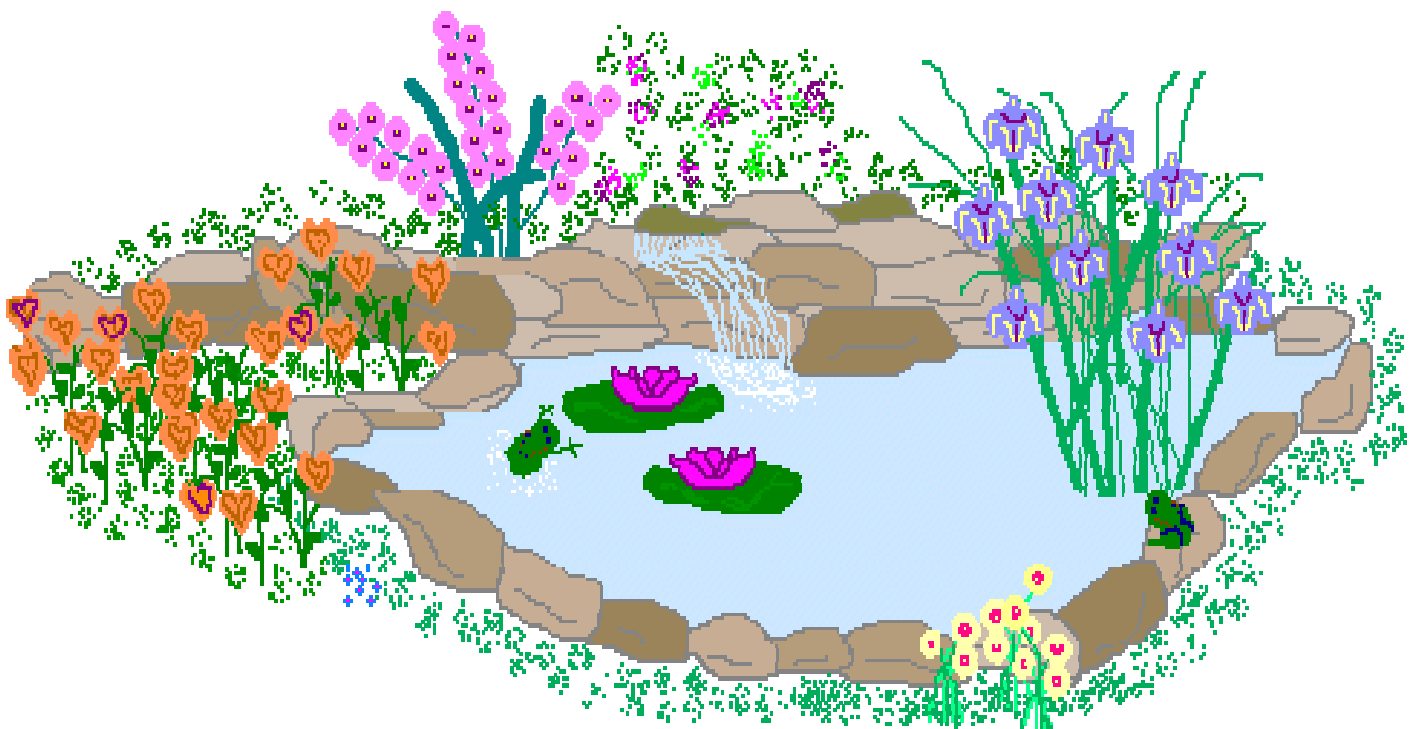
NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE
MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and
cultivate with love. There is much
fruit in your garden because you
reap what you sow



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The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Maureen Bernadette Parry
Dilys Long
Leo Jay Worgan-Hill



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

News from Ysbryd-y-Mor

In a pervious magazine I told you that we had a Baptism at Ysbryd-y-Mor, and would have another soon at Holy Trinity Church. Well, Pat (aged 66) asked to be baptised in church on Sunday May 3rd, during the Eucharist. This took place, and the church was full to welcome her.

The day turned out to be sunny and warm, and taxis were arranged for five of the party from Ysbryd who hadn't been to church for a very long time because of their disabilities. Fr Anthony, and members of the church, rearranged the seating in order that wheel chairs could be easily accommodated close to the other members of Pat's family who also attended.

Pat's wish came true. She is quite poorly, and because of her sight problems she was worried about her ability to read the responses, but with the help of Fr Anthony she managed wonderfully. She was determined that her baptism should take place in church and she enjoyed everything which the service contained. She was especially pleased that her sister received Holy Communion again, after a long absence, and she left the Church full of happiness.

Our Christian family at Ysbryd does seem to be growing, and perhaps it won't be long before our next baptism, so please remember us all in your prayers.

Jean Morgan.

Welsh college gets top marks for clergy training

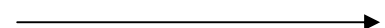
Wales' only clergy training college is "leading the way" and building an international reputation, according to an inspection report published on 22nd June.

St Michael's College, Llandaff, is described as an "impressive institution" by the inspectors who spent a year monitoring all aspects of its work. Out of the 13 areas judged, they award the college nine "gold stars" (Confidences) and four "silver" (Confidences with Qualifications).

The 115-year-old college, which trains candidates for the priesthood in Wales and beyond, wins praise in all four branches of its work – its residential courses, non-residential courses, chaplaincy centre and ministry development.

The team of inspectors particularly commends the college's unique Centre for Chaplaincy Studies, which was set up last June in partnership with Cardiff University and prepares chaplains for counselling and guiding people in a wide range of situations – from patients in hospital to prisoners in jail to soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The report says the Centre's strong Master of Theology programme gives St Michael's a "national and international reputation" and "leads the way to exploring the interface between theological thinking and public policy."

The college's ministry development work, meanwhile, is praised as a "commendable example of joined-up thinking and planning" and more advanced than similar programmes in England. Staff are described as "well-motivated and creative under firm but sensitive leadership" who deliver "high quality" teaching which results in "academic achievements out of proportion to the college's size". Inspectors found that the college's teaching and worship included a breadth of church traditions, saying, "the college now claims with some justification to be an all-party college".



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Such a positive report means clergy who train in Wales can be confident they are receiving one of the best preparations for their vocation, said the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan.

"I am delighted with this report on St Michael's. The College is developing apace and stands comparison with any other theological college in Britain, rightly attracting students from other provinces. The Church in Wales is investing in its future and, indeed, has such confidence in it that it has asked the Principal to be its Ministry Officer, overseeing training and support for clergy in their early and later years."

The Principal of St Michael's College, Rev Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, said the report shows the college has a secure future.

"This report recognises the enormous changes in the last five years. It is a tremendous and heartening recognition of the staff in transforming the college. It shows that this is a college with a very bright future indeed. I am very proud of the staff in what they have achieved in such a short period. We recognize, too, that there are areas for continued development and these are already being addressed as far as possible."

The Bishop of Basingstoke, the Rt Rev Trevor Willmott, who is the Church of England representative on the College's Trustee body, said,

"This is an excellent report which should give confidence to the whole Church to send candidates for ministry to St Michael's. The work of the Chaplaincy studies is at the cutting edge of mission."

The report was conducted by a team from the Church of England's Ministry Division in partnership with the Church in Wales.

Summing up, it said,

"St Michael's College is an impressive institution. We have become aware of a wide and increasing level of trust in the college among church people in Wales, particularly among those who know the college as it now is rather than judging it on the basis of its past history. We believe that that trust is justified, and that as the college continues its ambitious programme of development its contribution to the life of its sponsoring churches will grow even more significant, chiefly but not only in the preparation of candidates for ordained and Reader ministry who will be well equipped to lead their churches through the changing patterns of church life and ministry in twenty-first century Wales."

Registered Charity status

We have been informed by the Diocese that we must now register as a Benefice with the Charity Commission by the 31st July 2009.

As you will have read earlier in the year, this registration will have a profound affect upon the way we manage the Benefice finances and Gift Aid claims.

The most significant changes for us are:

- ♦ we will have to have one bank account, with all the money paid into and out of that account for all four churches;
- ♦ we will have to have one Benefice Gift Aid Secretary to make claims on behalf of the whole Benefice.

You must remember that these changes are being imposed upon us by UK government legislation. These are not things the Church in Wales has asked for or is initiating itself. Indeed the Church in Wales, in common with other major denominations in the UK has been negotiating with the Charity Commission not to insist on this change - but to no avail.

PCC meeting

There will be a meeting of the PCC on Sunday 19th July after evensong at St Paul's.

Amongst the items on the agenda will be the changes to the financial structure of the Benefice.

At the last PCC meeting

the proposed "Port Talbot Masterplan" was discussed. This is a draft plan published by the local council about the way Port Talbot might change in the future.

One of the many items in the plan is a proposal to regenerate land at the old docks the other side of the railway line near the magistrate's court. The PCC felt that many of the Council's ideas and hopes were valuable and should be applauded, but they had fears for the viability of the existing town centre shops if major retail units were to be situated beyond the town, and serious concerns about transport links.

A letter was sent to the Chief Planning Officer, which is reprinted on page 16.

Concerns were also raised about traffic proposals for Water Street.

***Fibromyalgia Support Group
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Daily Readings from Scripture *also on page 18*

6 th July 2009	Genesis 28: 10-22	Matthew 9: 18-26
7 th July 2009	Genesis 32: 23-33	Matthew 9: 32-38
8 th July 2009	Genesis 41: 55-57; 42: 5-7. 17-24	Matthew 10: 1-7
9 th July 2009	Genesis 44: 18-21. 23-29; 45: 1-5	Matthew 10: 7-15
10 th July 2009	Genesis 46: 1-7. 28-30	Matthew 10: 16-23
11 th July 2009	Genesis 49: 29-33; 50: 15-26	Matthew 10: 24-38
13 th July 2009	Exodus 1: 8-14. 22	Matthew 10: 34 – 11: 1
14 th July 2009	Exodus 2: 1-15	Matthew 11: 20-24
15 th July 2009	Exodus 3: 1-6. 9-12	Matthew 11: 25-27
16 th July 2009	Exodus 3: 13-20	Matthew 11: 28-30
17 th July 2009	Exodus 11: 10 – 12: 14	Matthew 12: 1-8
18 th July 2009	Exodus 12: 37-42	Matthew 12: 14-21

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Letter to the Chief Planning Officer regarding the proposed draft Masterplan

Port Talbot town centre Masterplan

At its last meeting the Parochial Church Council of Aberavon discussed the draft Masterplan.

The P.C.C. represents the churches of St Mary, St Agnes, St Paul and Holy Trinity, part of the Church in Wales, with a membership of 315 people.

It was the view of the P.C.C. that the Council is to be congratulated on its vision for the future, and its desire to provide good quality homes, shops, leisure and community facilities, along with provision for business and open space.

However, the P.C.C. are concerned that, if the main thrust of the shopping area is moved from its current location to the other side of the railway line, there will be such an adverse effect on the existing shopping area that we will see many empty shops that will eventually become derelict. Members of the Parochial Church Council who have experience of visiting other areas commented on the way town centres have moved in places like Llanelli, and how the existing town centres are virtually "ghost towns." Other areas were also mentioned. Indeed, mention was made of the number of boarded up shops in Cardiff city as the retail centre moves from place to place.

Another serious concern was that lack of attention to transport for those who have no access to their own car will be a very real form of discrimination. Attention was drawn to the bridge that currently crosses the existing by pass at the junction of Victoria Road, and how difficult it is for the elderly and the less mobile to cross the bridge, especially in

bad weather. The withdrawal of buses on some existing routes in the locality has already had an impact on people's ability to travel with ease, and unless there are guarantees that the new retail area will have adequate transport links from all parts of the town people will be set apart from each other.

The P.C.C. does not believe that Station Road will survive the moving of the retail centre, and that the future of the Aberafan Shopping Centre itself will be placed at risk.

It was the view of the Parochial Church Council that the area beyond the railway line should provide leisure, housing and business facilities, but not large retail facilities.

The P.C.C asks the Council to take these views into account when coming to a conclusion about the Masterplan's implementation.

Yours sincerely

Canon Nigel Cahill
Rector of Aberavon

c.c. Councillors in the wards in which the churches are situated
Members of Aberavon Parochial Church Council

Tesco refused

It is interesting to note that Tesco has been refused planning permission to move its store on the same grounds that the PCC expresses concern about the draft masterplan for Port Talbot.

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Daily Readings from Scripture

20 th July 2009	Exodus 14: 5-18	Matthew 12: 38-42
21 st July 2009	Exodus 14: 21 – 15: 1	Matthew 12: 46-50
22 nd July 2009	Song of Songs 3: 1-4	John 20: 1-2. 11-18
23 rd July 2009	Exodus 19: 1-2. 9-11. 16-20	Matthew 13: 10-17
24 th July 2009	Exodus 20: 1-17	Matthew 13: 18-23
25 th July 2009	2 Corinthians 4: 7-15	Matthew 20: 20-28
27 th July 2009	Exodus 32: 15-24. 30-34	Matthew 13: 31-35
28 th July 2009	Exodus 33: 7-11; 34: 5-9. 28	Matthew 13: 36-43
29 th July 2009	Exodus 34: 29-35	Matthew 13: 44-46
30 th July 2009	Exodus 40: 16-21. 34-38	Matthew 13: 47-53
31 th July 2009	Leviticus 23: 1. 4-11. 15-16. 27. 34-37	Matthew 13: 54-58
1 st August 2009	Leviticus 25: 1. 8-17	Matthew 14: 1-12
3 rd August 2009	Numbers 11: 4-15	Matthew 14: 13-21
4 th August 2009	Numbers 12: 1-13	Matthew 14: 22-36

St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for June is number 23,
Celia Martin.

Walsingham prayers

If you would like the pilgrims to pray for you, for someone you know to be in need, to remember the departed or to pray for or some other specific intention at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, then please fill in the details on the lists at the back of each church.

There are clear headings:

1. prayers for those who are sick
2. prayers of thanksgiving for things that have happened
3. prayers for the parish
4. prayers for the departed
5. prayers for those who are in need, but who are not ill.

It is essential that these lists are completed on or before Wednesday 15th July so that might be collated and collected in time for the pilgrims leaving on 20th July.

Walsingham cell

The cell exists to promote the work of the Shrine in the Benefice and to join in fellowship and prayer those who are pilgrims to Walsingham.

Once a month the cell meets at St Agnes' Church, and everyone is welcome to come, even if you are not a pilgrim.

The meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month, and either follow the form of Evensong & Benediction or Stations of the Cross (though there would be a mass if the date is a major holy day).

Even if you are not particularly interested in staying behind after the service for a cup of tea and a chat you are very welcome to come to Evensong or Stations.

St Agnes' Church Committee

There will be a meeting for members of the committee on Wednesday 8th July in church at 7.15pm



Nobody believed Helen's claim that it
was the Pew Fairy

Keep your church tidy

A clean and tidy church sends out a good and positive signal that what happens in the building is of importance.

Please don't clutter the church with junk: and, please, put things away in the best place for them: a cupboard or drawer. Do not leave books and robes on the choir stall seats, and, if you use a paper tissue, take it away with you - don't leave it for the cleaner to move!

Study Group

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday 13th July after the 6.30pm mass at St Agnes' church.

We are looking at St Mark's Gospel.

Church of England financial crisis

Although we are not part of the Church of England, it is worth noting that our sister church is also struggling with its finances.

Indeed, it has been announced that the post of Suffragan Bishop of Hulme in the Diocese of Manchester will be axed when the present occupant of the post retires.

Clergy in England are calling on their church to radically cut the number of senior positions within the C of E to match the steady and drastic cuts to ordinary stipendiary clergy numbers that have been taking place since 1979.

The lesson for us? Mutual support and co-operation in the benefice team is essential if we are to push forward the Gospel message of Jesus - and by the way that does not refer to the clergy team, but to the whole of the church-going population in the parish.

Building fund at St Agnes'

The fund now stands at £14,704.46 - quite an accomplishment in nine months.

Thanks

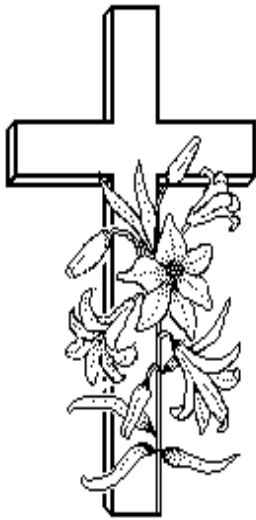
We are again indebted to the talented people who gave of their time to perform for us at the Summer Recitals in St Mary's on Wednesday evenings, and of course to the loyal band of workers who provide the refreshments and see to the practical needs of the evening.

Thanks, also, to Hywel and Joi for the significant part they play in getting it all together.

Congratulations

Linda & Robert Lewis have become grandparents, thus making Matthew Lewis an uncle, on the birth of a baby girl to Andrew & Cally on 25th June.





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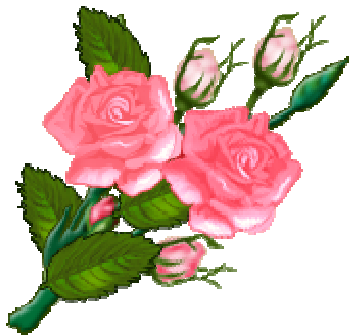
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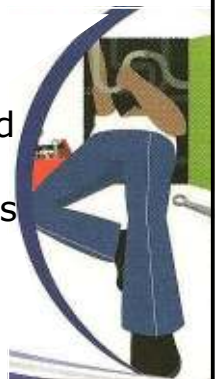
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News of our friends

We continue to hold in our prayers the many parishioners who are unable to be in church with us and who receive Holy Communion at home and in the nursing homes of the Benefice.

In addition we send good wishes to Duncan Roberts who has recently been in hospital;

Ann John who is now home after a spell in hospital;

Haydn John who has had another heart attack;

Margaret Morgan who is still unable to get about much after her spell in hospital;

Myra and Leighton Williams;

Christine Collins, still a patient at Neath Port Talbot;

Joyce Davison, still in Cimla;

Jean Patterson;

Danny Bird, making slow and steady progress;

Mary Edwards, who has had a cataract removed;

Tony Llewellyn who has not been feeling very well.

Ordinations

The 27th June was a glorious day. The sun shone, the people flocked to the Cathedral, and in spite of the fact that so many could not see a thing, all went well.

Jonathan, David, Sarah, Jonathan and Anthony were all duly ordained to the diaconate with six people ordained to the priesthood.



The next morning St Agnes' was also packed as we enjoyed a Benefice Mass to celebrate Jonathan's arrival amongst us as a deacon. Many people commented on the lovely atmosphere in church on both occasions.

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The Flower Festival.

Judged to be a great success by everyone who came, this note was received by Fr Nigel at the end of June with a request that it be published in the magazine:

My daughter and I were delighted to receive an invitation to join the people of Aberavon for the Flower Festival that was held on the weekend of the 5th. June.



We were very impressed by the whole evening. To begin an evening by listening to a superb soloist, followed by a delightful buffet (and a glass of wine) set the tone for a leisurely tour of the flower arrangements. The interpretation of the theme of "Films" showed in every case great imagination. It would not be fair to single out any arrangement for we found something to admire in everyone. Great thought had gone into them all (and by the way Father Nigel should be put on the flower rota-the football was an inspiration!)

It was interesting to work out the tastes in Films of the arrangers!

I think the most pleasing part of the evening though was the warm and welcoming atmosphere. Everyone was so friendly, and this was evident from the fact that no one hurried away. We all stayed and chatted.

Thank you, to Father Nigel for his invitation, and to everyone who contributed to a very pleasant evening.

I hope this is only the first of many flower festivals!

Margaret Smith
Cardiff.

Canterbury choir to the Rhondda

The 18 trebles from the prestigious choir of Canterbury Cathedral are coming to Wales to take part in a "music in the community" concert at St Anne's Church, Ynyshir, organised by the parish priest, Fr Paul Bigmore. The choir will be returning a visit Rhondda parishioners made to their cathedral last September.

The Canterbury choristers, who are aged 8-13, will sing alongside children from the local primary school, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn. The choir from the school performed in a concert at Canterbury last September, in front of both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Wales.

Fr Paul set up the highly successful Music in the Community initiative to promote music in the South Wales valleys through recitals, concerts and workshops. He said it was a privilege for him to welcome the choirboys and the Organist and Master of the Music, Dr David Flood, to St Anne's Church. He said, "Music enables the heart and mind to be in tune with God. May this historic concert unite people in love for God and for each other as we give thanks and celebrate the gift of music."

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said, "Last year's concert celebrating the 10th anniversary of Music in the Community was a truly inspiring event and I am delighted the boys from the Cathedral choir are coming to this parish in Wales to return the visit and sing once again with the talented pupils from Ysgol Llwyncelyn. There is a rich tradition of church choral music in the South Wales so I'm sure, as one of the best cathedral choirs in the world, they will be warmly welcomed and appreciated."

The choirboys are well travelled already this year – since Easter they have had trips to perform in America, France and Holland. But choirmaster Dr David Flood said they were looking forward to coming to the Rhondda.

He said, "This trip is much more relaxing for us: - no passports needed to visit our friends in Wales and it will be good to sing somewhere we have never been to but where we have such strong links through our Archbishop. The boys will have a chance to make new friends and to see the Rhondda, where very few of them have been before. They can also give a concert on their own, without the men, which will be good experience for them."

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Benefice Mass

On Sunday 9th August there will be a Benefice Mass at Holy Trinity Church.

Please note the date in your diary now!

All Benefice masses on Sundays begin at 10.30am.

Holy Days

St Mary Magdalene Wednesday 22nd July

Holy Trinity 9.30am
St Mary's 11.00am

St James, Apostle Saturday 25th July 10.30am Hospital Chapel

The Transfiguration Thursday 6th August 10.00am St Agnes'

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

Llangasty Retreat House events

Saturday 11 July. 2.00-4.30pm.
Open Day.
Free Admission. All welcome.

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www.llangasty.com for map and directions.

Sat 11 July. 5.30 for 6pm.
Hog roast in the marquee while the sun sets over Llangorse Lake.
Admission by ticket only (inc. glass of wine or fruit juice). Purchased in advance: £10 Adults, £5 children (under 12 years). 01874 730 257
eirajones@aol.com

Monday 13 July.
10am - 4pm. Day for Reflection.
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28 Newydd - July 2009

Swansea to India with USPG

Hospital chaplain Eldon Phillips, from Swansea, spent a month in India with USPG's Expanding Horizons Programme.



As a hospital chaplain, the focus on my interest was on healthcare and support for the disadvantaged, so I asked to visit hospitals and other initiatives being run by the Diocese of Tirunelveli, in the Church of South India (CSI). Though there are government hospitals in this area, these institutions are vital for meeting the many medical challenges.

I visited a leprosy village, just outside Tirunelveli, that was run by an amazing man, Premkumar Joseph. He was an eye surgeon who started working as a GP, specialising in leprosy. Premkumar supported the village with the help of just one other GP and three nurses. There were 56 houses for patients, a village shop selling nuts, vegetables and so on, and there was even an ice cream van.

I met one family at the leprosy community: the father was a Muslim, the mother was a Hindu and the daughter was a Christian, who was a clinic nurse. I found this highly moving. In fact, wherever I went during my visit, I encountered a great rapport between people of different faiths. In general, I found the Church of South India's (CSI) concern for people with leprosy extremely touching. There were regular services at Tirunelveli Cathedral, where people from the leprosy colony were presented with gifts of food and treats. The diocese was keen to ensure that no-one was disadvantaged because of illness.

At a huge Christian hospital in Velore, I could read Bible verses everywhere. Due to the vast number of different languages-spoken in India, the hospital had 21 chaplains and held church services in eight languages. I was told that 99 per cent of patients were not Christians. Indeed, whenever a baby was born locally, the mother would bring the baby to the hospital chapel for a blessing regardless of her faith.

The level of customer care was impressive. For example, there were 43 receptionists, on a rota, with the name of each on-duty receptionist on display so that visitors knew who to complain about if they were not happy. I returned to Wales with many other treasured memories, such as visiting a school for people with learning difficulties →

where a mini-bakery was being run by the two oldest pupils – two young men whose quality of life had been vastly improved by the intervention of the school. Looking back at my visit, I can say that the level of healthcare I encountered in India was as good as in my home country, although the facilities are not. I realised afresh how lucky we are in Britain. I'll never complain about the NHS again!

The other thing that struck me was the great depth of kindness and care that I encountered – I didn't find one unkind person in India.

St Mary's Cemetery

The cemetery has been in a bad state for some time. The local council has agreed to cut the grass twice a year, and this is a favour to the parish. Cemeteries that are cut off from the church yard by a river, railway, path, wall or road are deemed to be rateable because they bring in an income (no more of course than the churchyard itself, which is exempt because the church stands on the same property) and so we pay rates. However, the payment of rates does not confer any rights upon us, merely an obligation to pay. We are grateful to the council for agreeing to cut the grass twice a year, but it still leaves us with a problem of how to care for the area long term.

MU event in Cardiff

Mothers' Union Worldwide Day

Saturday 18 July.

10.30am-3pm.

**St Mark's Church, Gabalfa,
North Rd Cardiff**

Opening worship at 11am led by Rev Dr John Njoroge.

Speaker: Jolly Babarikuma from Uganda.

Display of Mothers' Union Diocesan Overseas Links. Fair-trade stall, Tombola, Children's Corner, Soup Lunches. All welcome. Entry £1 inc. cup of tea/coffee & Welsh Cake. Children Free.

Fr Nigel has a few tickets if anyone would like to go.

New MU President

The new president of the Mothers Union in the Llandaff Diocese is Rae Saunders from the Rhondda.

She was elected after a ballot of branch leaders was held in the Diocese in May.

From the Registers

Communicant figures for May

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
3rd	49	62	21	47	
10th	45	55	23	45	
17th	33	59	25	30	
24th	30	58	22	40	
31st	40	50	26	43	

Monthly Income for May

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£5,759.95	£4223.53	£4,485.07	£1,764.38	

Monthly Payments for May

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,929.94	£4814.45	£2,111.98	£1,784.85	

The Benefice Account for April

Paid in	£10,753.29	Paid out	£9,195.62
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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'
Friday	at 10am	in St Paul's
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.