

Newydd

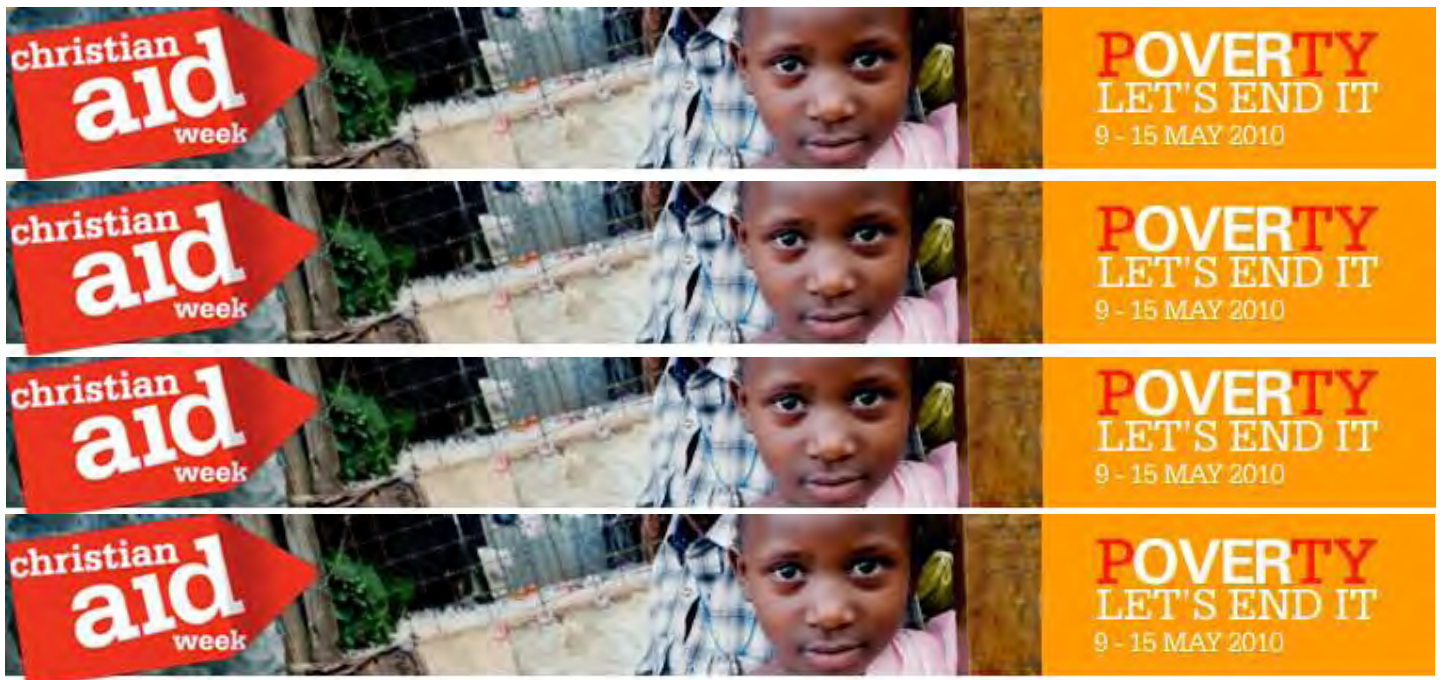
The Parish Magazine of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon
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www.parishofaberavon.org

May 2010

60p

St Agnes' Centenary Year



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From the Rectory

It has been a time of change: Fr Anthony has left, Fr Matthew has arrived, Howell Price has retired as organist and choir master at St Mary's and Matthew Lewis has taken over, and Jane is working part time at the hospital as a chaplain as well as helping out in the Benefice with pastoral work. Change can be challenging: and it can be necessary.



One of the changes to the hospital routine is that there is no longer a mass on a Saturday morning. The mass at the hospital will now be held on a Wednesday afternoon.

At the Governing Body of the Church in Wales last month the Archbishop delivered an address which highlighted changes that we have faced as a Province, and challenges we still face today.

I believe that he had some important things to say, and so I have printed on the next pages the entire text of his speech.

The Archbishop's address to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

1996, in the diocese of Bangor, was a year of celebration, with the holding of all kinds of events culminating in a day of festivities and a Thanksgiving

Eucharist. Why? Because the diocese was 1450 years old. You may think 1450 years is an odd number of years to celebrate – why did we do it? Well, partly because Dr Enid Pierce Roberts told us we should and when Dr Enid tells you something, you obey; because she said we were the oldest territorial diocese in

Britain. We also did it, of course, because we realised that most of us would not be around to celebrate the diocese's 1500 years of existence. Although the hope of all of us here is that we will be alive in 10 years time to celebrate the centenary of the Church in Wales as an independent Province, 90 years on seems an appropriate point to at least look at our past but more importantly to think about our future.



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The whole story of our Disestablishment ought to give us hope. Why? It was forced upon us and one of the aims was to weaken the influence of the Anglican Church in Wales.

Whereas disestablishment might be seen as aspirational in our own day and age, back then it was regarded as something of a blow, for every single senior cleric fought tooth and nail to prevent it, arguing that it would destroy Anglicanism in Wales. And what happened? After getting over the initial shock, we got on with the task entrusted to any church in any country of continuing to offer worship to God and of serving the needs of the communities of Wales. Assets were certainly depleted but morale was not and with characteristic determination, the people of the Church in Wales raised money on two occasions that would secure the continued ministry of parish clergy who, contrary to the prevailing political view, did so much among the working people of Wales. The ordinary everyday stuff of parish life that was carried out quietly, assiduously and by God's grace, ensured that the spiritual life of our nation was nourished and nurtured in every community, whether that particular community could afford it or not. Disestablishment did not lead us into thinking that we should merely look after our own members.

Over the years the Church in Wales acquired a new sense of national standing, helping to heal, at times of tragedy like Aberfan, working for the preservation of the Welsh language through its liturgy, acting as a guardian of the nation's conscience in such situations as the miners' strike in the eighties; we never lost our sense of being part of the wider picture and it was with pride and sacrifice that we saw the elevation of my predecessor to the throne of Augustine just seven years ago.

In other words, impending disaster and crisis did not happen and in the words of the folk singer Dafydd Iwan "*Rydym yma o hyd*" – "*we are still here*". Over the last 90 years, the Church in Wales has become a distinctive church and Province, better able to serve the people of Wales, better able to identify with the nation of Wales whilst still belonging to a world-wide communion.

With such an experience we can help our nation not to be afraid of devolution and of the benefits it can bring within a United Kingdom framework. The booklet produced by the Church in Wales, given to all GB Members last year, shows the extent of our presence in the life of this nation. We have more than 1400 places of worship, 29% of which are Grade I listed, and two

million people visit them every year. Our 350 church halls are used extensively by our communities – 15,000 sessions per week and 30% of those sessions are by young people. We employ 160 staff to run Social Responsibility projects and 3,000 volunteers help with them, investing £2.5million in such community projects which have helped more than 8,000 people. We are involved in affordable housing and homelessness projects and are responsible for 165 church schools which are not restricted to church-goers but are open to every denomination and faith. We have chaplaincies in Higher & Further Education, prisons, hospitals, schools and work with Public and Private Sector as well as the Voluntary Sector to further the wellbeing of the people of Wales.

In other words, what the Church in Wales discovered with disestablishment was that everything good and glorious wasn't just to be found in the past. As Jeremiah reminded the people of Israel in exile in Babylon, who were looking back nostalgically to the exodus from Egypt, *"not how great was our God who led us out of Egypt, but how great is our God who even now is*



leading us out of exile". And that is precisely what God did. The Church in Wales grasped that lesson after 1920.

So as we face our own problems with fewer attendees, fewer clergy and a shortage of ordinands, we need to remember that the God we believe in makes all things new and leads us into truth if we trust ourselves to His providence.

Now I do not want to be like a certain Prime Minister who, when someone said to him that he was facing a crisis, said *"crisis, what crisis?"* but I want to remind you of the words of Timothy Radcliffe, the Dominican preacher, who said of the Last Supper that *"the church was born at a time of crisis because up until the Last Supper, the disciples had been sustained by some kind of story of what was going to happen – the hope that the Romans would be overthrown, Israel restored and Jesus crowned as the Messiah. But on Maundy Thursday Judas betrayed Him, Peter was about to betray Him and the others fled as He faced trial and crucifixion on His own. At the very moment that things were falling apart, Jesus took bread and wine and said they were His body and blood. Jesus gave Himself to His disciples at a*

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moment when it become obvious that the future was bleak and everything was about to collapse and so" says Radcliffe "the Last Supper is the foundational story of the Christian faith, the one in which we find the meaning of our lives. And yet it is a story which tells of the moment when there was no story to tell, when the future disappeared. Our founding story is the collapse of any story at all and the community looks back to when it fell apart".

And then, of course, Jesus was raised from the dead and the disciples pinned their hopes this time not on Jesus overthrowing the Roman Empire – the time for that was over, but on Jesus returning again to earth and bringing in the end of the world. But then, time went on and Jesus did not return and so once again the world of the early church collapsed, and because Jesus had not returned, it realised that if people were to come to believe, they had to have some written account of their founding story, and that is how the Gospels came to be written. At the first crisis Christ's gift to the church was the Eucharist, at the second it was the Gospels.

So Radcliffe goes on to say, "*we should not be fearful of crisis. The church was born in a crisis of hope. Crises are our speciality –*

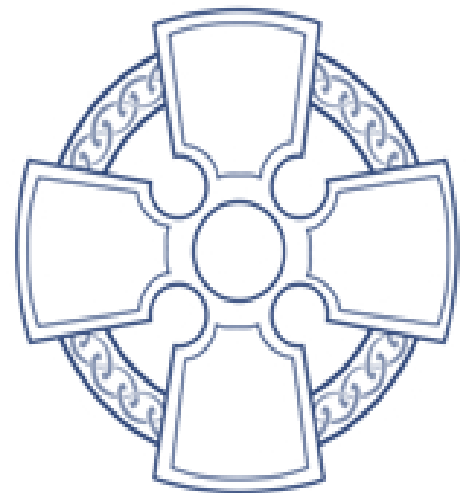
they rejuvenate us".

And the church has faced many crises. In Wales, during the age of the saints, a few monastic figures wandered about trying to preach the Gospel. At the time of the Reformation, medieval Christendom was torn asunder yet the church managed to survive in a new guise but it lived through the Reformation, Counter Reformation and the Elizabethan settlement. So whatever problems we now face, they are small in comparison with the ones we have faced before and at moments when we think that "things fall apart, the centre cannot hold", we need reminding of the events of our salvation and of how God assures us of His presence and gives us signs of His grace at the moments when we are weakest. Whatever difficulties we are facing in the Church in Wales they are as nothing compared to the dashing of the hope in the coming Kingdom with the death of Jesus, and nothing compared to the dashing of hope in His imminent return. And the Church of God is still here.

But let us not turn that into a kind of triumphalistic victory parade either and think that we have, as a church, some kind of inherent power of survival. That's not what the story of Jesus is about. We are disciples of a man who in weakness

and vulnerability took bread and wine and shared it in the face of death. In other words, He gave a sign that He dared to trust in the future even though He didn't know what the future might bring, or perhaps knowing that it might end in death, trusted in the power of God to triumph in unexpected ways. In other words, we try to follow Jesus because this is what makes sense of our lives and of our world and that it still makes sense whatever happens. It is the belief that God is there whatever we face.

So we embrace the future with faith, confidence and a determination to seize the opportunities it presents to serve God better as a church and as a key partner in a devolved, confident proactive nation. You could argue that we have never had so many opportunities to make a difference. Here we are, in an increasingly devolved nation, having a lot to offer with 90 years experience behind us of "going it alone" and "starting from scratch". We have a presence still in every community in Wales and, at the same time, live in a multi-media global village. We have never had such an opportunity to show our faith in God and to demonstrate how Christian principles, such as love and respect for one another, can transform, not just us as individuals, but our communities and our nation.



As we emerge from a period of inevitable readjustment, we have the chance to carve a new role in our changing society – to be a part of, rather than to stand apart from it. We have the chance to show that Christianity is not, as seen in previous generations, a distant, controlling and judgemental force, but shares the values of our age, such as love, tolerance and acceptance, and has a message which is more relevant than ever. We are a church which believes that everyone is valued by God, regardless of their sex, race or gender. We have the chance to show that life is not about how much money we earn or how many exams we pass, but who we are and how we treat those around us - how we can become more fulfilled people, more understanding parents, more attentive neighbours, more caring communities, more outward-looking societies. We have the opportunity to show how we are all responsible for God's planet and to be at the forefront of protecting it. We have the opportunity to show people how to slow down and step off the treadmill, to find space in their busy lives to nurture their inner lives.

We are pushing at an open door because this is an age in which people have more time than ever to question their lives and their values and are looking for help and guidance. It's interesting that recent surveys have shown that job satisfaction, doing something worthwhile, helping others are stronger motivators and lead to greater contentment than making a great deal of money.

Most people have been sickened by the expenses scandals of the Houses of Parliament and by the bonuses of bankers. And it is interesting in all of this that the world of business is increasingly turning to spiritual, even religious language. It talks about the need for vision and mission plans. The literal meaning of the word "*company*" is a place where people share bread with each other. Good businesses value and care for people and do not treat them like cogs in a machine. That's what the heart of the Gospel is about as well. People are more receptive than we think. Fewer people may come to church but most people say they believe in God and pray to Him and as one writer puts it, "*when churches are brave enough to engage with questions such as the meaning of existence, far from*

turning people away they draw them in".

So how can we make the most of these opportunities? We are, as I said, in so many ways involved with schools, community projects, Government leaders and initiatives such as Fair Trade. But there is so much more that we could do.



1. We could have greater engagement in public life. We still have an enormous number of paid personnel – our clergy. They are central figures in our communities. Very often, they are the last professional person left in some communities. They are there to point out and champion moral concerns and to lead and build up the Body of Christ. We need to encourage clergy to take bold initiatives and we need to make sure they are trained to do so in ways that connect with the society we live in.

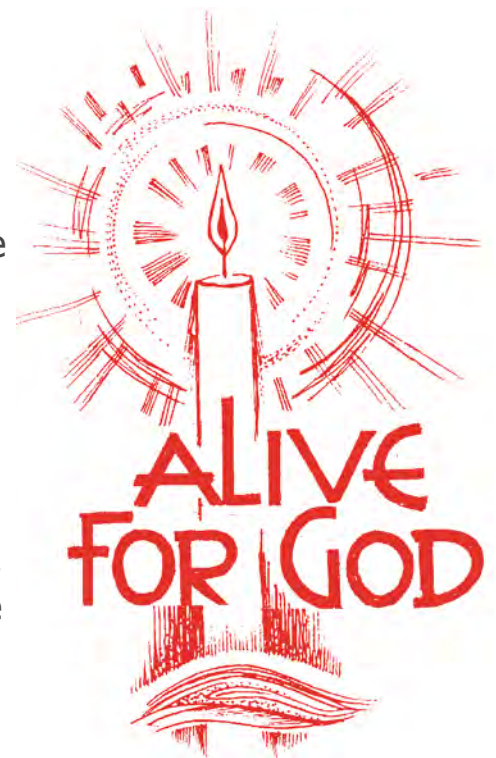
2. We ought to accept all people, unconditionally. Firstly, because that is what Christ taught us to do and secondly, because endless wrangling over the place of, for example, women or gay people, inevitably affects our mission. How can we expect to draw people in if they do not feel accepted? And how can we be taken seriously when most of this country has

moved on as far as those issues are concerned and they look at us still disagreeing among ourselves?

3. We need to use our church buildings to greater advantage. We are custodians of a fine heritage which we rightly celebrate, but we should not preciously guard our churches for our own purposes – they need to be flexible to serve today’s communities.

4. We also need to resolve quickly some of the internal issues that we’ve been discussing for decades about what to do, for example, about an Archbishopial See, diocesan boundaries, how to re-organise ourselves as a church, and how to simplify the Constitution. They are minor questions in comparison to the larger questions our church and nation faces. We should not allow them to absorb a lot of introspective energy for years to come. Too often we take great initial steps towards reform then take fright and run for the shallows. We were among the first of Anglican Provinces to ordain women as deacons in 1980 and then did not proceed to ordain them as priests until 1997. And we still haven’t taken the next logical step of making it at least possible for a woman to be ordained bishop. It makes no sense at all to ordain women to the order of deacons and priests without also making it possible for them to be ordained as bishops. So too, when it comes to administrative reorganisation, our innate conservatism and vested interests prevent us from finding solutions.

5. Finally, in today’s frenetic world when we sometimes feel we do not have the resources we need to do the job properly, we need to give more time for God, to listen, to pray. It is an important example to set. We need to commend the faith that is in us and we have to remember that people are drawn to the life of faith by people of faith. Most people are drawn into the life of the church by families and friends so each one of us has a part to play and the rule of life we commended some years ago is as relevant now as it ever was. As someone put it,



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"lifestyle is far more important than dogma in the 21st Century".

Our challenges are the challenges that Wales faces – poverty, depression, addiction, loneliness, lack of aspiration, lack of self-esteem. We have the chance to show that there are alternative ways of tackling these problems – ways that are truly effective, rather than short-term patches of pills and paperwork and packages of insufficient grants. We have a Gospel to proclaim and we have a vision to which Wales can aspire – one that is self-aware, self-confident and grounded in faith.



Our story begins here. So let's take the opportunity we now have to think about what we can be doing over the next ten years as we move towards our centenary.

St Mary's 200 Club

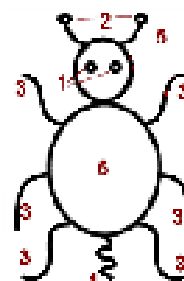
The winner for April is number 192 Mr. Fred Perry. Just a reminder that the £10 subscriptions are now due. Anyone wishing to join can pay the £10 annual fee by cash or cheque made payable to Aberavon Benefice PCC. Contact Christine Morris on 774982 or Marina Williams on 883322.

Thank You

Mrs. Muriel Harris would like to thank her friends at St Agnes for all their cards and gifts received on her 90th birthday. She had a lovely weekend with many visits from friends and a lovely family meal at The Towers Hotel.

Beetle Drive with Buffet

All are welcome at St Paul's Beetle Drive with Buffet at the Hall on Wednesday 12th May at 7pm. Tickets £3.50 available from Church. Bring your own drinks.



Holy Trinity 200 Club

The winner for April is Mrs. Minna Brown.

Quiz Time

Turn your mind to these and see how you do.

- 1 What is the origin of the name "Easter?"
- 2 What Sunday in Lent is Mothering Sunday?
- 3 What was the traditional Mothering Sunday present offered by children to their mothers?
- 4 In what country did the tradition of giving Easter eggs begin?
- 5 What creatures traditionally brought the Easter eggs in the country at question 4?
- 6 In Australia people talk of the Easter Billy not the Easter Bunny. Any idea why?
- 7 In the Middle Ages what activity on Good Friday was thought to bring bad luck?
- 8 Why is Shrove Tuesday called "Shrove Tuesday?"
- 9 Why is Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Day?
- 10 What is known as the Jewish Easter?



The answers to these questions will be found on page 29

Quiz with Buffet

St Agnes' are having a Quiz with Buffet on Wednesday 19th May at 7pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets £3 each available from Church.

Bring your own drinks. All welcome.

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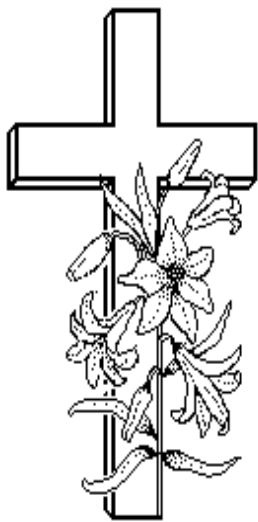
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The Parish Festival 2010



The **Flower Festival** will again launch our Benefice festival for 2010, and this year will begin on Friday 11th June.

The Flower Festival will be at St Agnes' on the theme of Favourite Novels, and there will be an opening Buffet on Friday 11th June at 7pm. Tickets will be £5. Entry will be free for the Flower Festival on the Saturday and Sunday.



If you want to take part and arrange flowers please contact Val James on 885053.

There is going to be a five day **exhibition of stained and architectural glass** by Swansea University, probably beginning on 21st June.

Sunday 4th July will see our **Songs of Praise** at St Agnes' at 4pm followed by tea and cakes.

On Saturday 10th July the Festival will end with a **Centenary Concert** to celebrate St Agnes' 100 years, given by the Pontarddulais Male Voice Choir, who are themselves celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Sponsorship

Once again this year we have been looking for sponsorship for the Festival. If anyone would like to help pay for the cost of publicity we would be immensely grateful. No amount is too small.

We have approached various business in the locality (not the same people we asked last year) but we have had a very poor response. Indeed, many people have not even answered the letters to say no, which is always a shame.

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Helping Hands

We are looking for helping hands at St Mary's to keep the Church grounds tidy.

This usually takes place on Friday mornings 10.30 am – 12 noon with tea provided. Anyone willing to help please contact Mrs. Linda Lewis on 892661.

PCC

The first meeting of the new PCC will be held on Wednesday 5th May at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Whit Sunday Party at St Paul's

A Whit Sunday Party for children will take place at St Paul's Hall on 23rd May at 4.00pm with various activities then Tea. There will be a Family Service after the Tea at 5 pm in Church. There will be no evensong at 6pm and so we invite all of you to join us for the service of praise at 5pm, and hope that you will all come along. All parents and grandparents are welcome to bring their children to the party (as long as they are primary school age!!)

The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Catherine Anne Waters

Marilyn Dunn

Megan Perring

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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



Daily Readings from Scripture

10 th May 2010	Acts 16: 11-15	John 15: 26 – 16: 4
11 th May 2010	Acts 16: 22-34	John 16: 5-11
12 th May 2010	Acts 17: 15. 22 – 18: 1	John 16: 12-15
13 th May 2010	Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24: 44-end
14 th May 2010	Acts 18: 9-18	John 16: 20-23
15 th May 2010	Acts 18: 23-28	John 16: 23-28
17 th May 2010	Acts 19: 1-8	John 16: 29-33
18 th May 2010	Acts 20: 17-27	John 17: 1-11
19 th May 2010	Acts 20: 28-38	John 17: 11-19
20 th May 2010	Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11	John 17: 20-26
21 st May 2010	Acts 25: 13-21	John 21: 15-19
22 nd May 2010	Acts 28: 16-20. 30-31	John 21: 20-25
24 th May 2010	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Mark 10: 17-27
25 th May 2010	1 Peter 1: 10-16	Mark 10: 28-31
26 th May 2010	1 Peter 1: 18-25	Mark 10: 32-45
27 th May 2010	1 Peter 2: 2-5. 9-12	Mark 10: 46-52
28 th May 2010	1 Peter 4: 7-13	Mark 11: 11-26
29 th May 2010	Jude 17. 20-25	Mark 11: 27-33
31 st May 2010	Zephaniah 3: 14-18	Luke 1: 39-56
1 st June 2010	2 Peter 3: 11-15. 17-18	Mark 12: 13-17
2 nd June 2010	2 Timothy 1: 1-3 6-12	Mark 12: 18-27
3 rd June 2010	Genesis 14: 18-20	Luke 9: 11-17
4 th June 2010	2 Timothy 3: 10-17	Mark 12: 35-37
5 th June 2010	2 Timothy 4: 1-8	Mark 12: 38-44

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A letter from the Bible Lands Society



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Dear Miss O'Brien,

Thank you for your generous donation which has been allocated to our General Fund, a vital resource that helps our Overseas Partners with their ongoing running costs, and also allows us to respond quickly to emergency requests for support.

Our most recent extra grant was £12,000 to the Spafford Children's Centre in East Jerusalem. As well as the main centre, there are Spafford clinics at Taybeh and Bethany, which provide important child health services to disadvantaged families who cannot travel far for help.

The grant will pay for vaccinations at these clinics, ensuring that as many children as possible are protected against dangerous diseases such as meningitis and measles. Thank you again for enabling us to continue supporting all our partners in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon and Egypt. Your generous donation will help us improve the lives of the region's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,
Tricia Pruden

Head of Communications & Fundraising.

£255.70

Jane writes

Thanks to your generous donations we have raised £255.70 this year, of which £159 came from a month's Coffee Mornings at St Agnes'

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

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A small guide to a big picture

The Church in Wales



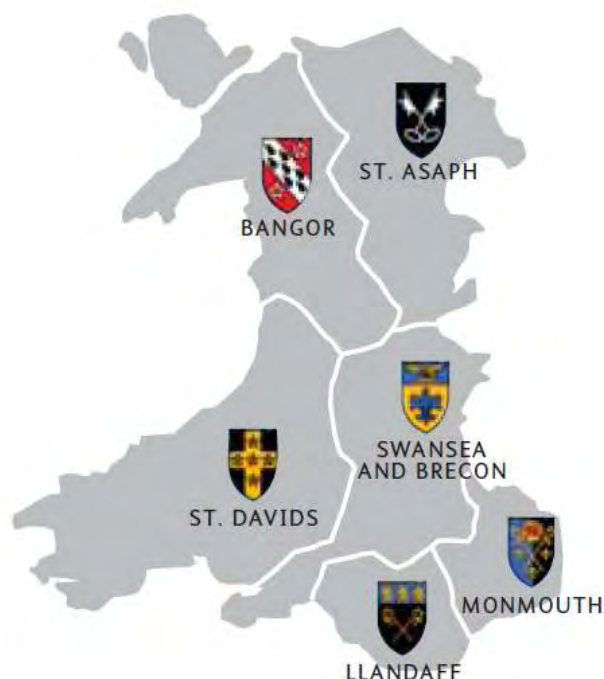
On weekdays, as well as Sundays, you can share your concerns with God and with others and give thanks for all that is good. The Church supports you at significant moments in your life, whether of celebration or difficulty, as you join in the pattern of shared worship throughout the year.

We believe spirituality is central to every part of life whether at work or at home and we offer help, counsel and advice on all matters which concern you.

The Church brings the rich traditions of the past to the questions and challenges of the 21st Century. All are welcome – at the very heart of worship is the love of God for each person. As we respond to this love in new and different ways, we contribute to the transformation of organisations and communities across Wales and discover more of what the Bible calls 'life in all its fullness'.

And by the way...

Our churches provide space for



Quietness

places of peace and tranquillity

Meditation

a chance to think and to pray

Music

inspiring and uplifting

Learning and sharing

to explore wisdom and ideas together

You are a part of all of this, and of all you have read in the last 13 months: you are The Church in Wales

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Parish Centre Renovations

On Tuesday 25th May at 7pm there will be a meeting in St Mary's Church to discuss the renovation and refurbishment of the Centre. This meeting is open to all users of the hall, and all parishioners. It doesn't matter where you normally worship, if you have ideas and would like to share them we want to hear them.

Do please come along.

Holy Days in May

Ascension Day is Thursday 13th May. There are two Sung Masses: at 10am at St Agnes' and at 7pm at St Mary's

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth is remembered on Monday 31 May with a mass at St Agnes' at 10am.

Corpus Christi is the 3rd June, and there is a Sung Mass at St Agnes' at 10am

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“Hello,” from Fr Matthew

Having met so many members of our congregations, I can now say thank you for the warmth of your welcome and your support in my first few weeks with you. It does feel that I'm coming 'home' having been born and brought up down the road in Swansea.

I remember as a child taking the bus on a Saturday morning from the Mumbles to the Kingsway where my father worked for Lloyds Bank.

The family then moved up to Llantwit Major where we lived for some 12 years. Now a confession, I haven't always gone to Church. My only memory of Church whilst growing up was the once a year jaunt to the Christingle service and here comes, my second confession: my love of the Christingle service probably had more to do with the Jelly Tot's on sticks than any spiritual reason.



Seriously though, I did find the feel of Church, the candles and the music captivating and those early experiences of Church planted a seed to be harvested many years later. It was just as I was starting

my A Levels that the thought of going to Church in a committed way entered my head. I started to attend St Illtyd's in Llantwit Major in 1997 and again encountered the warmth of a Christian community. It's a great blessing to be able to serve alongside priests in this diocese who nurtured my faith during my time in Llantwit Major.

From Llantwit I went to university in Aberystwyth to study economics. It was here that I went on an Alpha course and Church became something more than a caring community, it became a place where I encountered and worshipped God. It was whilst worshipping at St Michael's Church in Aberystwyth that I developed a passion for youth work and after completing my degree I became a Youth Worker in the Oxford Diocese.

I worked for Lloyds TSB Bank in my university holidays and went into banking as a career after completing my work in the Oxford Diocese. I started as a Cashier working in Bridgend and ended up a Business Banking Manager based on the Kingsway in Swansea.

Third confession! From the time I left university in Aberystwyth, all the way through working for the Oxford Diocese and into my time in banking, I had this nagging sense

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that I should explore going forward for ordained ministry in the Church. I resisted for many years but I knew that God was behind this calling and wouldn't give up despite my best attempts at ignoring him. So it was in September 2005 I entered St Michael's College in Llandaff. Then followed a roller coaster period in my life. During this period I met my wife Sarah and after a short engagement we got married in July 2007 in Llandaff Cathedral! The following year I was back in the Cathedral to be ordained Deacon in 2008 and, after another year, Priest in 2009.

My first parish was actually a group of 10 parishes based around Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. There were many highlights and a learning curve as steep as I had ever known. On the personal front it was whilst in Cowbridge that my wife and I started a private zoo (not really but we acquired a two cats and a dog).



So Sarah and I are delighted to be with you here in Aberavon and looking forward to getting to know everyone in our Benefice.

Congratulations to

- ◆ Glenys John, who celebrates her 75th birthday and
- ◆ Monica Selway who celebrates her 70th birthday both this month.

- ◆ Haydn and Glenys John and Raymond and Marian Preece both couples have celebrated their Emerald Weddings.

Marilyn Dunn

St Mary's saw a very large congregation gather to pray for Marilyn Dunn at her funeral last month. A devoted churchwoman, she had a lovely personality that endeared her to many, and in the short time that she had been attending Y Rhosyn day care unit at Neath Port Talbot hospital Marilyn made an impression on people with whom she came into contact. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Peter, Andrew and their families.

From the Registers

Communicant figures for March 2010

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity
7th	32	54	31	43
14th	34	60	30	43
21st	40	54	29	42
28th	39	53	34	45

Study Group

The study group next meets at St Agnes' on 10th May after Mass.

Confirmation

Please pray for Rachel, Pat, Samantha, Derek, Gwyn and Ken as they prepare for baptism and confirmation.

The confirmation service date has been changed and it is now on 23d June at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl.

Healing Mass

There will be a healing mass at 7pm on Tuesday 18th May at St Mary's Church.

St Paul's Congregational Meeting

Please make a big effort to turn out at this meeting on Wednesday 19th May at 7pm in the hall, to look at mission in the church over the next five years.

New Look Home Improvements

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2010

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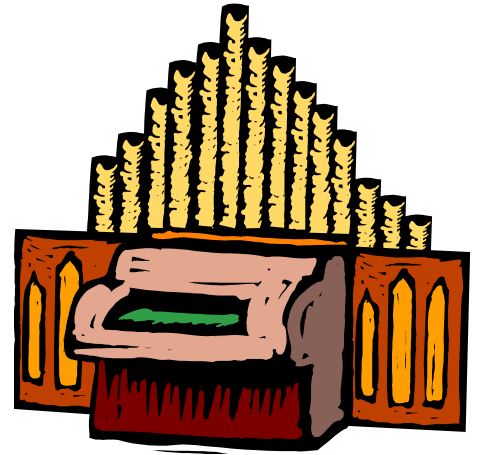
Saturday mornings

A family run business with own tradesmen

A letter from Howell Price

As many of you are aware, I have been forced to relinquish my position as Organist and Choirmaster due to a medical condition. This decision has been a cause of great sorrow to me.

I would like to send a heartfelt thanks to everyone at St Mary's for the many gifts I received as a "thank you" after the service on Easter Sunday morning.



The congregation at St Mary's have made me feel so welcome during the past 8 years. When Steven (Kirk) first asked me to consider becoming the Organist, I did so with a little trepidation – however, from the very first service I was made to feel most welcome and people were so eager to allow me to use my experience and expertise to compliment and enhance the worship with music.



Over the years I built the Choir up and together, we put St Mary's "on the map" – not only in the Diocese but nationally when we broadcast live on BBC Radio.

Yes, this is the end of me holding the position of Organist and Choirmaster in the Church but I shall continue to worship here and work for the benefit of St Mary's at all times.

Thank you all very much for your support – it has been an honour and a pleasure.

Diolch o galon i bawb am eich cefnogaeth a'ch caredigrwydd – mae hi wedi bod yn fraint a phleser.

Howell.

Condon Funeral Service



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Michael Condon M.B.I.E.

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Financial Report for the month of March 2010

St Mary's

Receipts	£3901.92
Payments	£3834.81
Surplus balance available this month	£67.11

A rebate of £1841.88 has been received in respect of VAT paid on the Bell Tower repair. This is not show in the above figure.

St Agnes'

Receipts	£3813.83
Payments	£3769.06
Surplus balance available this month	£44.77

St Paul's

Receipts	£2723.16
Payments	£2516.06
Surplus balance available this month	£162.10

Holy Trinity

Receipts	£1677.47
Payments	£2359.81
Deficit in this month towards paying monthly bills	-£682.34

These figures show how much has come in and how much has been paid out in one month. They are not intended to provide an accurate picture of the actual balances held by each church. Next month a comprehensive list of all monies received and paid out since January will be printed, once it has been presented to the PCC on 5th May

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Valley of Hope

A project which helps former prisoners and other vulnerable people rebuild their lives celebrated a milestone last month with the opening of its new HQ.

Valley of Hope is a Church Army-run project in Aberdare, and moved into a new office right in the heart of town and invited the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, and the UK Chief Executive of the Church Army, Mark Russell, to open it.

The new office, funded by the Welsh Assembly, will enable the team to reach more people who need help and to expand their valuable work.

The Valley of Hope project was set up in 2002 by Ralph Upton, a Captain in the Church Army, and his wife Carol. It works with people who have been in prison, are homeless or dependent on alcohol or drugs, showing them how to rebuild their lives and regain their self-confidence. It helps them find accommodation, teaches them day-to-day budgeting skills, gives nutrition advice and helps them access professional agencies. It also runs a community shop in Abercynon to encourage people back to work, holds a weekly creative writing group and a painting and decorating course.

The new office is in the Crown Buildings on Greenbach Street.

Dr Morgan, who dedicated the new office, described the project as an inspiring example of the Christian message. He said,

“This project opens doors to people who feel shut out, offers friendship to those who hate themselves and gives fresh starts to those who feel they are at a dead end. Lives are changed here due to the care and interest of Ralph and his team. And that is at the basis of the change which people experience through the Valley of Hope: that they are cared about as individuals who matter. Because of this work, people who had seen their lives as worthless are alive today.

For more information about Valley of Hope, please visit www.valleyofhope.co.uk

Quiz Answers

- 1 Eostre – a German and Old English name for the Goddess of Spring
- 2 4th Sunday of Lent
- 3 Simnel cake
- 4 Germany [The idea of chocolate eggs was developed in the USA]
- 5 A hare
- 6 Rabbits were detested because of the destruction of crops. The 'BILBY' is a marsupial with a 'rabbit like' appearance and an acceptable alter native to Australians.
- 7 Laundry
- 8 'Shrove' stems from the old English word 'shrive' meaning 'confess all sins'
- 9 Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent when fasting begins. Ingredients that were given up for the 'fasting period' – milk, butter and particularly eggs – which may not be eaten again until Easter, were used up in pancake making
- 10 Passover of Pesach

How did you do?

Let's hope you all got 10 out of 10!

St Mary's Congregational Meeting

Please put the date in your diary now: Wednesday 16th June 7pm

This is when the St Mary's congregation are invited to come to the Centre to discuss mission in the church over the next five years.

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The PCC for 2010/2011

The following were elected to serve for the next year at the Vestry Meeting on 26th April:

Parish Wardens

Simon Burton and Elizabeth Jones

St Agnes

Paula Durnell and Edna Williams (Sub Wardens)

Jeff John, Mike Howe, Allison Murray.

Holy Trinity

Gill Davison and Mike Isaac (Sub Wardens)

Muriel Jarvis, Susan Jones, Joan Oxley

St Mary's

Mary McCarthy and Jean Moloney (Sub Wardens)

Christine Morris, Linda Lewis, Len Jones.

St Paul's

Margaret Williams and Anne Rees (Sub Wardens)

Valerie Rees, Elizabeth Thomas, Hilda Mears.

Also elected at the Vestry Meeting

Diocesan Conference representative

Elizabeth Jones

Area Deanery Conference representatives

Paula Durnell, Linda Lewis

At the first PCC meeting held immediately after the Vestry:

Denise Tamlyn was co-opted to the PCC as Secretary

Mike Howe was elected Treasurer

Christine Morris was confirmed as Gift Aid Secretary

Parish Directory

Rector

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

01639 883630
rector@parishofaberavon.org

Assistant Clergy

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

01656 784840
deacon@parishofaberavon.org

The Reverend Matthew Trick
Holy Trinity House
Fairway
Port Talbot
SA12 7HG

01639 893972
curate@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

Mr Michael Howe 01639 794138
treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

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

The Parish Office is only open on

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

When visiting the parish office

Please remember that the Office is a place of work. Everyone is welcome when they have some business to attend to: but it must not be used as a place to chat and while away the hours. If you have finished your business there, please leave - especially if other people arrive to conduct business. Don't just sit there listening to other people's business.

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'

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