

Glamorgan  
Heritage Coast  
Ministry Area  
Magazine



May 2023

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# Parish Magazine

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area comprises the Parishes of: St Bridget's, St Brides; St Michael and All Angels, Ewenny; St Giles, Gileston; St Cattwg's, Llanmaes; St Michael and All Angels, Llanmihangel; St Illtud's, Llantwit Major; Holy Trinity, Marcross; St Mary's, Monkash; St Donat's, St Donats; St Tathan, St Athan; All Saints, Southerndown; St James, Wick.

This magazine serves them all.

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## This Month's Cover

Whitsunday is the time when the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, and they received the gift of tongues. It is recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and tells of the astonishment of Jews from other countries, each of whom heard his own language being spoken by these men who had never been outside their own country. The festival, coming seven weeks after Easter Sunday, is on 28<sup>th</sup> May this year. Originally called Pentecost. The name WhitSunday may refer to the white garments worn on Pentecost by the newly baptised.

ES

## Clawr y Mis

Sulgwyn yw'r adeg pan mae'r Beibl yn dweud wrthym fod yr Ysbryd Glân wedi disgyn ar yr Apostolion, ac fe gawson nhw'r 'rhodd o dafodau'. Yn ail bennod Actau yr Apostolion cofnodir syfyrdandod yr Iddewon wrth iddynt glywed gwahanol bobl yn siarad eu hiaith eu hunain, er iddynt hanu o wledydd gwahanol, ac heb fod allan o'i gwlad erioed o'r blaen. Mae'r ŵyl, sy'n dod saith wythnos ar ôl Sul y Pasg, ar yr 28ain o Fai eleni. Yn wreiddiol fe'i gelwyd yn Pentecost. Efallai fod yr enw Sulgwyn yn dwyn cyfeiriad at y dillad gwyn a wisgir ar adeg y Sulgwyn gan y rhai sydd newydd eu bedyddio.

Siân Tesni

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*The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.*

## Regular Events

Each Monday	Morning Prayer	9.00 am	via Zoom
First Tuesday	Mothers' Union	2.00 pm	St Illtud's
Each Tuesday	Chair Yoga	10.00 am	St Illtud's
	Prayers for the Parish	11.00 am	via Zoom
Each Thursday	Morning Prayer	8.30 am	Zoom. St James
	Clothes Bank	9.00 am	St Athan
	Seasons	2.00 pm	St Illtud's
	Celtic Contemplation	6.30 pm	St Illtud's (from 10 <sup>th</sup> )
	Bell ringers Practice	7.30 pm	St Illtud's
First Friday	Open Mic	7.30 pm	St Illtud's
Each Friday	Eucharist and soup	12.30 pm	St Illtud's
First Sunday	Treasure Seekers	9.30 am	St Illtud's
	Church Café	3.00 pm	St Tathan

## May

2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	11.00 am	Communion	Milsom H'se, St Athan
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	6.00 pm	LCC Meeting	St Illtud's
11 <sup>th</sup> Thur	7.30 pm	Arts Festival, Elizabeth Singers	Ewenny
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	11.00 am	Civic Service	St Athan
18 <sup>th</sup> Thur	7.00 pm	Arts Festival, Choir	Ewenny
19 <sup>th</sup> Fri	9.30 am	Friday Fellowship	Monknash
20 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.00 am	Fountain Singers Practice	St Illtud's
21 <sup>st</sup> Sun	3.00 pm	Treasure Seekers	St Athan
23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Tue - Thur		Water Colour Workshop	St Illtud's
26 <sup>th</sup> Fri	10.30 am	MU Corporate Communion	All Saints, South'down
27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	9.00 am	Churchyard Taskforce	St Illtud's

The connection code for Zoom Streamings will be found in the weekly newsletter.

**If you have organised an event and want publicity, please make sure that the Office knows all about it so that details can appear in the weekly newsletter and here in the magazine.**

## From the Editor

Dear Friends

I have been editor for eleven years and, unsurprisingly, a lot of things have changed during that time. As far as the wider world is concerned and the nation as whole, without doubt, the main change is that we now have a King on the throne, having lost our beloved Queen who reigned for 70 years. It is probable that the vast majority of us have not known a different monarch! I always felt that she had a steady guiding hand on the country and, while I admire our new King, greatly I will miss the serenity she always brought to any occasion.

Something I have noticed over the years, is that the number of people undertaking some sort of difficult task to raise money for charity has increased incredibly. There was a significant surge during the period of the Covid19 lockdown. One name that comes to mind is that of Captain Tom, the 99-year-old man who, in the run up to his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, set out to raise £1,000 by walking laps of his garden. He managed to achieve his goal and, in the process, caught the imagination of the country and beyond. He received a lot of publicity, was knighted for his achievement and the charity wound up raising over £30m. There were many others, who also raised some wonderful sums of money, as reported in previous editions of this magazine, and they are to be commended as well.

Another thing, perhaps in line with the above, is that many people have become kinder, especially in an outwardly demonstrable manner. I am sure that it sprang up at the time when vulnerable people were not able, or even allowed, to do things for themselves and the delivery schemes were stretched to capacity. "Is there anything I can do or get for you?" was an oft heard question and having got into the habit of helping someone, it is easy to continue to the benefit of both. Like its sister 'mercy' it blesses he who gives as well as he who receives.

Something else which I have noticed, and commented on to my friends, is that we have all become more suspicious. You, perhaps, receive a 'phone call and the caller starts off by saying "I am ringing about your account which has been debited by £300 to Amazon and by £150 by Ebay. If you did not authorise these payments ....." but we have all become more suspicious of unsolicited phone calls and do not follow through. The number and variety of scams has taken off considerably and one wonders how the perpetrators spent their time during lockdown, devising new schemes no doubt.

I have been asked if there is anything which has appeared in the magazine of which I am especially proud. The October 2022 edition was given over to what was in effect a long obituary of Queen Elizabeth II and that certainly qualifies. I had started to prepare the October edition when I heard the news. But it did not take me long to revise my plans completely! Another was the extra which came about following the visit of then Prince Charles and Camilla to perform the official opening of the Galilee Chapel in 2014. This took the form of a booklet of photographs with very little written word. These are the two main ones which I bring to mind.

From the start, the magazine was able to go into colour, a facility which was not available to the previous editor. The title has changed several times, the cover even more often and the style of the contents as well. Father Edwin has always been supportive, and it was he who suggested putting a photograph on the front cover. We have moved onwards and, I think, upwards but have probably been overtaken by IT. So much of what has been printed, and more, is now available on the internet and the younger end of the readership probably prefer to get their news that way. I think I speak for the older, retired, generation when I say that we prefer to get our information in what is called 'hard copy'. You will have to read what Father Edwin has to say to learn the future of the magazine. I believe that he may have found an editor to take over, but the magazine may come out quarterly rather than monthly.

As I have written previously, I have many people to thank. The two main ones are Bill Henderson who helped to set up the magazine in 2012, as well as contributing articles and Canon David Brunning who has not only been a regular contributor but has done an excellent job as proof-reader throughout. Other contributors have been Viv Kelly with his quirky pieces and Canon Philip Morris who kindly took over the Saint of the month. More recently, I managed to get a little bit of Welsh into the magazine thanks to Siân Tesni who did the translating. There is a long list of other contributors whom I thank as well but finally, I'll thank my wife who tolerated all the time I spent at the computer!

Yours sincerely. Eric Sparks

*In this issue, you will find several articles written by me. They were stockpiled and I am using them up!!*

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*If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.*

## From Father Edwin

Dear Friends,

One of the first people I met in preparation for moving to this Ministry Area in December 2016, was Eric Sparks. Eric welcomed me to his home; made me coffee and we discussed what needed to go into the Parish Magazine to announce my appointment to lead the local churches. It has been my pleasure to get to know Eric well over the subsequent six years, and to know the benefit of his wisdom, as well as valuing his friendship, generosity and hard work.

Eric has edited our Parish Magazine for 11 years, overseeing its latest evolution from being a 'Benefice' magazine to becoming a 'Ministry Area' magazine, with changes of clergy, lay leaders and even churches along the way. Throughout that time the Magazine has provided an invaluable source of news, information and reflective comment, as both our local communities and our world have gone through seasons of change.

In typical self-effacing fashion, Eric has decided that this is a good time to hand over the reins so that a new person can take over and start to develop their own style and perspective, just as he has done over more than a decade. The new magazine editor will be Chris Halsall, from St Brides Major, and she brings a wealth of expertise and perspective to the role, making her a fitting successor to Eric, and someone who will be able to build on the tremendous foundations he has established.

The biggest change proposed is that our Magazine will become a quarterly publication, with its focus moving away from news and more towards reporting and reflecting the things that are going on in our 12 Heritage Coast churches. The pandemic has changed both the readership and the nature of our work, and producing a Magazine that has its focus on the stories of fellowship and faith within the local church community, and will, we hope, appeal to a broad readership.

For now, our focus is on this final edition of the Magazine under the generous, careful and determined editorship of Eric Sparks. Eric, the grateful thanks of parishioners across the Heritage Coast churches are extended to you for your constant hard work and good grace in your task. From a personal perspective, I have relished our friendship and commitment to this vital element of our work, and your willingness to produce a Parish magazine that gives an insight into the life, work, and witness of our local churches, with faith, honesty and humour.

On behalf of us all – thank you!

With every blessing, Edwin

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*Happiness often sneaks in. through a door you didn't know was open.*

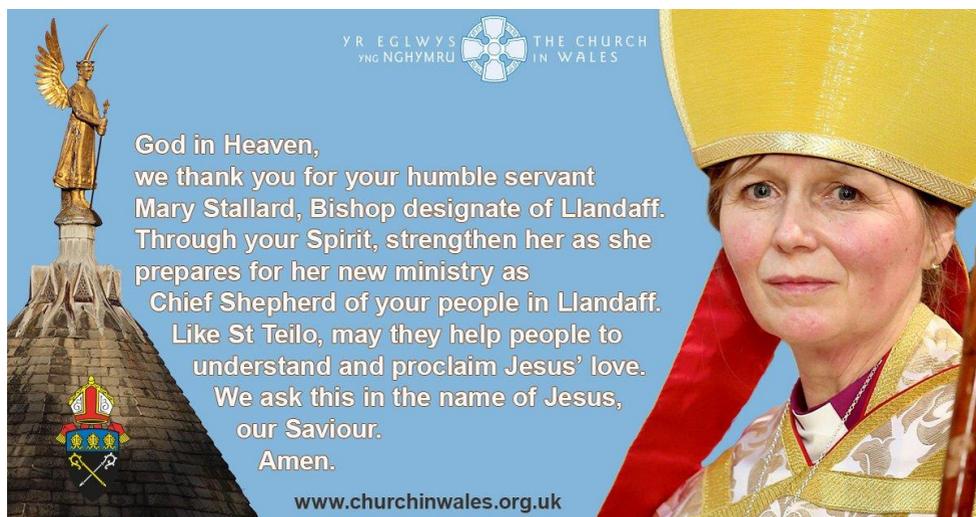
## The Right Reverend Mary Stallard is the new Bishop of Llandaff

It has been almost five months since Bishop June Osborne laid down her pastoral staff in the Cathedral, as she retired as our Bishop. Bishop Mary, who has served for just over a year as the Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bangor in North Wales, was elected by the Electoral College of the Church in Wales in January and has now taken up her role as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Llandaff.

Bishop Mary brings a wide range of experience, having worked in a variety of roles across the Church in Wales, and her time as Chaplain to the Bishop of St Asaph and as Assistant to the Bishop of Bangor, have given her a keen insight into the running and requirements of the Bishop's Office, and the unique challenges of that role.

Mary's Service of Welcome at Llandaff Cathedral promises to be a memorable occasion, but we will really get to know her once she starts to visit the Ministry Areas and churches of Llandaff Diocese. We look forward to welcoming her to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area early in her episcopate.

Please keep +Mary and her family in your prayers, at a time of momentous change for them as a family, and pray that God will bless her richly in her new ministry as our Bishop.



God in Heaven,  
we thank you for your humble servant  
Mary Stallard, Bishop designate of Llandaff.  
Through your Spirit, strengthen her as she  
prepares for her new ministry as  
Chief Shepherd of your people in Llandaff.  
Like St Teilo, may they help people to  
understand and proclaim Jesus' love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
our Saviour.  
Amen.

[www.churchinwales.org.uk](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk)

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*Take the first step in faith. You don't have to take the whole staircase, just the first step.*

## Coronations

On Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1953, everyone who could get to a television set did so. While it was only available in black and white, the programme that was being watched by everybody was still a glorious spectacle – the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey. Travelling in the Gold State Coach, the Queen took over half an hour to reach the Abbey and after the three-hour ceremony, two hours to return to Buckingham Palace. With the appearances on the balcony and the switching on of the lights in the evening, made it a full day's viewing.

There were 8,000 guests in the Abbey and the procession was over 30,000 strong. While the main attention was drawn by the State Coach, probably the next one to gain the interest of the spectators was a plain black one which carried a large lady from the South Pacific. This was Queen Salote of Tonga



who endeared herself to the crowds by refusing to let the attendants raise the roof of her carriage even though this exposed her to steady rain! It is reported that someone asked Noel Coward who it was in the carriage. "Queen Salote of Tonga," he replied. "And who is that little man with her?" "Her lunch!"

The photograph shows Prince, as he was then, Charles accompanied by Camilla when he came to open the Galilee Chapel in 2014. He came across as a very serious man but with an active sense of humour. He planted one of the trees in the churchyard and departed full of smiles.



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*One should never generalise.*

King Charles wanted to have the Coronation ceremony severely modified and has had his way to a certain degree. The proceedings in 2023 will take just two hours as compared with the three hours of the 1953 for Queen Elizabeth. The part where the king is anointed with oil is that which Charles is in communion with God and ought to be considered utterly private between him and his maker, hence the screening which will hide him from our view at that time.



The Archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon, and anoints the sovereign on the hands, breast and head. The tradition goes back to the Old Testament which describes the anointing of Solomon by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet.

Charles wanted to make the proceedings multifaith. In line with his way of thinking. It was pointed out to him that it was a Christian service in a Christian place of worship but Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh leaders will take part in various aspects of the coronation. The ceremony also will include female bishops for the first time, as well as hymns and prayers sung in Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Irish Gaelic, as well as English.

The coronation ceremony reflects Charles' efforts to show that the 1,000-year-old monarchy is still relevant in a country that is much more diverse than it was when his mother was crowned 70 years ago.



Built around the theme "Called to Serve," the coronation service will begin with one of the youngest members of the congregation greeting the king. Charles will respond "In His name and after His example, I come not to be served but to serve."

The 'Stone of Scone' has traditionally been under the Coronation throne for previous ceremonies. Its position under the coronation throne is another part of the symbolism apparent throughout the ceremony. May everything function well and may his reign be inspirational.

---

*Cats have it all, admiration, endless sleep and company only when they want it.*

## Sinister

Sinister is a Latin word which means 'left'. It is used in this sense in Heraldry to describe items 'to the left'. 'Bend Sinister' describes things on the knight's left hand and, therefore, the viewer's right. Dexter, the opposite, is the position of honour on an escutcheon or coat of arms. The right was the husband's side, while the left, or sinister, was the wife's side for such displays.

This implication of subordination has led to the use of the word to imply inferiority in many senses. Anything to the left is regarded as lower in value or ability. The word is more often used to indicate that an occurrence has an ominous aspect with overtones of the supernatural or unknowns. In the Middle Ages when witches and witchcraft occupied people's minds a great deal more than they do today, anyone who was left-handed was seen as being associated with the devil and subjected to all the malevolence usually reserved for 'witches'. In Victorian classrooms, left-handed children were often physically prevented from using their preferred hands.

Statistics show that approximately 10% of the population prefer their left hands and this has its advantages. A few studies have shown that left-handed people are more likely to have an IQ of 131 or higher. Coincidentally, Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein were all lefties. There are various sports in which being left-handed can confer an advantage. Cricket, tennis and boxing are obvious examples of this, probably not because the person plays better but because the opponent is less accustomed to playing against the 'odd-one-out'.

The downside of being a leftie includes a number of tools or implements which are designed for the majority. One obvious example is a pair of scissors. If don't believe this, try using a pair with your left hand! Another is using a tape measure where the usual way of doing it has the numbers upside-down. However, the very worst is writing where western handwriting from left to right has a leftie's hand covering what is written. Similarly, a desk with an inkwell has it on the right-hand side.

You can probably think of many other pros and cons of being lefthanded, give it some thought.

ES

play wearing my West Indian skirt and high heels and sit there chanting LGBTQIA+ and waving my rainbow flag. Come and join me! ES

---

*From the moment I picked your book up until I laid it down, I was convulsed with laughter. Someday I intend reading it.*

# Samson's Well

## – an ancient holy well?

## Samson's Well

### Llantwit Major



an ancient holy well?

**Philip Morris**

Available from St Illtud's Church Bookshop, Nickleby's Book Store and the Archive Room in the Old School at £3 is a new booklet published by Llantwit Major Local History Society and written by its president, Philip Morris.

Samson's Well stands at the junction of Castle Street and the old Wick Road. The structure surrounding the well is listed Grade II and dated 18<sup>th</sup> century to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, though the well itself has now silted up. It occupied an important position at the entrance to Llantwit Major from the west on the road used by herdsmen coming to the fairs and markets in the town.

The question posed by the booklet is whether Samson's Well had a significance in medieval times as a holy well. It could be the well mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> century *Vita Illuti* which tells of a fountain bursting forth where St Samson's tears fell as he prepared to leave Llanilltud Fawr 'which was called by the name of the same wondrous Samson'. It may have been the place where pilgrims to St Illtud's Church would gather to be sprinkled by the priest before moving to the church for the Mass; indeed 'The Little Pilgrims Cross' stood near here, its base now outside the Galilee Chapel.

The booklet concludes with a short description of some of the other wells in Llantwit Major and the local area, some of which are claimed to be holy, particularly a well near the Beach Café which also is referred to in the *Vita Illuti*.

Philip Morris

## Love

There are three lovely stories which I want to share with you. The first goes back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC when King Nebuchadnezzar married Queen Amytis. She came from Media which is a green and fertile land in complete contrast to the arid terrain of Babylon. Queen Amytis missed her homeland with its greenery and mountainous landscape and told Nebuchadnezzar about her thoughts. He loved her dearly and sought to make life more pleasant for her and this is how the Hanging Gardens of Babylon began. As the countryside was barren and parched, buildings could be made from baked mud. Nebuchadnezzar caused tall buildings to be created with wide terraces on which were planted a wide variety of trees, shrubs and vines using the plentiful supply of water from the nearby River Euphrates. These gave some appearance of mountain greenery. We understand that Amytis was pleased.

The second is rather more recent and relates to the almond trees in Spain. Andalusia is renowned for the number of these trees which are there. Being the second largest producer of almonds in the world. The story we were told was that a mediaeval king of the region married a bride who came from Scandinavia. After she had been in the arid country for some years, she confessed to her husband that she missed the winter snowfall that she had been accustomed to in her homeland. The king wanted to please his wife and thought of the almond trees which had arrived from western China and other parts of Asia. He caused a large number of these trees to be planted and their white blossom in early spring gave an illusion of snowfall for the homesick lady.

The third is a little more recent, dating from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, when Shah Jahan, a Moghul Emperor, caused a wonderful mausoleum to be built for his favourite wife, Mumtaz who had died. Perhaps you have already guessed that this was in Agra, the site of the Taj Mahal, Crown of the Palace, but what you may not know, is that the 42-acre site also includes a mosque and a guest house.

Each of these stories shows an expression of love for another person and a desire to please them. While none of the people involved were Christian, what they did reflects our beliefs.

ES

## Humour

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you." The barber puts a £1 coin on the counter and three 20p pieces. He then calls the boy over and says, "Which pile do you want, son?" The boy takes the three 20p and leaves. "What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!" Later, when the customer leaves the barber's, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream shop. "Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the 20p's instead of the £1 coin?" The boy licked his ice cream and replied: "Because the day I take the £1 the barber will stop playing!"

A man said to God, "God, is it true that to you a billion years is like a second?" God said "Yes". Then the man said, "God, is it true that to you a billion pounds is like a penny?" God said "Yes". The man said, "God, can I have a penny?" God said, "Certainly, just wait a second.

My wife and I took a long, leisurely drive out to the country and pulled over to fill up with petrol and check the tyres. She was surprised to see that you had to pay to use the air hose, and asked me, "Why in the world do they charge for AIR?!" I replied, "It's inflation."

A taxi passenger tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him a question. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the footpath, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second, everything was quiet in the cab. Then the driver said, "Look, mate, don't ever do that again. You scared the living daylight out of me!" The passenger apologised and said, "I didn't realize that a little tap would scare you so much." The driver replied, "Sorry, it's not really your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver —for the last 25 years I've been driving a hearse."

Tim decided to tie the knot with his long-time girlfriend. One evening, after the honeymoon, he was organising his golfing equipment while his wife was standing nearby watching him. After a long period of silence, she finally spoke: "Tim, I've been thinking, now that we're married maybe it's time you stopped golfing. You spend so much time on the course. You could probably get a good price for your clubs." Tim got a horrified look on his face. She said, "Darling, what's wrong?" Tim replied, "For a minute there you were beginning to sound like my ex-wife." "Ex-wife!" she screamed, "I didn't know you were married before!" "I wasn't," he replied.

A cruise ship passed by a remote island, and all the passengers saw a bearded man running around and waving his arms wildly. "Captain," one passenger asks, "who is that man over there?" "I have no idea," the captain said, "but he goes nuts like that every year when we pass him."

---

*The wheel that squeaks the loudest is the one that gets the grease.*

# Puzzle Page

## Crossword No 125

1		2		3		8		4		5		6
7						8						
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10								11				
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				14						15		16
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19		20						21				
22						23						
24								25				

**Across**

- 7 Aircraft
- 8 Unwell
- 10 Chewed
- 11 Let
- 12 Consumes
- 13 Call
- 17 Start
- 18 Lake
- 22 Squash
- 23 Ideas
- 24 LP?
- 25 Fast

**Down**

- 1 Tool
- 2 Rest-day
- 3 Instrument
- 4 Steak
- 5 Cheroot
- 6 Monsters
- 9 Sums
- 14 Breezes
- 15 Endearred
- 16 Sweaters
- 19 Pigment
- 20 Rapid
- 21 Desists

### Answers

*Quick, 21 Stops.*

*Additions, 14 Zephyrs, 15 Beloved, 16 Jerseys, 19 Ochre, 20*

*Down: 1 Spanner, 2 Sabbath, 3 Cello, 4 Sirloin, 5 Cigar, Ogres, 9*

*Speedy.*

*Visit, 17 Begin, 18 Mere, 22 Crush, 23 Notions, 24 Record, 25*

*Across: 7 Planes, 8 Ailing, 10 Nibbled, 11 Lease, 12 Eats, 13*

### Miniquiz

- 1 What is the name of the craft of applying paper cut-outs to wooden surfaces?
- 2 What type of reference book was compiled by Noah Webster?
- 3 What was the name of the last king of Egypt?
- 4 \What is the German beer mug called?
- 5 Who was the wife of Odysseus?

### Answers

*1 Découpage, 2 Dictionary, 3 Farouk, 4 A Stein, 5 Penelope.*

CHARM	PLEASE
CHASM	GORGE
CHASE	PURSUE
	STOP
	HARASS
	LET
	TETHER
	PERCOLATE
	FRUIT
	FISH
PORCH	ENTRANCE

*Charm, Chasm, chase, leach, Peach, Perch, Porch.*

*Truth is scarce, but the supply is always being in excess of the demand.*

## Dr Eurof Evans OBE

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 we said farewell to a remarkable person who had faithfully served Ewenny Priory Church for many years. Eurof died on 21<sup>st</sup> March, aged 92, and will be sadly missed by his wife June, children Amanda and David and their families, and indeed by the congregation of Ewenny Priory. Eurof survived a direct hit on the family home in Swansea during the blitz of 1941, at the age of 9 being trapped in a cellar for over six hours. He became a leading medical scientist, eventually running Amersham plc's factory at Coryton, Cardiff, manufacturing radiopharmaceutical products. Eurof was involved with a number of organisations, for example the Mid-Glamorgan Health Authority.

Living in Ewenny, Eurof developed a great love for the Priory Church, and essentially masterminded its restoration in 1999 during a time between incumbents. If it wasn't for his determination and persistence I don't think the Priory Church would be as it is today. It was Eurof who made Cadw restore the monastic end of the building, for which they had responsibility, and formed a working partnership with Alexander Beleschenko for the design and erection of the massive glass Pulpitum Screen.

Eurof had been churchwarden of the Priory Church for many years, but when he reached the age of 75 had to retire as proscribed by the Church in Wales. However, I made him *custos* of the Priory Church, reviving the medieval term for the one in charge of the fabric of a cathedral or monastic church. So Eurof continued his work of ensuring that the church was kept in good order, even during another time between incumbents after I retired overseeing the restoration of the west end of the building.



With his great knowledge of the history of the Priory Church, Eurof conducted many guided tours for groups. In 2013 he gave our present King a tour of the monastic end, which the then Prince Charles told me afterwards how much he enjoyed and how much he learnt. Eurof would come down to the Priory everyday walking his dog and talking with visitors. There was much more to Eurof's love of the Priory Church than just as an historical monument. He wanted the Priory to be the best possible place for worship, a place where people could feel the stones soaked in prayer, and where people could find peace and quiet.

It was appropriate that Eurof's funeral should take place just after Easter, as we looked at the Pulpitum Screen with the Cross of Christ set in clouds of glory – a powerful symbol of the Resurrection, reminding us that death leads into new life, eternal life, the life lived with God for ever. This is the life that Eurof now lives, as we, in words of another Swansea boy, Dylan Thomas, read at the funeral by Eurof and June's grand-daughter Cosima, 'say goodbye – but just for now'.

*Philip Morris*

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*A good character is the best tombstone.*

# Daphne

## Eulogy by Bill Henderson

Good afternoon every-one.

I am so very grateful that I have been given this opportunity to be able to share with you. at this sad time, my involvement with Daphne. She was. a very special lady and a very good friend and fellow traveller and we are here to celebrate her life and witness among us and to miss her very much indeed. It is indeed important to celebrate her life because she has meant so much too so many of us here and we do miss her greatly.

Back in the early 1990's Daphne was in training within the Church to become a Licenced Reader, a lay minister. I too was in training at the same time but by a correspondence course because my sea going life made it too difficult to take the usual path.

Our Rector at that time, Rev. Canon David Jenkins, greatly encouraged us to work together taking Morning and Evening Prayer in the various churches in our Benefice. Daphne would take the service and the prayers whilst I would preach the sermon. It was a special time for both of us and we were known as the Punch and Judy show. Daphne being Punch!

Daphne was retired from the RAF where she had been an NCO. She was used to organising things and making sure they were done in the proper manner. The phrase "Beds will be made up as laid down in standing orders" was very much the rule in the armed services and she expected us to work to the similar criteria. She was a great asset to many families with baby-sitting for our children and our dogs. They learnt to behave and Ben our lovely dog learnt to sit to attention when she was in charge.

One thing Daphne taught me, and it helped me many times, was the way she ran her life. I was and I suppose still am a bit of a Mr. What if. What will we do if this or that happens, how will we cope, etc. etc. worry, worry, worry! Daphne often used to tell me "To let go and let God"; to let God's will be done and not mine and that has stood by me in very good stead especially in today's mad and very uncertain world.

One of the funniest things I well remember with Daphne was when we went on a church pilgrimage by coach to London. Daphne had made all the arrangements and all we had to do was pay the money and let Daphne's will be done! We ended up in St. Paul's Cathedral where we hoped there would be a refreshment area like there often is, but not so in St. Paul's! Not to worry, we had our snacks with us and we ended right up in the dome and marvelled at how the cathedral had survived the Second World War when it was a prime target for the nightly raids from Hitler's air weapon, the much to be feared Luftwaffe.

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*One of the advantages of being disorderly is that you are constantly making exciting discoveries.*

On the night raids the roof of the cathedral was patrolled by fire watchers who bravely scooped up the incendiary devices in buckets and threw them off the roof thus saving the whole building. Thinking about this and the miracles the watchers performed nightly we sat down to eat our sandwiches when we were speedily attacked by the church authorities and told in no uncertain terms to stop eating and leave forthwith. We think what gave us away was we were eating our crisps in the world-famous whispering gallery where the sounds can travel very far.



So, thank you Daphne for our lovely times together and for all the guidance and confidence you gave me. May you indeed, rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bill Henderson

## **Llantwit Major Mothers' Union**

Thank you so much to all those who supported our Craft/Gift Stall over the Easter Period. The money raised will go towards MU projects both in the UK and Overseas, including the MU Away From It All caravan at Porthcawl.

Thank you too to those of you who are returning your Smarties tubes. If you haven't already done this please can you give them to Linda Davies, to me or to anyone else in the MU Leadership group.

If you would like to know more about our projects, have a look at this page on the MU Website. Projects/Mothers' Union ([mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org))

### **May Meeting Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.00pm in St Illtud's**

The speaker for our May meeting will be Lowri Washington Jones who will be speaking to us about our Away From It All Caravan. If you are not a member but are interested in this, you are very welcome to come along.

### **Deanery festival 2.00pm at St Brides Major Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Our Deanery Festival will be at St Bridget's. We will organise some car-sharing at the May Meeting.

Sue Beetlestone

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*I have a memory like an elephant. I remember every elephant I've ever met.*

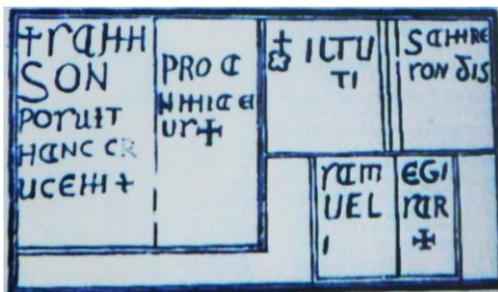
## Brecon Beacons or Bannau Brycheiniog

Historically, the days when people had days with time for leisure are relatively few, and, in the past, it involved a search for the beautiful, historic and or erotic exemplified in this country by the Grand Tour of the 17th and 18th centuries. This was a practice in which, mainly, young, men travelled with a tutor through France and Italy, studying art, history, fashion and so forth for some months; a mixture of leisure and pleasure, though sometimes a man would bring home more than his parents expected.

These ventures came to an end with the execution of Louis XIII and the war with France. If

people wanted to travel, they had to stay this side of the English Channel and many left contemporary records of their experiences. Typical were the Gastineaus who visited Llantwit Major in 1832 and left us drawings of the church and Town Hall. We had another important

visitor in Edward Llhuyd the pioneer in the study of Celtic languages; he came to the church towards 1700 and recorded the inscriptions on the Samson Cross.



The growth of industrial towns in the 18th century created, in time, a class of people who wanted something diverse and this was achieved by a Leicester printer, Thomas Cook who started by organising a train outing to Loughborough for a Temperance Meeting at one shilling a head. He had struck gold, and his name lives on as the Initiator of the Package Tour. A trend towards the appreciation of the countryside is evident in a society set up to diffuse a love of beautiful things among our poor brethren in 1895, when three affluent and well-meaning people bought land near Barwell and made it open to all. Thus began the National Trust, reflecting a romantic trend in literature. In the novels of Thomas Hardy, the work of William Morris, 'Daffodils' and the reminiscences of the Anglo-French poet Hilaire Belloc in "The South Country." "I will build any house in the Highwood, within a walk of the sea, and the men that were boys when I was a boy shall sit and drink with me."

---

*Exaggeration is truth that has lost its temper.*

After the Second World War the slow recovery was reflected in car ownership, and this was recognised by new initiatives. Attractive landscapes could not accommodate busy vehicles and they were awarded the status of areas of outstanding natural beauty, the first being our own Gower Peninsula. Coastal zones were particularly facing overuse when there were industrial towns adjacent and such zones were given new regulations protecting the landscape. We won first prize in the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and a new name for the benefice.

A wider vision in 1949 created National Parks. The first designation being The Peak District in Derbyshire, the first of nine in high ground and five in lowlands such as the Pembrokeshire coast. Each part had its own management and the system usually worked. Unfortunately, last summer's TV showed the problems of car parking and toilets when people wouldn't stay away.

The Brecon Beacons took its name from an old practice of lighting fires on mountains tops to celebrate events hence the badge of a flaming urn. Now it is Bannau Brycheiniog, a name that could cause problems for TV announcers. The name comes from Brychan a 5th century king of this region, though one



view is that he came from Ireland. The view now is that the new name will better reflect the religious and historic traditions of the area. Is this an insidious trend to replace English names by Welsh names? Llyswyrny for Llysworney. Look at the road sign. Snowdon is now Yr Wyddfa and Snowdonia is Eryri. Where do we go from here? Llanilltud Fawr?

Viv Kelly

---

*The best thing about animals is that they don't talk too much.*

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April Lily Madeline Elizabeth Cutter  
8<sup>th</sup> April Collwyn Hywel Rees  
16<sup>th</sup> April Joseph Bradfield  
16<sup>th</sup> April Grace Ann Bradfield

### Marriages

- 25<sup>th</sup> March Matthew James Humphries and Rhian Lane Morgan  
25<sup>th</sup> March Mathew Foreman and Libby Wright

### Burials

- 13<sup>th</sup> March David John Crowley, aged 81years, Llantwit Major  
17<sup>th</sup> March Vera Carrick, aged 92 years, St. Athan  
20<sup>th</sup> March Mary Elizabeth Dark, aged 99 years, Llantwit Major  
22<sup>nd</sup> March John Earnest Noel Bell, aged 74 years, Llantwit Major  
24<sup>th</sup> March Glen Cartledge, aged 65 years, St. Athan  
24<sup>th</sup> March Clive Howells, aged 81 years, St. Athan  
28<sup>th</sup> March Margaret Olwen Thomas, aged 97 years, Llantwit Major  
4<sup>th</sup> April Shân Oldham, aged 75 years, Llantwit Ma  
12<sup>th</sup> April Daphne Barbara Townsend, aged 86 years, Rugby  
18<sup>th</sup> April David Eurof Evans, aged 92years, Corntown  
19<sup>th</sup> April Francis William Dark, aged 100 years, Llantwit Major  
25<sup>th</sup> April Elizabeth Thorogood, aged 98 years, Llantwit Major



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## In, out, and shake it all about

It was in 1948, during my last year in school, and a number of us were on a school trip to St. Malo in Brittany with our French and Geography teachers. While we were there General Charles de Gaulle paid an official visit, so we all lined up with everyone else to cheer and clap this famous Wartime figure. As he passed, Monsieur Bellot, our French master, called out, and he stopped to shake his hand. I was so near I could have touched his sleeve. Fifteen years later few in this country would cheer or clap, as President de Gaulle vetoed Britain's attempt to join the Common Market in 1963 and 1967 accusing Britain of incorrigible insularity and post-imperial mentality.

After his death the mood in France changed and by 1972 we were in. As the Vicar, the Revd. J.D. Llewelyn Jones had written in the January 1973 Parish Magazine: *What effect the entry into the European Community will make on our lives and our thinking no-one yet knows.*

Two years later we had the opportunity to say. In the June issue of the Magazine he writes: *Staying in or coming out? By the time these words are read the Referendum will be upon us. This will be an immediate undelegated say in such an issue of far reaching importance.*

His instinct was to stay in, but admitted that his reasoning could be wrong. He saw the Common Market as no easy solution to our social and economic problems, saying that our own future would depend on our own efforts and our common purpose. All that was fifty years ago, and for good or ill, in our present situation of being permanently out, I am tempted to think that de Gaulle was right after all! At least our Parish Magazine lasted longer.

David G. Brunning

Dear Eric

Many thanks for your latest monthly magazine. In the editorial about the teacher who by his action, or perhaps inaction, made a lasting impression on you and you asked for your reader's experience. When I was 21 years old and working at Kendall Milne in Manchester (Lancashire's Harrods) I was promoted to my first post as assistant manager of a department employing over 100 people making clothing for various departments in the store. My biggest problem was dealing with the fashion buyers who were totally focused on their job and completely oblivious to anything else. This aspect on top of my normal work was almost too much and after several months I sought an interview with my boss, a devout Christian. He listened while I poured out my troubles and when I had finished, he said a short prayer and then said, "Just remember Mr Jameson, that if there were no problems, you would not have a job and neither would I, just keep doing your best.

Bob Jameson

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*Be Yourself is about the worst advice you can give to some people.*

# Saint of the Month

## ...a great cloud of witnesses...

Those who have carefully analysed my choice of saints over the years for this column in the parish magazine, can't fail to have noticed that I haven't included what the Church calls 'red-letter saints', the apostles and evangelists of the New Testament. They will also have noticed that I haven't included the more well-known saints from down through the ages – and that some of those that I have included don't actually have the title 'saint' though they are in the Church's Calendar.



I have tried to feature 'saints' who have a particular connection with our Ministry Area, or have been an influence on our Welsh church life. If I were to give an overall title to this collection of *Saint of the Month* over the last seven years, it would be 'voices of the living light'. As I wrote in this magazine back in November 2016, while I was showing a Year 3 class around St Bridget's Church in St Brides Major, one of the pupils, Georgia, said "Father Philip, don't the saints let in a lot of light". She was referring of course to the windows – and it was the play of colour that was coming into the church. But how perceptive – the saints letting in light.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament doesn't actually use the title 'saint', unlike St Paul in his letters. He (or she – we don't know who the writer was) talks about 'a great cloud of witnesses' that surrounds us. While the writer has listed those from the Old Testament 'commended for their faith', he in a sense is also thinking about the faithful men and women in centuries to come who will pave the way for his readers whenever they might read his letter. So this great cloud of witnesses who have been voices of the light of the Gospel are those down through time who we have featured on this page, and of course countless many others; and those witnesses of today who have been a particular influence on our lives, inspiring us, cheering us on in our faith journey – all worthy of being a 'Saint of the Month'.

*Philip Morris*

## The Meaning of Whitsun

Jesus was crucified, He died and was buried and rose again from the dead after three days. These events are celebrated at Easter. After His Resurrection, Jesus continued to teach his eleven remaining Apostles for a further forty days and then ascended into Heaven. The Feast of the Ascension is on a Thursday and is followed ten days later by Pentecost which means "the Fiftieth Day". Pentecost was a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai. It is now observed in the Christian Church to commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. For this reason, Pentecost is sometimes described as the "Birthday of the Church."



People now, more often, call it Whitsun derived from "White Sunday" Whit was the occasion for varied forms of celebration. In the northwest of England, church and chapel parades called Whit Walks still take place at this time. Typically, the parades include brass bands and choirs and the girls attending are dressed in white. The intention is to have a demonstration of faith and witness to Christ. Traditionally, Whit fairs, sometimes called Whitsun

Ales took place. Other customs such as Morris dancing are associated with Whit, although in many cases they have been transferred to the Spring Bank Holiday.



ES

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*The best proof that there is intelligent life in outer space is the fact that it hasn't come here.*

# Benefice Directory

## **Parish Clergy**

Rev'd Canon Edwin Counsell 01446 794503  
The Rectory, High Street, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SS  
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The Vicarage, Trepit Road, Wick, CF71 7QL  
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[office@ghcp.church](mailto:office@ghcp.church)

**Website** <http://www.llanilltud.org.uk/>

**School** Mrs Ceri Thomas 01656 890253  
Wick & Marcross Church in Wales  
Primary School  
Church Street, Wick, CF71 7QE

**School** Mr Duncan Mottram 01656 880477  
St Brides Major, Church in Wales Primary  
Heol yr Ysgol  
St Brides Major, Bridgend, CF32 0TB

# Farewell!

As this is my last magazine, I will give you a few more jokes and then leave you with a snippet of a song from 'White Horse Inn'. I used to hear it sung at a local hostelry by a rather nice voice, at what would now be called 'An Open Mic' evening some 50 years ago. Hope you like it. Eric

A tough old cowboy from Texas gave some advice to his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning. The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103, when she died, she left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

The passing years have made me ever more dependent on three High Street shops, Specsavers, The Pharmacy and Greggs. This takes me straight back to the sixties with "Specs, drugs and sausage rolls."

A man was walking along a country road when he came upon a farmer working in his field. The man called out to the farmer, "How long will it take me to get to the next town?" The farmer didn't answer. The guy waited a bit and then started walking again. After the man had gone about a hundred yards, the farmer yelled out "About 20 minutes!" "Thank you. But why didn't you tell me that when I asked you?" "Didn't know how fast you could walk".

A man takes his sick Chihuahua to the vet. They're immediately taken into a back room where a Labrador walks in, sniffs the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Then a cat comes in, stares at the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Finally, the vet comes in, prescribes some medicine and hands the man a £250 bill. "This must be a mistake," the man says. "I've only been here 20 minutes!" "No mistake," the vet says. "It's \$100 for the lab test, \$100 for the cat scan and \$50 for the medicine."

... My heart is broken but what care I?  
Such pride inside me has woken  
I'll try my best not to cry by and by  
When the final farewells must be spoken....

... Good-bye, good-bye  
I wish you all a last good-bye  
Good-bye, good-bye  
I wish you all a last good-bye.

From 'The White Horse Inn' a 1930s operetta.  
The song was made popular by Joseph Locke.

---

*Laughter is the best medicine.*



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## Jane Hutt

**Member of the Senedd for the Vale of Glamorgan**  
**Aelod o'r Senedd dros Fro Morgannwg**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or need help.

Peidiwch ag oedi cyn cysylltu â mi os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon neu os oes angen help arnoch.

### Contact / Cysylltu

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