

Newydd

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

www.parishofaberavon.org

October 2010

60p

St Agnes' Centenary Year



The Feast of St Luke is 18th October

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From the Rector

The Parochial Church Council meeting on Thursday 16th October was a time for difficult decisions.

The never-ending saga of financial problems facing the Benefice meant that a radical approach to the outlook of the PCC regarding mission and giving had to be considered.

A two and a half hour meeting cannot be summed up in a few paragraphs in a parish magazine, but a thorough, detailed and very frank meeting reached courageous and forward looking decisions that were accepted by **everyone** present.

To facilitate the eventual process of decision making in an atmosphere where everyone was able to speak freely, Fr Matthew and I left the meeting, and asked that the discussion was not recorded, only the decisions reached.

These decisions are:

- ♦ as we have been one Benefice for nine years we need to stop publishing financial details for separate churches, as it continues to cause feelings of rancour, jealousy and despair in almost equal measure;

- ♦ it is the PCC's responsibility to finance the mission of the Benefice as a whole, and this can best be achieved by challenging individuals in their giving as a response to God's love, and not whole congregations;
- ♦ the publication of a single communicant figure for the Benefice each month, and not individual churches, will help to form a sense of cohesion;
- ♦ in January 2011 the PCC wish to meet to discuss a series of major fund raising events for the year that will involve all parishioners, irrespective of which church you usually attend;
- ♦ the first major joint fund raising will be a concert to be held in St Agnes' on 26th November by Côr Serenata



During the course of the meeting I explained to the PCC that there were some things we need to accept as a Benefice:

1. The Archbishop will not agree to separate the three parishes, so we can knock that idea on the head;

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2. there is no point in trying to persuade Fr Matthew or Jane not to do things the way we have agreed to do them, because we are totally committed to sharing responsibility and being loyal to each other;
3. Fr Matthew, Jane and I discuss all major decisions, and report conversations to each other in the course of the day: we are committed to communicating with each other in order to be effective and efficient, and we discuss all major problems, so that we are of a common mind;
4. all the members of the PCC need to accept responsibility for decisions made, because once a decision is reached by a majority it is binding on us all. If we cannot accept what has been decided then the only course of action open to us that is honourable is to resign from the PCC.
5. The main reason the PCC exists is to promote the mission of the whole church: and we need to focus on that as a matter of urgency.

Although challenging and difficult at times, the meeting ended on a very positive and constructive note.

Everyone was obviously determined to make things work for the good of the whole Benefice, and that is tremendously encouraging.

Of course, some of you might well disagree with the policy adopted by the PCC, and you have every right to do so. But you must ask yourself the question: what would I suggest in place of what the PCC has agreed?

You might suggest closing a church down.

Attractive as that sounds, it does not actually solve the financial problems, because if the people in that building worship elsewhere we still have to pay the Diocesan Share each month at £7.68 per person per week. We would save on oil / gas, electricity and insurance - but in the scheme of things these are quite small amounts. We would need the same amount of bread and wine, and we would have the same expenses in regard to the office and clergy.

Just before the last PCC I spoke with the person responsible for property in the Church in Wales, and asked what he thought about closing down churches. His opinion was pretty much what I had expected it to be: a waste of time in the current economic climate. No

none wants to buy churches; there is little we can do with them except board them up, and you don't end up saving a huge amount of money, as you still pay the Diocesan Share for those who go to other churches. I am certain that it is quite unacceptable to have boarded up buildings in the heart of our community if we can find a way to use them imaginatively and for the benefit of the community.

At the heart of all that we do, though, there must be worship. Our commitment to each other, and to the Church in this Benefice and Diocese must always be overshadowed by our commitment to worship God in Jesus Christ.

Frequent and regular worship in church is the springboard of all the other things we need to do: indeed without regular and frequent community worship we are not really a Church we are just a social club.

We must know what it means to have a relationship with Jesus that leads us to serve him in each other; and by each other I mean everyone in our community and world and not just those in church with us week by week.

Attendances at church fluctuate greatly week by week, and there

are a number of us who need to become more committed to that round of frequent worship that should see us at the altar every Sunday, as well as at other times in the week. The failure to understand the need for **Sunday** worship must be one obstacle to encouraging others to commit to being with God on the day of Resurrection. Jews and Muslims find it baffling that so many Christians do not see the need to keep their one special day special by being with God in worship in church: how much more confusing must it be for those on the fringe of the church who see that Christians do not take seriously the need to go to church on Sundays. For if we do not show that it matters, and can justify ourselves by a thousand and one trivial excuses, how are we going to attract others to join us in our relationship with Jesus Christ?

At the heart of the mission of the church is the life we lead and the decisions we make. They have untold and unknown influence on so many people: pray God we all make the right choices.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Nigel Canice

Fr Nigel



September 26th was a great day. The sun shone on our Harvest Thanksgiving, and it was the day we had extended an invitation for people to come back to church with us.

Over twenty people responded to the invitations that you gave and came to our churches. It is up to us to persuade them that it is worth being with us more often.

Thank you for what you did. Please pray each day for those you invited and help to make them feel part of our family.



Congratulations

To Joi Price who celebrates a special birthday this month.

Thank You

Thanks to all who sent cards and best wishes for my 70th birthday and the get well wishes I have received these last few weeks. It is very much appreciated.

Val Rees.

200 Club St Mary's

The winner for September was number 116, Alison Hancock.

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In an emergency ring 999

When it is less than urgent 101

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To contact the Local Authority 01639 686868

For Fire Safety advice 03706060699

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Responsibility Llandaff – Faith in Action

Final reminder for the collection of Red Boxes and donations for year ending 30th September 2010.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tony Llewellyn,
Benefice Co-ordinator.

Holy Trinity Socials

The tea party raised £386 and the quiz £203.

The next event is on Tuesday 12th October at 7pm there will be a Quiz on Old Port Talbot by Tony Llewellyn with Wine and Nibbles Tickets £3, available at Holy Trinity Church. All are welcome .

Cockney Night

On Friday 22nd October at 7pm St Mary's Fun Raisers invite you to their Cockney Night with a Sing-a-long at the Parish Centre. Tickets £5 includes meal, available from Church. Bring your own drinks.

October devotions to Our Lady of Walsingham

There will be a service at St Saviour's Church, Splott, (Cardiff) on Saturday 16th October.

It would be good if we could try and be present to show our support, even if we no longer go to Walsingham ourselves.

Concert Time

It's Concert Time with Côr Meibion Aberafan and guest choir the sensational Childrens International Voices of London on Sunday 24th October 2010 at St Mary's Church, Port Talbot, to commence at 7.15pm. Tickets £5.00, from any choir member or pay at the door.

Quiz with Buffet

The next Quiz with Buffet at St Agnes' will be on Wednesday 20th October at 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £3, available from Church. Bring your own drinks.

Tywyn School Inspection

We are delighted to be able to congratulate Tywyn Primary School on an inspection report that gave them results in teaching standards above the national average, and commented that "pupils behaviour and their attitude towards learning are outstanding features of the school, and contribute significantly to the standards pupils achieve, to their personal, social and emotional development and to the quality of life in the school.

Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent and this contributes significantly to pupils' self-esteem, confidence and positive behaviour."

The inspectors said that "Pupils are friendly, welcoming and courteous; they are proud of their school and keen to share their many achievements with visitors."

Headteacher Rhodri Phillips and the staff should be justly proud of such comments in a wide ranging and encouraging Report.

Study Group

Then next meeting is Monday 11th October after Mass at St Agnes'

Not here

Fr Nigel will be away from the 22nd to the 30th October

Sandfields' Primary Harvest at St Paul's

The school will visit St Paul's for their Harvest Service on Friday 15th October at 9.30am

Office closed

The Parish Office will be closed Monday to Friday 11th to 15th October.

All Saints and All Souls

On Monday 1st November there will be Sung Mass at 6.30pm at St Agnes' for All Saints' Day

On Tuesday 2nd November there will be a Requiem at St Paul's at 10am and St Agnes' at 7pm for All Souls' Day. We will not be reading out lists of names of the departed, but following the custom of the last two years.

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Macular Disease. Ever heard of it?

Normal
vision
looks
like this



Macular Disease (MD) is the most common cause of sight-loss in the developed world. It is estimated that between 25 and 30 million people worldwide have MD. At least 500,000 people in the UK are affected by MD and more than 250,000 people in the UK are registered as blind or partially sighted as a result of the disease.

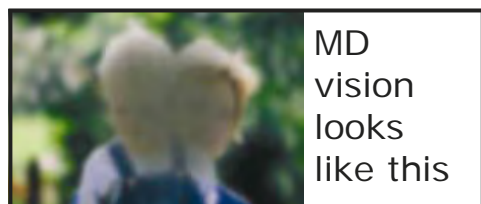
The 'macula' is a small area of the retina at the back of the eye. It is made up of specialist cells which process the "central vision" as well as the fine detail of what we see and much of our colour vision. People with MD rarely go totally blind but even those with relatively mild form of the disease may not be able to drive and could have difficulty reading, recognising faces and watching television. Most people with MD are over 55, however MD can affect people of all ages.

There are two types of MD:

- ♦ Dry - A slow process in which the light sensitive cells of the macula degenerate over several years.
- ♦ Wet - An aggressive form of the disease that can lead to visual impairment within weeks.

Currently there is no cure for MD, though some treatments do exist that can help with the effects of the condition. There is however support available for people who live with Macular Disease.

The Macular Disease Society is a charity formed by and for people with MD. The aims of the Society include raising awareness of the condition, the importance of early diagnosis and helping people get information. It also provides help and support as well as promoting research into the disease. If you are interested in learning more about MD or would like me to come and talk to any group you are involved in please just let me know.



MD
vision
looks
like this

Roger Slennett (Volunteer Speaker)
Tel - 0752 800 2879
roger@slennett.co.uk

After School Club & Sunday School

Looking to take forward their mission plans, St Agnes' Church Committee decided to look into the possibility of setting up an **after school club** one night a week for children of junior school age (7yrs to 11yrs). Fr Matthew will explore the best ways to tackle this, and already two young men from St Mary's, Joseph and Sam have said they are willing to help.



The lack of a Sunday school is something else which the congregation at St Agnes' would like to address, but of course for this to be successful we need a commitment from parents to bring their children every week and not just now and again.

Fr Nigel is actively seeking ways to resurrect children's work on a Sunday, and Fr Matthew is looking at the concept of interactive DVD schemes that would assist parents and children alike if there were not enough to have a more traditional type group.

St Paul's Centenary

St Paul's Committee have agreed dates for their Centenary celebrations next year.

Patronal Festival

Tuesday 25th January 7pm followed by cheese and wine in the hall.

Centenary Mass

Sunday 5th June 10.30am followed by lunch in Blancos.

Fete and Flower Festival

Over the weekend of 10th to 12th June. The theme of the Flower Festival will be *Chocolates*.

We also hope to be able to confirm that Côr Afanedd will give a concert to mark St David's Day on Tuesday 1st March 2011

Grandparent



Liz Thomas is proud to announce the birth of another grandchild, a sister for Kerian, who has been named Nina Rose.

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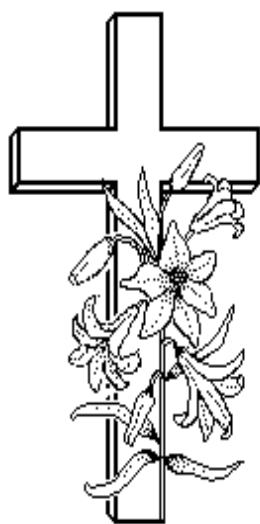
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Baptisms

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

Please pray too for the parents and godparents.



The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Brynley Pugh Thomas
David John Samuel
George Andrew Hughes
Hilda Rosina Bartholomew
Kenneth John Croucher
Frederick Smith
Elsie May Evans
Geoff James



We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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

Important

Please remember that the names of those who have died are not automatically added to the list of persons to be prayed for on the anniversary of their death. You must telephone Denise and ask her to do this if it is something that you want done. You only have to do this once, and they will then be prayed for every year. It is your responsibility to give the correct date of death.

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Dates for the diary

With only two months left of this year there are a number of dates we need to put into the 2011 Calendar.

Epiphany is 6th January : Sung mass at St Agnes' at 10am

St Agnes' Day 21st January : Sung Mass 7pm followed by
"What's My Line?"

Conversion of St Paul : 25th January

No morning mass. Sung Mass at St Paul's at 7pm followed by cheese and wine in the hall.

St David's Day 1st March : 10am Mass at St Paul's

Ash Wednesday is 9th March

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday which is the 17th April

Easter Day is 24th April

Centenary Mass at St Paul's

Sunday 5th June 10.30am followed by lunch in Blancos.

Fete and Flower Festival

Over the weekend of 10th to 12th June. The theme of the Flower Festival will be *Chocolates*.

St Agnes' Dedication Festival

20th June Sung Mass 7pm followed by concert with Bruce Anderson

Diocesan Conference

In his Presidential Address the Archbishop said that the Diocese of Llandaff had links with Upsala in Sweden and in Bangladesh.

These links were a reminder that we all belonged to the worldwide church.

However, Bangladesh faced huge problems of climate change. In the next few years it was predicted that the climate would increase by between 1% and 4% which would cause massive problems to villages in coastal areas and to the farming communities.

It was anticipated that the effect of that global warming would affect over 2 million people in Bangladesh.

Most Bangladeshi's don't use much of the earth's resources, their carbon footprint is very small but their already marginal lifestyles are hugely vulnerable to climate change. A sea level rise of one metre could submerge 17% of the country.

The Archbishop went on to speak about Vocations to the priesthood and the lack of people coming forward.

Later in the meeting a presentation was given by Fr Richard Spencer, the new Director of Ordinands.

The Archbishop explained that most of the costs paid out by the Diocese are for having priests in parishes. He said that in 2011 £1½ million would be utilised to subsidise the Parish Share which still meant an increase of 2%.

However, the Archbishop said that he would have preferred this money to be used for new ventures in Mission as no one in the Diocese had been ordained to the full time Diaconate this year.

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Daily Readings from Scripture

2 nd October 2010	Job 42: 1-3. 5-6. 12-17	Luke 10: 17-24
4 th October 2010	Galatians 6: 14-18	Matthew 11: 25-30
5 th October 2010	Galatians 1: 13-24	Luke 10: 38-42
6 th October 2010	Galatians 2: 1-2. 7-14	Luke 11: 1-4
7 th October 2010	Galatians 3: 1-5	Luke 11: 5-13
8 th October 2010	Galatians 3: 7-14	Luke 11: 15-26
9 th October 2010	Galatians 3: 22-29	Luke 11: 27-28
11 th October 2010	Galatians 4: 22-24. 26-27. 31 – 5: 1	Luke 11: 29-32
12 th October 2010	Galatians 5: 1-6	Luke 11: 37-41
13 th October 2010	Galatians 5: 18-25	Luke 11: 42-46
14 th October 2010	Ephesians 1: 1-10	Luke 11: 47-54
15 th October 2010	Ephesians 1: 11-14	Luke 12: 1-7
16 th October 2010	Ephesians 1: 15-23	Luke 12: 8-12
18 th October 2010	2 Timothy 4: 10-17	Luke 10: 1-9
19 th October 2010	Ephesians 2: 12-22	Luke 12: 35-38
20 th October 2010	Ephesians 3: 2-12	Luke 12: 39-48
21 st October 2010	Ephesians 3: 14-21	Luke 12: 49-53
22 nd October 2010	Ephesians 4: 1-6	Luke 12: 54-59
23 rd October 2010	Ephesians 4: 7-16	Luke 13: 1-9
25 th October 2010	Ephesians 4: 32 – 5: 8	Luke 13: 10-17
26 th October 2010	Ephesians 5: 21-33	Luke 13: 18-21
27 th October 2010	Ephesians 6: 1-9	Luke 13: 22-30
28 th October 2010	Ephesians 2: 19-22	Luke 6: 12-19
29 th October 2010	Philippians 1: 1-11	Luke 14: 1-6
30 th October 2010	Philippians 1: 18-26	Luke 14: 1. 7-11
1 st November 2010	Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14	Matthew 5: 1-12
2 nd November 2010	Isaiah 25: 6-9	Luke 7: 11-17
3 rd November 2010	Philippians 2: 12-18	Luke 14: 25-33
4 th November 2010	Philippians 3: 3-8	Luke 15: 1-10
5 th November 2010	Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1	Luke 16: 1-8
6 th November 2010	Philippians 4: 10-19	Luke 16: 9-15

The Friends of St Paul's

The original meeting attracted five people. It was suggested that we hold a meeting after mass one Tuesday morning to see if people are really interested. So, after mass on the 5th October we will pause to ask if anyone wants to help make the idea a reality.

PCC to tackle finance head to head

The PCC decided amongst themselves, in the absence of Fr Nigel and Fr Matthew, that they would each speak to individuals in the churches they attend to explain how we have to all try and increase our giving.

One suggestion made was that those who gave the least should all try and increase by £2 a week. Some are giving £40 a week, others, £20, £25, £18, £12, 10, £5, but a substantial number of people are giving £1 or less every week. It costs about £12 per person per week to keep the Benefice running as it is.

Open churches

St Agnes' church committee would like to try and open the church every Saturday morning for tea and coffee to be served.

It was agreed that we invest in appropriate new signage, and invite people to join together in teams to see what could be done to make this idea bear fruit.

Visitors to open churches day:

This year we did not have so many people calling in to see our churches, but none the less we made a big effort to be open, and were available for people. Many thanks to all who took part and joined the roster for welcoming, tea making etc.

Concert

CÔR SERENATA

at St Agnes' Church

26th November

7.00pm

in aid of Benefice Funds

Tickets £5
or pay at the door

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Archbishop praises Pope's visit

Both in his Presidential Address to the Governing Body and to the Diocesan Conference, Archbishop Barry spoke at length about the Pope's recent visit to the UK.

This is part of his speech to the Governing Body:

I was introduced to the Pope twice, once at Holyrood House in Edinburgh and once at Lambeth Palace.

He asked me whether I spoke Welsh and I told him it was my first language and that Archbishop Rowan and I often spoke in Welsh if we didn't

want others around us to understand. I did tell him that Welsh was an older language than English but I forbore from quoting the words of a former distinguished professor of Welsh that "Welsh was a developed language when English was a series of shrieks in the forest of Schleswig Holstein". I thought that might be a step too far.

Archbishop Rowan, however, did tell him that he and I had been born on different sides of the same mountain. I hadn't realised before that Gwaun Cae Gurwen and Ystrad Gynlais were quite so close but I bow to his superior knowledge in that, as in all things.

Anyway, although obviously, as an Anglican, I do not agree with Roman Catholic teaching on many things and some of the recent statements and actions emanating



from Rome have not been helpful, I nevertheless think that this visit went a long way in trying to mend fences between our two churches.

You could see the obvious warmth and chemistry between the Archbishop and the Pope and the Pope went out of his way to say that he wanted to stress what we had in common and not what our differences were, when he spoke to the bishops at Lambeth Palace. He did give a huge chunk of one day to Anglican affairs, both at Lambeth and at Westminster Abbey and it's got to be remembered that it was a visit of only 3.5 days to Great Britain.

My hope now is that this will help the ARCIC talks which will begin in November. I certainly think that the Pope understands Britain better and understands Anglicanism better as a result of his visit and it's quite obvious from his carefully crafted remarks that he really does know a great deal about us.

Secondly, I think his visit has raised the profile of Christianity in this country.

Archbishop Rowan, I think, put his finger on it at Lambeth Palace when he said, and he's talking of course as the leader of an established church, that we do not want, as a church, to have special

privileges as far as our relationships with the State is concerned. In other words, we do not expect what we have to say to be accepted and acted upon simply because it is we who say it.

However, there has been a tendency in recent years in some parts of Government and the Civil Service, although happily *not* in Wales, and also too by some secularists, humanists and atheists, to argue that religion has no place at all in the public square.

In other words, Christians should not even have a voice as far as issues of the day are concerned. Their view is that religion is a totally private matter and has no contribution at all to make on any issue. When, therefore, some of us have talked about the moral significance of legislation or policies, for example to do with education, assisted dying, Trident, the effect of economic cuts on the poorest members of our society, we have been told that these are purely secular decisions and faith communities have nothing to offer.

Not only has that been a denial of our human rights, but an assumption that those who have no faith come to issues without any preconceptions or assumptions, which is manifestly not the case.



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Pope Benedict did, in his speeches, counter that view and last week all the bishops of the United Kingdom, meeting in Oxford, heard Baroness Warsi say that as far as the coalition government was concerned, there was a definite place at the table for



people of faith. I quote, “if anyone suggests that this government does not understand, does not appreciate, does not defend people of faith, dare I even say, does not do God, then I hope that what I have to say will go some way in banishing that myth”.

The Pope addressed the assembled members of the House of Commons and House of Lords and people from all walks of life in Westminster Hall. There were 2000 people in all, including 4 former Prime Ministers. He was given a standing ovation and his theme was that religion had a part to play in the life of this nation especially because its history and culture was deeply shaped by the Christian faith. Secularists cannot demand that Christian insights should not even be considered in the discussion of public issues.

Thirdly and lastly, the fact that two splendid acts of worship were televised in full - one from Westminster Abbey and one from Westminster Cathedral - showed something about the beauty of worship and what the Christian faith, in the end, is all about.

It is centred on God and concerned about humanity because human beings are made in God’s image and the two are inextricably bound up and I think that that came across in those wonderful acts of worship. It was Anglicanism and Catholicism at their very best. We should rejoice that those acts were deemed by the BBC to be so important that they should be accessible to this nation and indeed across the world.

A Letter from Australia

6th July 2010

How's your weather? I do hope that you are having some nice warm days. Just last week we had a very big frost all up around our Roses. My son Matthew will come next week probably to prune them. We have about 26 Rose bushes, some of them 80 years old and we have moved them to different homes.

We are watching the Masterchef competition on TV, do you have something like that over on your TV? There is no way I could make any of the things that they have to try.

Jean Kelly our member who moved to Orange to be near her daughter Jacqui and granddaughter Coralie came to Bellingen today to have a cup of coffee with us as they travelled to see her son Paul in Coffs Harbour then have a holiday on the Gold Coast near Brisbane.

Strange how things turn out, our daughter Jane trained with Jacqui at Gosford Hospital before Jean and John moved to Bellingen to live. Jacqui didn't come here then only years later and she worked at the hospital too.

My daughter Fay and her husband Brian and daughter Alison are on holidays in Alice Springs, Central Australia, the hottest it got to yesterday was 7 degrees, they will be glad to get home to Brisbane to around 20 degrees.

Our granddaughter Fiona is home for her 1st year holiday from America and is training flat out for the Australian Swimming Championships in Brisbane on 14th – 18th July, so we are going up on the 16th and members of the whole family are coming to Brisbane for a surprise 90th for Maurice. The family Susan, Jessica and Harley can fly to Brisbane from Burnie in Tasmania very easily and Howard from Sydney can fly easily and his children all live only 1 hour away on the Gold Coast. Matthew and Lyn will be there with Fiona so its going to be great as a niece lives near there too. After that trial when we come home we are having a surprise lunch here in Bellingen for Church and local friends on 22nd July his birthday, 63 are coming and a friend is making a chocolate and pumpkin cake.

Lots of love to all I do hope it's not too boring. I turned 75 years on the 23rd June our 55th Anniversary is on the 30th July.

At the moment we are having a battle to keep our small hospital open. When we think over the past

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years when we only had 3 doctors in the town and all our babies were born there. The Sara Quads, the last surviving ones in Australia were born over 3 days 17th, 18th and 19th August 1950. Now we have about 10 doctors in our town and the head people don't seem to care about country areas.

Alex the young boy has improved now hair all grown back lots of smiles they moved to Coffs Harbour.

The neighbours the oldest boy turned 17, 3 weeks ago and left the next day in the Australian Baseball team touring and playing in America, what a great chance to have that young.

We hope your husband is much better now, it's marvellous what doctors and specialists can do these days.

Heather Connell.

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For any inquiries please contact:

Yvonne Singleton 01639 681468 or Linda Cardy 01639 769097

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26 Newydd - October 2010

Friends of St Agnes' Church

Pilgrimage to Exeter.

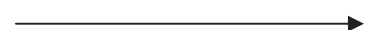
We set out for Exeter on a wet, dismal morning, a little apprehensive having heard the weekend weather forecast. We needn't have worried for once we reached Cardiff the weather started to clear up and gradually the sun began to shine.

We stopped in Taunton for light refreshments and some retail therapy before continuing our journey to Exeter, arriving at the Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel at approximately 2.30pm. The hotel was excellent and provided all the creature comforts we needed including a gymnasium, swimming pool, sauna etc.

By Saturday after a good night's sleep in very comfortable rooms we were ready to explore our surroundings.

Exeter is an ancient city with a vibrant modern feel. There are many places of interest to visit including the picturesque Cathedral Quarter, the historic Quayside with its converted warehouses and cellars, housing an array of antique, craft and clothing shops, and the Princesshay Quarter with its stylish shops, modern architecture and wide landscaped pedestrian areas.

It was lovely to see people sitting outside cafes and on the lawns outside the Cathedral enjoying the sunshine. Sylvan and Duncan managed to find the narrowest street in the world Parliament Street, and Sylvan's shoulders touched each wall (all of 25 inches wide)! On Sunday we attended the Sung Eucharist and Ordination of Deacons (nine in total) at the Cathedral. We had reserved seats which had been arranged before our visit albeit some had been commandeered before we arrived.



The construction of a Cathedral in Exeter, on the present site began in 1112. It was built in the Norman style. A major rebuild, in Decorated Gothic Style was carried out under six bishops between c1270 - c1350. The Cathedral is dedicated to Peter, one of Jesus' first followers.

From the Great West Door to the Great East Window is approximately 315 feet. This is the longest continuous medieval vault in the world. The round stones of the vault are called 'Bosses' and more than four hundred of them act as 'Keystones' locking the vault of the Cathedral in place.

One item which is rather fascinating is the fact that below the entrance to the Astronomical Clock in the Cathedral a hole has been cut into the door. This was done between 1598 and 1621 so that the Bishops cat could gain entrance to catch the mice and rats who were attracted to the ropes of the clock which were covered in fat as a lubricant for the clock. Mice etc., running up and down the ropes is thought to be the origin of 'Hickory, dickory, dock, the mouse ran up the clock'.



The Cathedral was packed to capacity.

The Nave being reserved for relatives and parishes of the Deacons. We were situated in the North Aisle opposite a large television screen but still very much part of the service which was conducted by Michael Lord Bishop of Exeter. It was a privilege to be part of this service and we came from there feeling refreshed.

After a leisurely lunch we made our way home, having spent a very pleasant weekend in the company of members of churches in the Benefice and friends.

Thank you everyone for making the weekend such a success.
June & Sylvan Thomas.

28 *Newydd* - October 2010

Story time

As part of a way of introducing people to the church building, PATS - the parent and toddler group - will take some children into church each week for a Bible story, sitting on the mat in the north aisle with the children's toys and books.

Harvest 2011

St Mary's Church Committee would like to suggest to the Benefice that next year our harvest thanksgiving service is held on a weeknight, and that we all go into the parish Centre afterwards for a Harvest Supper.

Hall worship

The St Mary's Church Committee agreed in principle that, should we not be able to afford to put on the heating in church this winter as a result of no increase in giving, that services take place in the hall.

Christmas cards

The idea of not giving Christmas cards to each other, because we see each other in church every week, but making a donation to the Church Army Hostel for young homeless people has certainly caught the imagination. But a number of people have pointed out that in practice people just put a token £1 coin in the plate, and still hand out cards in church to all and sundry. It has been suggested that we need to really embrace this, and actually stop handing cards to those we see all the time, and put a realistic £5 in the box, and ONE card on the board in each church.

Choirs

Matthew Lewis and Anne Griffiths are delighted to welcome new members to the choirs in St Mary's and St Agnes' - especiall young members!

If anyone would like to join a church choir please give Ann a ring on 870271 or Matthew on 892661.

They would love to hear from you.

Anne would like to record her thanks to Jayne Owen for all her help with choir practice at St Agnes'.

Condolences

We offer Howard and Barbara and their families our sympathy on the death of their mother, Elsie Evans, who had been a devoted church-woman all her life.

Elsie died in her sleep at the end of September.

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from 9.30am to 11.30am

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Regular visits from Language and Play

Health care advice



30 *Newydd* - October 2010

Monthly Communicant figures for August

1st	138
8th	141
15th	139
22nd	86
29th	136

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.

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

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

**If you know someone has gone into hospital please telephone and let us know. There is a special number for contacting the Anglican chaplains at Neath Port Talbot Hospital
07917526761**

The Office is a place of business. It is essential that you come and go as quickly as possible so that Denise can get on with her work and other people can be seen in privacy.

If you have items for the magazine please let Denise have them by the 20th of every month. If you can email them this saves her time in re-typing.

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

St Mary's Subwardens

Mrs Mary McCarthy 01639 891818
mccarthy@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Jean Moloney 01639 881516
jmoloney@parishofabeavon.org

St Paul's Subwardens

Mrs Ann Rees 01639 898537
arees@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Margaret Williams 01639 776503

St Agnes' Subwardens

Mrs Edna Williams 01639 886649
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Paula Durnell 01639 770829
pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

Holy Trinity Subwardens

Mr Mike Isaac 01639 793501
misaac@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Gill Davison 01639 870528
gdavison@parishofaberavon.org

Parish Worship

On Sunday the Holy Eucharist is celebrated

<i>in St Agnes' Church, Forge Road</i>	at 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