

Newydd

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

www.parishofaberavon.org

September 2009

60p



Harvest Thanksgiving is 27th September

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The Parish Office is only open on

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Monday | 12pm to 3pm |
| Tuesday | 10am to 1pm |
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From the Rectory



The Archbishop has accepted the resignation of the Reverend Jonathan Elcock as Assistant Curate of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon. We wish Jonathan well in the future, and assure him of our prayers.

On 21st December 1988, a terrorist bomb exploded on board Pan Am flight 103, destroying the aircraft over the Scottish town of Lockerbie and killing 270 people.

Only one person was ever convicted for the deaths of these people, and amidst much publicity and controversy this man, Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, was released by the Scottish Justice Secretary last month, because he is suffering from terminal prostate cancer.

I was asked by someone what would the Christian position be on the release of a prisoner who is terminally ill.

My answer was that, for me, the Christian position on such matters must be justice tempered with compassion. It seems to me that this is the message of Jesus in the Gospels. We cannot escape the justice part; but there may be occasions when we need to be compassionate.

Some have said that, as the legal system found him guilty of the bombing, it would be fair to say that Megrahi showed no compassion to those who died. Others have gone on to say that the families of the victims deserve to see him die in prison.

There are two points here.

The first is that, as Christians, we are not necessarily bound to follow the example of someone else, especially when that someone has clearly not shown any Christian conviction in their actions. This is where the teaching of Jesus about forgiveness, and the example of restorative justice in the encounter with the woman caught in adultery, often challenge us in our human thinking and in our emotive responses to events. It is not easy to be like Jesus; nor is it really easy to say just what Jesus would do in any given situation — though that should not stop us asking the question.

4 *Newydd* - September 2009

The second point to be made is that we often think in terms of revenge rather than justice, and they are, of course, entirely different things.

Justice is something we must cherish. It has wide spread consequences for all of us, and one of those consequences is that, when we are guilty of some wrong we have to pay the price set by law to make amends for our wrongdoing.

Revenge is something that twists our concepts as Christian people, and eats away at our hearts and minds. Seeking revenge makes us bitter people, and we lack inner contentment and peace. The road of revenge mars the very nature of our human existence and changes our character.

Should Abdelbaset al-Megrahi have been set free?

I am not sure.

On the one hand if he is to die the compassionate thing would be to let that happen in the presence of family and friends. On the other hand, if his death is imminent what can be gained from setting him free? There will be no freedom for him anyway: death will take him soon enough, and he will await the judgement of the God who knows the truths about the whole affair far

better than we can do.

And this is what bothers me: at the time of writing this, we don't know the truth of the affair.

Was Abdelbaset al-Megrahi released on compassionate grounds, or were there other reasons? Did the UK government bring pressure to bear on the Scottish Justice Secretary?

Writing in *The Guardian* on Monday 31st August Marcel Berlins - a lawyer turned journalist, who is also a lecturer in law - asked "whether, behind the scenes, lurked the real motive for granting his freedom, which was all about oil and Britain's trading relationship with Libya."

He went on to say:

"Megrahi's return to Libya seemed conveniently to have sidelined another potentially embarrassing question: was he the victim of a miscarriage of justice? Was the decision to free him at least partly based on the Scottish desire to avoid having that question answered?"

Being able to make a sensible decision about something like the release of Megrahi means having access to facts, and a sound knowledge of all the evidence that was put to the Justice Secretary. So often those of us who make up "the

general public" have no real knowledge of the facts of the case, and are left to speculate with journalists in the print and other media, or come to conclusions that are emotive and irrational because we are in ignorance of the detail of the case. The danger then is that we can so easily allow ourselves to be swept away on an emotional tide that we begin to hold opinions that challenge our understanding of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

But we are often left, too, with a question about those who are in positions of responsibility, and are forced to ask ourselves whether their motives in any particular event are actually honourable. And again, because we never have access to enough information, we are left to guess.

In all of this, we are like the crowds who thronged the streets of Jerusalem in the days between what we now call Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday.

Faced with the overwhelming evidence of those who had seen Jesus heal, and heard him teach about the kingdom of God, many people greeted his entry into the city with shouts of "Hosanna!" Yet within days the insidious and malign influences of those who had much to lose in terms of holding

authority over "the general public" had persuaded sufficient numbers that there was something here very amiss: and the hosannas turned to calls for execution, and an amazing willingness to say, "Let his blood be on us, and on our children."

We all need to beware of how we can be made to sway in our opinions, and how we relate to what we believe to be *the truth*. Above all, we need to be certain that we are not easily led away from Jesus, and the things he desires for us all in this world and the next.

Fr. Nigel.

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6 Newydd - September 2009

Congratulations to choristers

We would like to send our warmest "Congratulations" to three of "our boys" on their A Level results:

Aled – Biology A, Chemistry A, Mathematics A.

Liam – Music A, Mathematics A, Mathematics C.

Steffan – Music A, History D.

Well done on your fantastic achievements.

Of course there is a "downside" to this news as they will be leaving us in September to continue their studies elsewhere.

Steffan will be returning to the Menuhin School to further his performance skills, whilst both Liam and Aled have places at Cardiff University – Aled to read Medicine and Liam to read Economics.

Llongyfarchiadau fil a phob lwc bechgyn am y dyfodol – rydym yn falch iawn ohonoch ac yn edrych ymlaen i weld chi nol 'ma yn canu yn ystod y gwyliau!

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Walsingham Pilgrimage 2009

Jayne O'Brien

At 7am on a Monday morning a group of excited pilgrims met at St Agnes' where Father Nigel led us in prayers before starting our journey to Walsingham. Mike Howe and his group went by car and the rest of us set off on the coach. It was nice to see Simon Burton who joined us for prayers and waved us off.

The Llandaff Pilgrimage, with over 200 people, is the largest single diocesan group to visit the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. The coaches meet up at the Cardiff West services and set off in convoy with one stop at the Corley services. It was a very good journey with a few quizzes to keep us occupied on route. We arrived about 2.45pm went to find our accommodation.

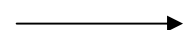


Pilgrims in Walsingham village

All the meals are served in the Refectory, so after evening meal we made our way to the Shrine Church for the service and first visit to the Holy House. There was a torch lit procession in the gardens followed by Benediction.

The services at Walsingham are very special and quite moving. The preachers this year were Bishop Lindsey and Fr Peter from the shrine, and from our Diocese, Fr Graham Francis and Fr Dean Atkins. Matthew Lewis played the organ and was assisted by Anne Griffiths. Linda Lewis sang at each service.

On Tuesday morning we had a service with the laying on of hands and sprinkling of water from the Holy Well. After this service each parish group met up with their parish priest for the intercession prayers. We each had the opportunity to pray for our own needs and those of the parish. It is a very private and emotional experience, remembering all those loved ones back home, and also those in the parish who need our prayers.



8 Newydd - September 2009

On Tuesday afternoon there was time to walk to the Slipper Chapel, a two-mile walk along the country lanes. Coaches were laid on for those unable to make the walk. In the evening the service included Anointing of the Sick.

The Sung Mass on Wednesday was held in the parish church of St Mary's. This service is always wonderful and the singing almost raises the roof. In the evening we were back in the Shrine with a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

As well as the services there is also time to explore Walsingham village, to meet people from other churches and to renew friendships. One afternoon Paula and I walked into Great Walsingham, a 3-mile circular walk through the country lanes. It was beautiful and so peaceful. We came across St Peter's church, built in 1320 and still had the original pews from the 15th Century. Another afternoon a group of us went into the Abbey grounds for a picnic. A few of us enjoyed a nice walk through the grounds while Paula and Linda spent some time sketching the Abbey ruins. I think we all found time to visit the Farm Shop. I recommend the sun-dried

tomato and garlic cheese that Paula bought. In the evenings there was the visit to The Bull and the usual singsong on the last night. All too soon it was Thursday morning and a Sung Mass for The Feast of St Bridget and the last visit to the Holy House. Then it was time to board the coaches, bid farewell to Walsingham and start the long journey home.



The 2010 pilgrimage will be from Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd July

The cost will be around £195. It would be lovely if more people from the Benefice could join us next year.

If you are interested please speak to Jennifer Lewis. To assist with the cost it has been suggested we set up a savings club. If you are interested please ask Paula Durnell or Jayne O'Brien for more details.

October Devotions to Our Lady of Walsingham

will take place on Saturday 10th October at St Elvan's Church, Aberdare.

Sung Mass at noon followed by Sprinkling at 2.30pm.

Please take a packed lunch.

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

Open for all

350 church halls and parish rooms

15,000 sessions of community use of buildings each week in Church in Wales buildings

160,000 people use our buildings each month for community activities

30% of community uses of church buildings involve young people

Whilst the church hall is often the place for community activities, increasingly churches are being adapted to provide for a wide range of activities e.g meeting rooms, cafés, crèches, social clubs, surgeries, exhibitions and galleries.



The church can be a focal point for community cohesion – a place where people are welcomed, involved and valued.



We want our churches to be places of joy and hope with flexible and imaginative programmes and activities.

The church is increasingly the last public building left in a community and it plays a key role in helping to inspire and transform communities and congregations.



St Matthew's Church, Swansea, pictured on the left, has been divided into a worship area and a resource centre for disadvantaged people (operated by Cyrenians Cymru).



10 *Newydd* - September 2009

The Port Talbot Lifeboat Station

*William Cooper, publicity officer,
Port Talbot Lifeboat Station*

Established on Aberavon Beach in 1966 the original Lifeboat Station was and was adjacent to the small pier. In 1998 we were asked by the council to relocate due to them having to carry out sea defence work along the beach. A new station was built in its present position, and we moved into this in 1999.



Our lifeboat is a "D" Class type lifeboat, and is the smallest in the RNLI fleet, but they carry out 65% of all rescues. Our area of operation stretches from the River Neath to the River Kenfig and approx 6 miles out to sea.

The crew are all volunteers and are called out by a pager system. Over the years a number of the crew have received bravery awards from the RNLI for carrying out rescues in atrocious weather.



On the 28th March this year we received a new lifeboat, donated by the family and supporters of one of our crew members who sadly passed away suddenly in 1999 at the age of 34 years. This boat is named after him, "Nigel Martin Spender". Since the beginning of 2009 we have been called out 12 times to various types of rescues, rescuing 15 people in total.

The station is open every Sunday from 9am to 1-30pm for training, and any visitors who would like to come along and see us are more than welcome.

Fr John Bradley

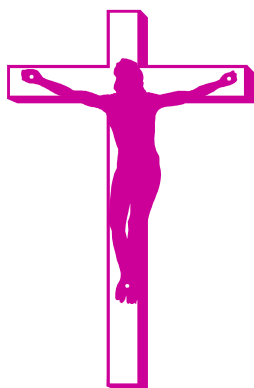
The death has been announced of the Reverend John Bradley, who was incumbent of Holy Trinity Church from 1965 to 1969.

Born in 1930, Fr Bradley served curacies at St Mary's, Cardiff (The Dock's), Caerau with Ely and Porthcawl before becoming Vicar of Holy Trinity in 1965. From 1959 to 1961 he also lectured at St Michael's College, Llandaff.

He retired from parish ministry in 1991, and became chaplain to a nursing home in Westbury on Trym.

Fr Bradley died in Bristol on Thursday 13th August, aged 79 and his funeral was held in Holy Trinity Church, Westbury on Trym, Bristol on 2nd September.

*May he rest in peace and rise
in glory*



The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian funeral:

William James Haines
Anita Vaughan
Edith Mary Morgan
Olga Constance Jenkins
Valerie Chilcott
Cissie Ann Jones
Andrew Thomas
Theda Phyllis Louise Block
Leonard Slater
Victoria Christina Gardner
William Moore
Thomas Herbert Davies
Selwyn Lewis
Siriol Hibbard
Herbie Davies
Ken Barber

We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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



12 *Newydd* - September 2009

Guild of St Anne

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild of St Anne will be on Thursday 17th September at 3 pm in St Agnes. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join our Group.

We meet at St Agnes' on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, with a speaker on the 3rd Thursday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the Summer Break.

Edna Williams.

Clergy Training

Fr Nigel will be at the clergy training course in Oxford from 7th to 10th September.

60's night

Relive the music of the 1960's, play musical quiz games, sing along to the songs you remember so well and enjoy a buffet at St Agnes' on Wednesday 16th September from 7.30pm
Tickets are £3 and £1 for children.

You are welcome to bring your own drinks.

Holy Days

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Tuesday 8th September
No mass at St Paul's

Sung Mass at St Mary's 7pm to celebrate their Patronal Festival

Holy Cross Day

Monday 14th September

Mass at St Agnes' 6.30pm followed by a meeting of the Study Group

St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Monday 21st September

Mass at 6.30pm at St Agnes'

Dedication Anniversary
Holy Trinity Church

Monday 28th September

Sung Mass at Holy Trinity at 7pm

No mass at St Agnes'

St Michael & All Angels

Tuesday 29th September

Mass at St Paul's at 10.00am



Open churches

Will you help keep your church open from 10am to 5pm on Saturday 19th September, please?

We hope, once again, to attract visitors and encourage them to look around our places of worship.

St Mary's, St Agnes' and St Paul's will be open on the 19th but Holy Trinity will be having their open day on 1st October, to coincide with the unveiling of a plaque to make note of the money given by Communities First to build the new church.

Evensong

Please note that on Sunday 27th September there will not be a service in St Paul's at 6pm. We are going to St Michael's, Cwmavon to join them for evensong at 6pm. In January the congregation of Cwmavon came to St Paul's - and there were quite a lot of them. Let's go in strength to them on 27th.

There will be no evensong at St Paul's on 4th October, the day that the Mayor holds her Civic Service at St Agnes' Church.

Holy Baptism

The following have recently been baptised:

Trystan Charles Henry
Morgan Barnes

Stevie Leigh Jones

Please pray for them,
their parents and
godparents.



Bus back

Residents of Velindre, Port Talbot, are back on the bus map and from September 1st residents will find it easier to access the bus network.

South Wales Transport (Neath) Ltd have reached agreement with Neath Port Talbot Council to divert most of the journeys on partially subsidized service 66 via Abbey Road, Tan Y Groes Street, Dan Y Bryn Road, Ynys Street and the rear of the Civic Centre in Heilbron Way.

Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Ali Thomas, issued a statement that he was pleased that a solution had been found to the Velindre problem, following the withdrawal of the previous Ridgways service almost a year ago.

14 *Newydd* - *September 2009*

Holy Trinity Church Open Day Thursday 1st October 2009

Here is the time table for the open day on 1st October. You are all most welcome.

The church will be open from 12 noon and light refreshments will be served.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2.10 pm | Introduction - Reverend Anthony Cockram, Team Vicar |
| 2.30 pm | Unveiling - Community First Plaque by Ian Isaac, Chief Executive, New Sandfields Aberavon |
| 3.00 pm | Guest Speaker, Ian Isaac |
| 3.30 pm | Panel Question Time |

St Mary's, St Agnes' & St Paul's Open Day, Saturday 19th September

All three churches will open from 10am to 5pm, and tea and coffee will be served to visitors.

Holidays

Fr Anthony and Susan will be on holiday from 11th to 19th September. The parish office will be closed from 25th September to 4th October, when Denise takes a holiday.

Diocesan Conference

Mention was made last month that anyone is welcome to attend what is designed as a celebration of Diocesan Life on 26th September at Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre from 9.30am.



"But look," said Martin, "Maltesers have hardly any chocolate on"

©

A wedding bouquet

Ever wondered why a bride carries a bouquet of flowers?

Well, according to one source, in the 14th Century most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.



But if you know better.....

16 Newydd - September 2009

Daily Readings from Scripture

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 7 th September 2009 | Colossians 1: 24 – 2: 3 | Luke 6: 6-11 |
| 8 th September 2009 | Micah 5: 1-4 | Matthew 1: 1-16. 18-23 |
| 9 th September 2009 | Colossians 3: 1-11 | Luke 6: 20-26 |
| 10 th September 2009 | Colossians 3: 12-17 | Luke 6: 27-38 |
| 11 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 1: 1-2. 12-14 | Luke 6: 39-42 |
| 12 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 1: 15-17 | Luke 6: 43-49 |
| 14 th September 2009 | Numbers 21: 4-9 | John 3: 13-17 |
| 15 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 3: 1-13 | Luke 7: 11-17 |
| 16 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 3: 14-16 | Luke 7: 31-35 |
| 17 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 4: 12-16 | Luke 7: 36-50 |
| 18 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 6: 2-12 | Luke 8: 1-13 |
| 19 th September 2009 | 1 Timothy 6: 13-16 | Luke 8: 4-15 |
| 21 st September 2009 | Ephesians 4: 1-7. 11-13 | Matthew 9: 9-13 |

Daily Readings from Scripture

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 22 nd September 2009 | Ezra 6: 7-8. 12. 14-20 | Luke 8: 19-21 |
| 23 rd September 2009 | Ezra 9: 5-9 | Luke 9: 1-6 |
| 24 th September 2009 | Haggai 1: 1-8 | Luke 9: 7-9 |
| 25 th September 2009 | Haggai 1: 15 – 2: 9 | Luke 9: 18-22 |
| 26 th September 2009 | Zechariah 2: 5-9. 14-15 | Luke 9: 43-45 |
| 28 th September 2009 | Zechariah 8: 1-8 | Luke 9: 46-50 |
| 29 th September 2009 | Daniel 7: 9-10. 13-14 | John 1: 47-51 |
| 30 th September 2009 | Nehemiah 2: 1-8 | Luke 9: 57-62 |
| 1 st October 2009 | Nehemiah 8: 1-12 | Luke 10: 1-12 |
| 2 nd October 2009 | Baruch 1: 15-22 | Luke 10: 13-16 |
| 3 rd October 2009 | Baruch 4: 5-12. 27-29 | Luke 10: 17-24 |

18 *Newydd* - September 2009

Climate Change Prayer Day

Ed Beavan
© Church Times

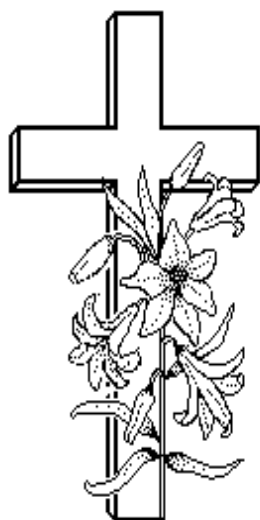
The leaders of several denominations have given their support to a Climate-change Day of Prayer on 4th October, in the run-up to the United Nations summit in Copenhagen in December.

The day of prayer is an initiative of the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The Network is encouraging Christians to organise prayer events throughout Britain. The Bishops of London and Liverpool have backed the campaign. The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, said he would "be joining Christians from many different churches on 4 October, praying to the author of life and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ that God's will be done during the decisive Copenhagen conference this December". The Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd James Jones, urged all Christians "to pray for the earthing of heaven on this day of prayer".

The event is supported by the Methodist Church and a number of aid agencies, among them CAFOD, Tearfund, and Christian Aid. The Society of Friends has drawn up a statement to be sent to world leaders before the UN conference. It calls for "unprecedented international co-operation to enable the large cuts in global emissions which are required". Any agreement should "put the world's poorest first". The richer nations should bear "the greater burden of responsibility for change".

In another initiative, the Arch-bishop of Canterbury has launched a videocast urging viewers to sign up to the Church of England's environmentally themed online Advent calendar this year. In the videocast, Dr Williams says that the answer to the problem of climate change and pollution is "in large measure, in our hands. "It's about our lifestyle; it's about the ways we are prepared to go with the grain of God's creation rather than fighting against it and trying all the time to overcome it."

He calls for Christians to "live patiently, to live respectfully, to live in a way that takes our material environment seriously"



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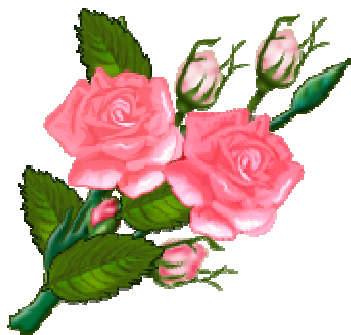
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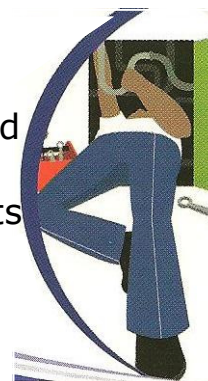
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My Reader Training

Simon Burton

I knew that God was calling me, but I knew not what He wanted of me. In Birmingham I was turned down for ordained ministry, the main reason being that as I had left school with no qualifications, I would be unable to manage the training. After coming home to Wales, I had a discussion in early 2007 with Fr Steven and he suggested that Reader Ministry might be what I could do to serve God. In April I had an interview with the Reverend Mari Price, the Warden of Readers and she offered me a place on the Readers course starting September. This had to be approved by the P.C.C. and I am glad to say they agreed.

In September 2007 the course started at St Michael's College in Llandaff. When I saw the workload my immediate reaction was "What on earth have I let myself in for? I'm never going to cope with all this". The first term, or semester as they call it nowadays, consisted of 2 modules, 2 residential weekends and 4 essays of 2000 words each. Classes were on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm. I enjoyed the classes but writing essays after 44 years since leaving school was a real challenge. Christmas came and the deadlines for the essays were drawing closer. Sharon, my wife, typed them up and they were delivered to Cardiff University two days before the deadline. The second term started and ran to Easter. Another two modules, three more essays and two more residential weekends, one over at Ferryside near Kidwelly. We broke up at Easter and had a long summer break until the second year started in September 2008. The first year I also had to preach four times, and as Fr. Steven had left, Fr Matthew took over as my supervisor in the parish. I will be forever grateful for his help.

The summer passed quickly and Year 2 started. Our group was one short as a Reader candidate from Monmouth Diocese had dropped out for family reasons. This second year had four modules, six essays, a small group learning project and a placement at a church of a different tradition to St. Agnes'. I did my placement at St. Michaels in Cwmafan and was made very welcome by the Reverend Helen O'Shea and the people, and preached on my last Sunday there. My small group work was done with the Rosary

group which I had started in 2006. More residential weekends, one of which was at Gregynog Hall in mid Wales near Newtown. The course finished at Easter 2009 with a one week residential or Easter School, as it is called.

This week crammed in the final module on Christian Spirituality, very intensive as all the residential weekends had been. My final task was to write a 6000 word dissertation in which I did a comparison between the Stations of the Cross and the Labyrinth. I am pleased to say that I passed all my modules, not with flying colours but I passed and that is something I am quite proud about, especially as the modules are also done by the ordinands and I hark back to what the director of ordinands said at Birmingham about my not being able to cope.

I have been awarded a Certificate of Higher Education in Practical Theology, and the climax of all this came on the 4th July at Llandaff Cathedral when five Reader candidates were admitted and Licensed by the Archbishop of Wales. Fr Nigel and a large group of parishioners came to support me.

Looking back it has been really hard work, but with the help of God, the clergy in this parish and the valuable advice of Len Jones, I now look forward to my ministry with you all in Aberavon. I have made really close friends among my fellow students.

I want to give special thanks to Sharon for her support and all her typing!

Newly wed

The following couples were married last month, and we wish them well in this latest phase of their relationship together.

Please pray for them.

Mathew Christian Rees
and Julia Harvey

Tony John Stephens
and Leanne Doyle

Christopher Bevan Williams
and Amy Marie Padley



***Fibromyalgia Support Group
South Wales***

***hold meetings regularly at Saint Mary's Centre
the 2nd Tuesday of each month
12.30 pm - 2.30 pm***

Refreshments available - Everyone Welcome

For any inquiries please contact:

Yvonne Singleton 01639 681468 or Linda Cardy 01639 769097

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24 Newydd - September 2009

News from around the benefice

We extend our deepest sympathy to Phillip Thomas on the recent death of his son.

Tony Llewellyn is still unwell, and we miss his regular presence in church.

We offer our condolences to Les Chilcott on the sudden death of his wife Val.

Danny Bird has been able to return to church after his hip operation.

Maisie Thomas has been in hospital for some weeks, and we assure her of our prayers.

Vicky Gardner died last month, after many years of deteriorating health, and we send our sympathy to her husband and family.

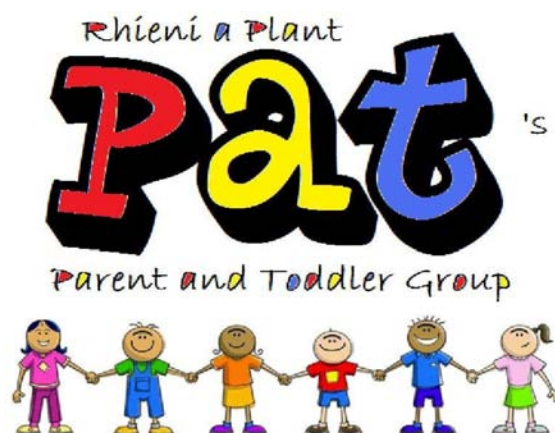
Marilyn Dunn is unwell, and having chemotherapy. Ann John continues to be unwell, and we miss her in church. We send our good wishes to Selby Bailey.

We assure them all of our prayers.

Harvest Thanksgiving

We will hold a service in St Mary's Centre on Tuesday 22nd September at 3pm for all who receive Holy Communion at home.

This will, as usual, be followed by a tea party.



Parent and Toddler Group

A brand new group will begin to meet in the St Mary's Centre on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11am beginning on 10th September. There will be a charge of £1 per session. This initiative is being undertaken by three ladies from St Mary's, and will significantly contribute to the mission activity of the Benefice in furthering links with the community.

Congratulations

To Ann Jones who celebrates her 65th birthday and Margaret Pullen who celebrates her 75th birthday this month.

Thank You

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone for their good wishes, cards, flowers and gifts received on the occasion of my 90th birthday – it really made it a most memorable event. Thanks once again. Joan Jenkins.

Concert in St Mary's

Neath Male Voice Choir and a visiting choir from Bath are hosting a concert at St Mary's on Friday 18th September at 7 pm.

Free fridge

A small Fridge is available free of charge to whoever is willing collect it.

Contact the Parish Office on 886740.

Responsibility Llandaff – Faith in Action

The next collection of "Red Boxes" and donations will commence on Sunday the 27th September for the period ending September 2009. This is a Benefice initiative and the individual church contact representatives are: St Agnes Church – Christine Howe, St Mary's – Avril Stevens, Holy Trinity – Joan Richards and St Paul's – Tony Llewellyn. If you would like to support this Parish initiative then please contact your church representative who I am sure will be glad to provide you with further information. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Tony Llewellyn,
Benefice Co-ordinator.

St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for August is number 207, Mrs. Iris Quick.

From the Registers

Communicant figures for July

| | St Mary's | St. Agnes' | St. Paul's | Holy Trinity | |
|------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|--|
| 5th | 33 | 54 | 32 | 43 | |
| 12th | 38 | 61 | 24 | 35 | |
| 19th | 26 | 51 | 27 | 34 | |
| 26th | 32 | 53 | 23 | 40 | |
| | | | | | |

No money?

Whilst the process of amalgamating the church accounts is underway there will be no monthly breakdown of figures published in the magazine. This will return later in the year.

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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.

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

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.

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' |
| Saturday | at 10.30am | in the hospital chapel. |

Please look inside the Magazine for times of services on Holy Days.
Details may also be found on the parish website.

The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon : a registered charity no 1130785