

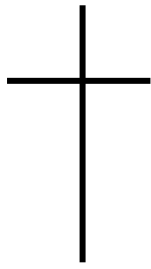
Newydd

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

March 2009

60p

forty days
and
forty nights



The solemn season of Lent has begun - let us keep the fast so that we might profit in keeping the feast

The Rectorial Parish of Aberavon

www.parishofaberavon.org

The Rector

883630

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

rector@parishofaberavon.org

The Team Vicar

892306

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

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The Parish Deacon

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

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The Benefice Wardens

Mr Len Jones (also Parish Reader) 898939

ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Paula Durnell (also Parish Treasurer) 770829

pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

office hours only

886740

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

The Parish Office is open on

Mondays

from 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday

from 10am to 1pm

Thursday

from 12pm to 3pm

Weddings and Baptisms

To arrange a wedding or baptism please call the Parish Office on a Monday, or Thursday between 12pm and 3pm

Lent 2009

Mission is what God is doing in the world today

Please take Lent seriously.

Make every effort to be in church each Sunday, and come along to one of the weekday services when there will be an address. It is only through the keeping of a good and holy Lent that we will truly appreciate the joys of Easter Day.

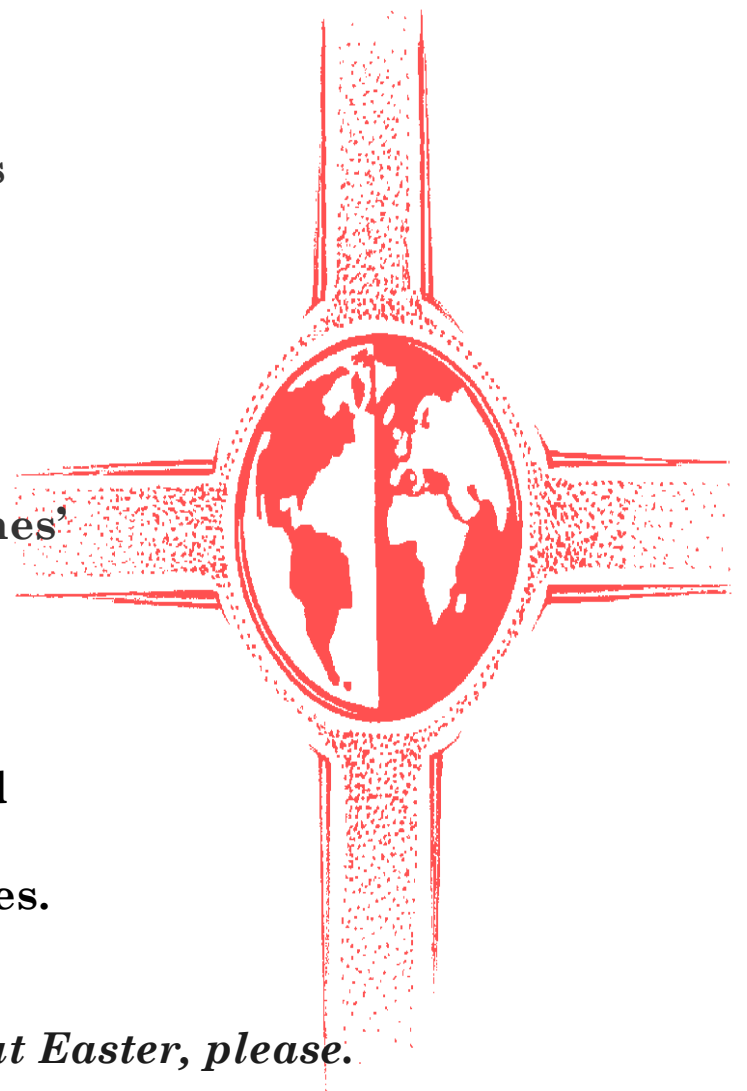
Tuesday mornings at St Paul's
Mass with address

Wednesday mornings at
Holy Trinity and St Mary's
Mass with address

Wednesday evenings at St Agnes'
Stations of the Cross and address

Please use the USPG Lent
boxes to support the work
of the world wide Church, and
help bring the light of Christ
to the darkness of people's lives.

Lent boxes should be returned at Easter, please.



From the Rectory

The prospect of death is staring Jade Goody in the face, and the media are covering the story of her diagnosis, wedding and prognosis with great attention to detail.

It is always sad when someone dies. Age is no measurement of the grief that is felt when death meets us in others on our life's journey. Sad as it always is to encounter the death of someone well known, Jade is not the only person of her age who will be leaving behind young children and a family when she dies. Thousands of others are in the same position every year, and in other parts of the world the death of young mothers and their children, in areas of extreme poverty and disease, is a daily occurrence.

Moved as we are by the death of those we do not really know, except through media coverage, we are naturally most moved by the death of those we have loved, and whose lives we have shared in this world. The pain of the grief that surrounds us is never erased by the faith of eternal life that sustains us, and there is a daily living out of the tension between knowing that death is not the end, and missing those who have gone before us in the hope of eternal rest.

This experience of hope, pain, faith, sorrow, joy and grief is shared by all of us who have loved. It is the living experience of mothers and fathers whose children have died, husbands and wives whose spouse have died, children whose parents are dead, or who have lost siblings, and others who have been tied by the closest of friendships and shared most intimately in the lives of their friends.

Understanding all of this - living with it as days pass into months and years - gives us some insight into the grief of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the other the disciples at the death of Jesus. His arrest, torture, crucifixion and death did not spare them the agony of human sorrow and depression. That he rose from the dead on the third day was of course to them all a source of great comfort and joy and also of incredulity at the power of God to actually show he could conquer death, and through his death and resurrection make possible a new way for those who follow in his steps. But the joy of resurrection, and the appearances that were granted them of Jesus in his resurrected life, did nothing to prepare them for that final earthly



parting at the time of Ascension, and the very type of sorrow that they then had to share until that Pentecost moment helped them realise their role in the world: to bring the good news of all that he is and all that he taught into the hearts of those who had never had the chance of knowing him.

As we approach the cross of Calvary through the Lenten journey, and as we rekindle the memory of the last week we now call 'Holy Week', there should be in us something of the emotions of the Mother of Our Lord, and his first followers: for ours is a relationship of love too.

It is love that binds us together with each other, through the love that God has for us and that we have for him. Our grief at his death and our hope in the resurrection should not just be a thing of the mind, a recalling of history, but an emotion of the heart that calls us to want and need to live the life he has mapped out for us, just as we would want to live out the hopes and dreams of those we have known in this world, and in the words of John Henry Newman, 'have lost awhile.'

In this world of 'encircling gloom', we are called to follow the 'kindly light' of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ by showing his love through our faith and works. We

continue the mission to bring others to him, and him to them, by what we do and say, and by the very real experience of sharing in that death and new life by the manner of our relationships, the way we care for others, wherever they might be and whatever their circumstances.

Our failure to walk the way of the cross in Holy Week, our deliberate staying away from the services that so closely recall all the wondrous things he has done for us on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve at the Vigil, and hence to Easter morning, more definitively characterise what we really feel about the living Christ than any amount of words that flow so freely from our lips.

Let us demonstrate to each other, and to Christ, that our love for him is sincere, our appreciation of his suffering, death and resurrection real, and our acceptance of the gifts of his Spirit a true desire on our part to be transformed in his image. And let it be this year that we begin again to show that love that binds us through our willingness to be different, and our commitment to public worship at the greatest moment of the Christian year.

How can we ever abandon those we love? Surely, the answer is never.

Fr Nigel.

Retirement

On 31st March the Right Reverend David Yeoman will retire from stipendiary ministry in the Church in Wales, having served the Diocese in which he was born for the whole of his ministry with care and commitment.

Bp David was ordained priest in 1971, having trained at St Michael's College, Llandaff. Curacies at Cardiff St John the Baptist and Caerphilly were followed by incumbencies at Ystrad Rhondda, Mountain Ash and Coity with Nolton. In 2004 the Archbishop invited him to be assistant bishop of Llandaff, and for the first two years in this role he was also Archdeacon of Morgannwg.

Bp David and his wife Janice will enter retirement knowing that they have the affection of so many whose lives they have touched over the years.

We wish them well in this new phase of life, and hope they enjoy retirement.

Thank You

I should like to thank Fr Nigel, Fr Anthony and all my friends in the Benefice for the beautiful flowers and cards with all your best wishes. I very much appreciate your kindness.

Jean Walsingham.

Mrs. Doreen Tucker is in Syn-y-Mor and would like to thank all her friends for their kind thoughts and best wishes.

St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for February is number 29, Mr. David Foley.

St Patrick's Day Supper at St Mary's

You are warmly invited to a St Patrick's Day Supper on Tuesday 17th March at 7 pm in St Mary's Centre.

New Assistant Bishop for Llandaff



The Archbishop has announced that the new Assistant Bishop of Llandaff is to be Canon David Wilbourne, Vicar of Helmsley in the Diocese of York.

Canon David is a prolific writer and broadcaster who served as chaplain to both the Rt Reverend Dr John Habgood and the Rt Reverend Dr David Hope as Archbishops of York.

Dr Barry Morgan said, "I feel deeply privileged that Canon David has accepted my invitation to be my fellow Bishop in the Diocese of Llandaff. He brings to the task, immense pastoral wisdom and experience over 28 years of ordained ministry. Having served as chaplain to two Archbishops he understands well the demands of Episcopal ministry."

Canon David, 53, said, "I am very excited at the thought of serving as Assistant Bishop of Llandaff – it is a job of which my dreams are made! I have always admired the Church in Wales because it effortlessly combines friendliness with holiness, its Gospel one

that is unashamed of its own tenderness: that strikes me as Anglicanism at its very best. Chiefly I come empty-handed, keen to listen, to learn and to affirm life in all its fullness. Then let's see where God leads us from there."

Born in Derbyshire and schooled in Yorkshire, Canon David studied natural sciences and theology at Jesus College and trained for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge.

He returned to Yorkshire as a priest, ministering first in urban Middlesbrough, then in a shadow-urban parish north of Pontefract. He then moved on to be the Archbishop of York's chaplain working with John Habgood for four years prior to his retirement and then continuing to work with his successor, David Hope. He was also Director of Ordinands, selecting candidates for the ordained ministry and taking them through training to their first post. In September 1997 he moved from Bishopthorpe to be Vicar of Helmsley, a moorland market town in North Yorkshire, which has now become a minster church serving eight other churches. Archbishop John Sentamu collated him as a non-residentiary canon of York Minster in 2008.

His publications include several novels, a diary of his travels with Archbishop John Habgood and one

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philosophical work, exploring the development of personality, originally a series of Lent lectures at York Minster. He wrote a regular diary column for The Church Times for twelve years.

A son of a Yorkshire priest, Canon David is married to Rachel, a history and RE teacher. They have three daughters who are all students. His interests include cycling, hill walking, New Testament research and writing. He also enjoys the poetry of RS Thomas and D Gwenallt Jones.

Canon David will be consecrated as on April 4th at Llandaff Cathedral and take up full duties as Assistant Bishop at the beginning of May.

We look forward to welcoming him to the Diocese.

Holy Trinity Church Committee

A meeting of the church committee at Holy Trinity took place after the Eucharist on Wednesday 4th February.

The old church has now been demolished. It was a very sad time when this occurred, especially the previous week when we had

watched as the steeple was being pulled down. However, it is now time for us to move forward. It was decided that the congregational meeting will take place after the mass on April 19th.

We were satisfied with the report given by our treasurer of our financial position.

Mrs. Joan Oxley was nominated to organise a sub committee to investigate for social and fundraising events - the Benefice calendar is to be checked before any event is organised.

A costing is to be made to see if it is feasible for the two circular windows to be re-made from the coloured glass that was salvaged from the old church.

The damp in the corner of the narthex has been corrected; it is thought to have been caused by the high pressure hosing that took place after the building was erected.

Most of the hymn books have been marked with Holy Trinity by a parishioner's wife.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 4th.

Gill Davison, Sub Warden.

New Archdeacon of Llandaff

A senior cleric from the Diocese of Southwark in south London will be the new Archdeacon of Llandaff. The Reverend Canon Frances "Peggy" Jackson was appointed by the Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff, Dr Barry Morgan. She will be Priest in Charge of the parishes of Penmark with Llancarfan with Llantrithyd.



Canon Peggy is Canon of Southwark Cathedral, the Ecumenical Borough Dean of Richmond and the Dean of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Southwark. She has served as a Curate in the Derby Diocese, a Team Vicar in St Albans Diocese and Team Rector in the Diocese of Southwark running a parish with six clergy and a parish share of more than a quarter of a million pounds. Before being ordained in 1987, she had a career as an accountant.

Dr Morgan said,

"I am delighted to welcome Canon Peggy to Llandaff. She brings a vast experience of working in widely differing parishes as a priest; is a strategic thinker and will bring fresh insights and energy from outside the diocese."

Canon Peggy, 57, who will now be the most senior woman cleric in Wales, said, "I'm looking forward to the exciting variety of work, which the Archdeaconry of Llandaff seems to encompass. The wide diversity of parishes, city and rural, poses a real challenge as we try to make our church life relevant to people in all these different communities. I'm looking forward very much to working with Archbishop Barry, and with people at every level of the diocese, while also keeping a firm root in parish life. And I'm quite awestruck at the prospect of worshipping in a place, where there has been a continuous church for nearly 1500 years."

She added, "Wales seems an exciting place to be just now - as a nation rediscovering its own identity, and developing appropriate institutions to reflect it. Yet it also seems small enough for most of the people to keep a close involvement with decisions that are being made in their name. I was intrigued by the prospect of coming to work in a familiar Anglican church system, but in a very different context from England, and one which seems to offer greater freedom within the structures. Since I came to adult faith as a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church, before moving to the Church of

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England after ordination, there will be an odd sense of completion now, in completing the trio by coming to the Church in Wales.

“I hope I will be able to do a good job, and serve the church as well as I can. That's all I can hope to do - and the rest will be up to God! I would, however, also be pleased if after some time, women became so 'normal' a part of the church's ministry at all levels, that we stopped noticing gender as an issue altogether. “

Canon Peggy, an Oxford history graduate, was born and brought up in Loughborough. She worked as a chartered accountant for 12 years before being ordained as a deacon in 1987 and then a priest in 1994. She is a newly qualified pilot and enjoys bell-ringing, singing and circle dancing. She is divorced and has a daughter, Alison, who is also an accountant.

Fun Quiz Evening at St Mary's Centre

A Fun Quiz Evening was held at St. Mary's Centre on Friday, 6th February, 2009 at 7 pm. In spite of the bad weather, it was a successful evening. The forty people who braved the elements certainly had

plenty of fun and food. There was an excellent buffet – ham, salad, new potatoes and many accoutrements, followed by desserts and cheese and biscuits. Then, the fun began with a Fun Quiz, followed by Bingo, a Mr. and Mrs. Competition and a Raffle with excellent prizes. This was another resounding success for Mrs Christine Morris and her band of Fun Raisers who kept everyone well – fed and entertained and as a result raised £181 for the church. A special thank you to all those who supported the evening.

Avril Stevens

Good wishes

As we remember all who are in the residential and nursing homes of the Benefice we send them our good wishes and assure them of our continued prayers.

Please think about Doreen Tucker, Christine Collins, Elsie Evans, Megan Scourfield, Bertha Howells, Jenny Bedford, Myrtle Morgan, David Fowler, Marian Elward, Ann Bartle.

Ann Bartle has not yet been transferred to a home, and Marian Elward is still in Cimla.

New Assistant Curate of Aberavon

The Archbishop has asked Fr Nigel to accept Jonathan Elcock as the new assistant curate of the Benefice.

Having graduated in history and RE Jonathan Elcock began training as a teacher before realising that the classroom was not for him. For sixteen years he worked as a manager with the Waterstones book company, and then decided to retrain as a horticulturalist. There followed a career as a gardener before he accepted the call of God to the priesthood - a call he said he had put off answering for more years than he cares to remember! But a call that would not go away.

At present Jonathan is studying at Westcott House, Cambridge, and he will be ordained Deacon at the end of June this year, and priest in 2010. He is not married, he doesn't have a dog, and he can't fly a plane - but he is everything we need and want here in Aberavon.

Born and brought up in Shropshire, Jonathan has been an Anglican all his life. His family come from Ironbridge, a very famous area of the United Kingdom, and so called because it was where the first iron bridge in the world was constructed in 1779.

The whole Ironbridge Gorge area is now a World Heritage Site - a status granted by Unesco in 1986 as recognition of the area's unique contribution to the birth of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century.

Jonathan's ordination as a deacon will take place on Saturday 27th June at Llandaff Cathedral, and I hope that you will want to join the congregation there that day to welcome him. On Sunday 28th June there will be a Benefice Mass at St. Agnes' to welcome him to our parish.

To learn more about being a deacon or priest please turn to page 23.

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The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Walter Mervyn Cook

John Ace

William Gardner

Joyce McLean Parry

Fred Parkin

Mildred Myfanwy Barrett

Mary Howie

Beryl Selma Thomas

Phyllis Barness

Norman George Mathias

Joan Bright

Richard Hier

Leonard Nutty



***Rest eternal
grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual
shine upon them.***

***May they rest in peace;
and rise in glory.***

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

Our deepest sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Gill Davison, sub warden at Holy Trinity, and to her family, on the death of her husband Viv.

News of our friends

Shelagh O'Callaghan is now resident in Caewern intensive respite centre, and making good progress

Ann Bartle has moved to a nursing home in Pontardawe, to be near her son.

Christine Collins is now at Neath Port Talbot hospital, and is quite poorly.

Phyllis Adams is still in Neath Port Talbot Hospital, and we send her our good wishes.

MP's surgery

Dr Hywel Francis has written to all the churches asking them to make known the dates of his advice surgeries:

21st March, 16th May, 25th July,
24th October, 12th December

10am to 11am
2 Talbot Road Port Talbot

Other dates are available in other areas.

St Agnes' Circle

The Circle starts back on 10th March with the Annual General Meeting.

It might interest you to know that the Circle is a friendship meeting that is open to anyone - male and female, church members or not.

At the end of 2008 Lynne Thomas told Fr Nigel that she was standing down as the leader of the Circle.

We are grateful to Lynne for the many years in which she has faithfully and diligently carried out the leadership of the group, and she has said that she will continue to support and help in any way she can. Lynne hasn't been too well of late, and in spite of this she has carried on duties with her usual quiet efficiency.

Fr Nigel will announce at the Annual General Meeting the name of the person he has appointed as the new leader.

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New Bishop for St Asaph

A senior adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury was today elected as the next Bishop of St Asaph.

The Rev Canon Gregory Cameron, 49, who is Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion Office in London, was chosen by members of the Electoral College of the Church in Wales meeting at St Asaph Cathedral in January.

Canon Gregory Cameron will be the 76th Bishop of St Asaph, an area covering the north-east corner of Wales – the counties of Conwy and Flintshire, Wrexham county borough, the eastern part of Merioneth in Gwynedd, Denbighshire and part of northern Powys. His election follows the retirement in December of the Rt Rev John Davies who served as Bishop of the diocese from 1999.

A Welshman who was ordained in the Diocese of Monmouth, Fr Cameron has been involved in the ecumenical relations of the Anglican Communion at global level for the past five years. Previously, he served as Chaplain to the Archbishop of Wales, then Dr Rowan Williams.

Married to Clare, the couple have three sons, aged 11, 9 and 6.

Canon Gregory said he was looking forward to leading the Diocese of St Asaph. He said, "I am conscious that for the family of St Asaph the choice of a new bishop is a profoundly important point in their life and that of the Gospel in North-East Wales. I am both stunned and honoured by the choice of the Electoral College and hope that by God's grace I can at least in part live up to people's expectations. I will need the prayers of all the diocese and the church as we find a way forward together."

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, who is President of the Electoral College, welcomed the decision. He said, "Canon Gregory is an immensely gifted man with wide experience of the worldwide Anglican Communion and of our ministry here in Wales. I look forward to working with him and welcoming him back to his home Province."

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Daily Readings from Scripture

9th March 2009	Daniel 9: 4-10	Luke 6 : 36-38
10th March 2009	Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20	Matthew 23 : 1-12
11th March 2009	Jeremiah 18: 18-20	Matthew 20: 17-28
12th March 2009	Jeremiah 17: 5-10	Luke 16: 19-31
13th March 2009	Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28	Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46
14th March 2009	Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20	Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
16th March 2009	Kings 5: 1-15	Luke 4: 24-30
17th March 2009	Daniel 3: 25, 34-43	Matthew 18: 21-35
18th March 2009	Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9	Matthew 5: 17-19
19th March 2009	Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16	Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24
20th March 2009	Hosea 14: 2-10	Mark 12: 28-34
21st March 2009	Hosea 5: 15 – 6: 6	Luke 18: 9-14
23rd March 2009	Isaiah 65: 17-21	John 4: 43-54

Daily Readings from Scripture

24th March 2009	Ezekiel 47: 1-9, 12	John 5: 1-3, 5-16
25th March 2009	Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8: 10	Luke 1: 26-38
26th March 2009	Exodus 32: 7-14	John 5: 31-47
27th March 2009	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22	John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
28th March 2009	Jeremiah 11: 18-20	John 7: 40-52
30th March 2009	Daniel 13: 41-62	John 8: 1-11
31st March 2009	Numbers 21: 4-9	John 8: 21-30
1st April 2009	Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28	John 8: 31-42
2nd April 2009	Genesis 17: 3-9	John 8: 51-59
3rd April 2009	Jeremiah 20: 10-13	John 10: 31-42
4th April 2009	Ezekiel 37: 21-28	John 11: 45-56
6th April 2009	Isaiah 42: 1-7	John 12: 1-11
7th April 2009	Isaiah 49: 1-6	John 13: 21-33, 36-38
8th April 2009	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Matthew 26: 14-25

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Gaza

The benefice has sent £358 to the appeal to support the dental unit in Gaza.

As you will have heard in church, initial reports that the unit was totally destroyed were thankfully untrue, but nonetheless, the need for replacing equipment remains.

Thank you all so much for your concern and willingness to respond to this great need.

The unit is totally funded by the Church in Wales.

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James Gough (Organ)

Directed by Tom Williams

7.30pm Friday 20th March 2009

St. Mary's Church, Aberavon

(Tickets £5 at the door).

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Walsingham 2009

Deposits of £20 per person for the 2009 Diocesan Pilgrimage must be paid to Jennifer Lewis at St Agnes' immediately, please.

The balance of £175* must be paid no later than 2nd June 2009.

**if using own transport the balance payable is £135*

Letter to all churches from our MP

Aberavon MP, Dr Hywel Francis, has written to all local churches, businesses and community organisations to join a public campaign to celebrate our cultural and community diversity and to oppose racial intolerance. In the letter, which arrived at the Rectory in February, Dr Francis said,

“At a time when there is fear and uncertainty for our futures with job insecurity, this is not a time to look for scapegoats. We have only recently commemorated the Holocaust which was a reminder of how in an earlier period, in Nazi Germany, racial hatred caused the genocide of millions of innocent Jewish people and many other vulnerable people.

Now is the time for us to celebrate the fact that people of different cultures and religions live harmoniously within our local communities.

I call on church leaders, all democratic parties, businesses, unions and community organisations to stand up against racial hatred and intolerance. Wales, and Port Talbot in particular, has always prided itself in welcoming poor or persecuted people from all over the world. My own family fled religious persecution three hundred years ago and settled happily in West Wales and made its contribution over generations to the economic and social life of the country”.

Congratulations

We send our birthday wishes to Kim Pember Thomas and to Canon Steven Kirk, on celebrating 50th birthdays at the end of February.

Holy Days

St David is moved to the 2nd March because we are not allowed to keep saints days on Sundays in Advent and Lent. Sing Mass at St Agnes' at 6.30pm

St Joseph, 19th March, usual Thursday mass at St Agnes' at 10am

The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, 25th March

Usual Wednesday morning times at Holy Trinity and St Mary's and 7pm Sung Mass at St Agnes'. All members of the Mothers Union are meant to make their Communion on Lady Day.

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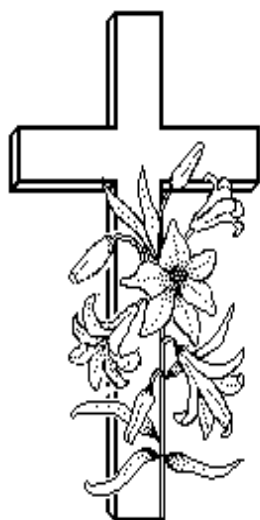
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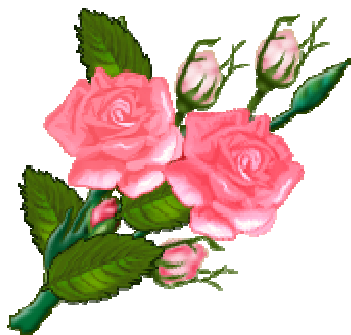
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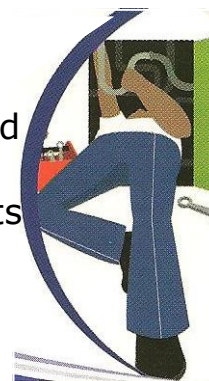
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What's what? or Who's who?

When someone enters a theological college to train for the ordained ministry they have to satisfy the bishop of the diocese that they are competent, academically, to be admitted to Holy Orders. Naturally, there are other areas of their lives that are also open to scrutiny, and a report is prepared for the bishop at the end of their time in college.

If all is well then, this part of their training over, they will be ordained a deacon.

Deacons assist the bishops and priests in the exercise of their ministry. They are called to preach, to teach, to help care for the sick and to help with administration. They are not usually allowed to celebrate the sacraments of the church, so they cannot pronounce forgiveness (so they can't hear confessions) and they cannot celebrate the mass. Where a priest is not present they are able to baptise and in both the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches they are allowed to officiate at weddings. They can conduct funerals - but a funeral is not a sacrament. Deacons do not anoint the sick.

Some people are called to be

deacons for ever. For others - and in the majority of cases - the call is to the priesthood, and after a year as a deacon, if the bishop is still satisfied that all is well, then that person will be ordained priest.

Priests celebrate five of the sacraments of the church. They do not confirm or ordain - that is the role of the bishop. Priests are called to exercise a ministry of leadership and enabling, whilst providing sacramental care to the faithful under the guidance of the bishop of the diocese.

So what is a curate then?

Well, an assistant curate (to give the correct title) is someone who assists the parish priest. It is a job description. Deacons and priests can be assistant curates.

A vicar or rector is the job title of the person who is the parish priest (i.e. in charge of an area).

A chaplain is a priest who works in a hospital, school or armed forces setting. This again is just a job description.

So, a deacon or priest is what a person **is**. The job they do is described by the title they are given, such as curate, vicar, chaplain, or even head-teacher in a school setting.

24 Newydd - March 2009

St Mary's Church Committee

Apologies were received from Marina Williams.

The main item on the agenda was the maintenance and care of the churchyards. The Representative Body of the Church in Wales has sent out a comprehensive document that sets out very clearly what every parish needs to do in order to ensure their church burial grounds are safe, and comply with all the requirements that statutory bodies place upon us.

After discussion it was agreed that the requirements of the document could not be implemented without help from the wider parish community, and perhaps others outside the church who have an interest in local history.

There will be an agenda item at a future PCC meeting to review the issues and invite further help.

It is essential that the rector wardens are informed if anyone wishes to use the church at any time. This is not so that we can stop people using the building, but so that we can ensure safe and fair access for all, and keep a check on

the diary so that there are no double bookings. A query with Denise at the Parish Office would be a good first step.

When using the church building you are not to leave the key in the inside of the lock if you have locked the door. This is a matter of personal safety, because no one would be able to enter the church to offer assistance if anything had gone wrong, or you had been taken ill.

The parish hall income was only just below the 2007 level, and was set to meet expenditure on the building for 2008. However, we have lost some regular bookings because of the perception by users of a poor heating system - something perhaps made more apparent by this year's very cold weather.

The lighting of St Mary's would be addressed as a matter of urgency by Len Jones and Mike McCarthy. Mr McCarthy is a qualified electrician, and is able to carry out the work for us. The Diocese has asked for a proper review of the lighting of the building in the next 12 months.

Howell Price asked that no one use the organ without his prior consent, as there had recently been some tinkering with the equipment.

Holy Week and Easter



Palm Sunday

Usual Sunday times.

Monday in Holy Week

7.00pm Mass at St Agnes'

Tuesday in Holy Week

7.00pm Mass at St Paul's

Wednesday in Holy Week

9.30am Mass at Holy Trinity

7.00pm Mass at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday

11.00am Chrism Mass at the Cathedral

The Sacred Triduum

Maundy Thursday

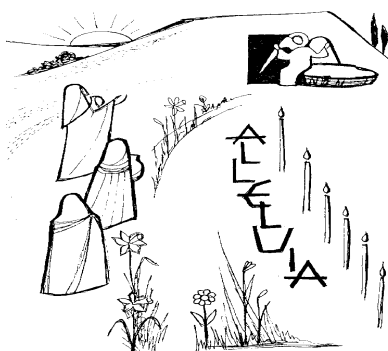
7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper and Watch at the Altar of Repose at St Agnes'

Good Friday

10.00am Stations of the Cross at St Paul's

12pm to 1pm A liturgy of the Passion at Holy Trinity and St Mary's

2pm to 3pm Liturgy of the Passion at St Agnes'



Easter Eve

8.30pm The Solemn Easter Vigil at St Mary's

Easter Day

Usual Sunday times, but no 8am Mass at St Agnes'

PCC postponed

Because Fr Nigel had to postpone the PCC meeting that was to have been held on 22nd February it has not been possible to publish budgets for each church as promised in last month's magazine.

The PCC will be taking place on 1st March after Evensong at St Paul's and the information promised will be available next month.

Congregation and Vestry Meetings

Most people don't really want to turn up at what are our annual general meetings.

The Vestry is the ultimate authority in the parish because it elects the parochial church council every year. In a Benefice like ours, with four separate churches, it makes sense to have meetings in each church before hand in order that that particular congregation may have the say in the running of most of their own decisions.

Do please remember that it is very easy to criticise, as well as stay away. But if we don't come to the

meetings how can we later complain about those who have been elected to office.

Gender Balance

The Church in Wales Governing Body has voted to introduce gender balance on all committees. This means that all committees of the church, from the local PCC to the Governing & Representative Bodies must work towards an equal representation of men and women as soon as possible.

This means for most parishes trying to persuade men to play their part in worship and leadership.

No advice is given as to how to get men on board!

Green issues

Every parish has been sent a document to enable them address the ways in which we can care for the environment in our every day parish life. This will need to be addressed at some point in the future. After all, Genesis makes it clear God gave us the stewardship of the earth and all its bounty.

Golden Wedding

Family and friends of Barbara and Duncan Roberts would like to congratulate them on their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 30th March 2009.

Many people in the parish will remember not only did they marry in St Agnes' Church but their reception was the first to be held at St Agnes' Church Hall with all the ladies of the parish preparing the wedding breakfast.

New Wardens

At the Annual Vestry this year - to be held on 26th April - we will need to appoint two new Benefice Wardens.

Paula Durnell and Len Jones have served since the benefice was formed, and now they have come to the end of the time they are allowed to stand.

We are grateful to them for all they have done, and must search for people who will be willing to carry on their work.

Church wardens (not sub wardens) are officers of the Bishop of the Diocese. They represent the people to the bishop, and are able to approach him at any time if there is a problem within the parish that cannot be resolved by their parish priest.

Those chosen for the office of Warden must be faithful in worship - not just on Sundays but on Holy Days - so that they set an example of what is essential to other parishioners. In the case of a Benefice like ours they must also be people who are prepared to worship at the other churches in the Benefice.

One of the Wardens is appointed by the Rector and the other is chosen by the people.

Pray!

Give thanks for the work and commitment of Len and Paula, and ask God to lead you to choose a wise and sensible person, committed to the life of the Benefice as a whole, whom you might wish to nominate when the appropriate forms are put out. Do not be hasty in your choice. Think carefully about the commitment, reliability, prayerfulness and energy that these people will need.

28 Newydd - March 2009

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From the Registers

Communicant figures for January

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
4th	33	55	24	33	
11th	38	51	22	37	
18th	42	57	27	42	
25th			87		

Monthly Income for January

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,785.20	£3,820.62	£2,165.82	£1,198.62	

Monthly Payments for January

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£4,294.44	£4,138.82	£2,168.67	£1,488.00	

The Benefice Account for January

Paid in £12, 994	Paid out £8,371
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Parish Worship

Parish Eucharist on Sundays at

8.00am St Agnes'

9.15am St Agnes'

9.15am St Paul's

11am St Mary's

11am Holy Trinity

Evensong
6pm

St Paul's

Weekday Eucharistic celebrations

Monday

6.30pm St Agnes'
(10am on Bank holidays)

Tuesday

10.00am St Paul's

Wednesday

9.30am Holy Trinity

11.00am

St Mary's

Thursday

10.00am St Agnes'

Friday

10.00am St Paul's

Saturday

10.30am The Hospital Chapel

Visit the parish website

www.parihofaberavon.org

and keep up to date with what's going on.

Send in your email address to the office or to Fr Nigel and help maintain an easy system of communication.

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