

# YOURS FAITHFULLY

February 2023

## MA Office address

Mail:  
[office@cnb-parish.org.uk](mailto:office@cnb-parish.org.uk)

Tel: 01656 667690

## Vicar

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne  
Leader,  
Ministry Area of  
Penybont ar Ogwr  
The Rectory  
Merthymawr Road North  
Bridgend  
CF31 3NH

Tel: 01656 652247

Mail:  
[maggie53thorne@gmail.com](mailto:maggie53thorne@gmail.com)

Sunday Schedule  
09:30, 11:00 & 6:30pm

Wednesday Schedule  
Please see detailed  
service schedule

Morning & Evening  
Prayer at  
8am & 7pm Monday to  
Thursday via Zoom

Please see detailed  
service schedule for  
dates, times and  
Churches

Please email, phone or  
request Zoom meetings  
and chats as you wish,  
but please note that my  
day off is Friday.

Rev'd Maggie Thorne

Please send any  
information for the  
March newsletter in to  
[mapenybontinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mapenybontinfo@gmail.com)  
by 15 February 2023.

Dear friends

February is often a dreary, wet, cold and even snowy month with little to look forward to. However, Valentine's Day sits nicely in the middle to offer the possibility of respite to warm our hearts a little.

Valentine was a priest, or possibly even a bishop from Terni who was martyred in Rome under Emperor Claudius. His association with love originates from a vague link to the pagan fertility festival, Lupercalia, which fell in the middle of February, and from the Medieval belief that birds mated on that day.

For Christians, though, the day can serve as a reminder to us of an all-loving God who blesses those who love one another, as Jesus exhorted his disciples to do. So apart from the sentimental aspects of the day and sending our sweetheart a card, chocolates and flowers, it's an opportunity to think about the very Author of love and his love for us. Jesus conflated two particular scriptures to give us his summary of the Law of love:

*'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind .... You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22. 37, 39).*

Most will understand that Christians are to love God and others and we do this through our worship and charitable acts and giving, but this must be done with our **heart, soul and mind**. This implies that we love with all our understanding, intellect, will and purpose as well as our affections, but we must also love **ourselves** with the same approach. If we reflect on our past or current capacity to love in this way we might be surprised into new levels of authentic discipleship, especially when we realise that God loves us more than we can possibly understand or imagine. Enjoy Valentine's Day, even if you don't receive any romantic gestures, and remember that *'We love because he first loved us'* (1 John 4.19).

Finally, on the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day every year the wedding preparation day for couples being married over the coming months is held. Please remember them in your prayers.

*Every blessing  
Maggie.*



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**STOP PRESS!**

### **Bishop of Llandaff:**

One of the first women to become a priest in Wales will be the next Bishop of Llandaff.

The Rt Revd Mary Stallard, the Assistant Bishop in Bangor, was elected Bishop of Llandaff by the Electoral College of the Church in Wales on the second day of its meeting at Llandaff Cathedral.

The announcement was made at the west door of the Cathedral by the Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, after Bishop Mary secured the necessary two-thirds majority vote.



Archbishop Andrew said, “Bishop Mary has served the Diocese of Bangor with enormous energy, faithfulness and joy. It is a huge privilege for us now to be able to pass her to the Diocese of Llandaff where we know she will bring all of the gifts that she has shown us. We are so delighted for her.”

Bishop Mary said, “It is a real privilege to receive this new call which I will do my very best to live up to faithfully.”

Bishop Mary’s election will be formally confirmed at a Sacred Synod service in April. She will be enthroned as the 73rd Bishop of Llandaff at Llandaff Cathedral shortly afterwards.

## Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>29th January 2023</b> The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	11:00am	Nolton	Joint MA Eucharist	Maggie
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Stephen
	10:00am	Nolton Rectory	'Healing' Eucharist	Maggie

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 5th February 2023</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Tim
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
	6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie / Pete
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Tim
	11:00am	Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Sunday before Lent, Transfiguration Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	11:00am	Coychurch	Family Service	Pete
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February (Ash Wednesday)	10:00am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
	7:00pm	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> February (Lent 1)	9:30am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	10:00am	Nolton Rectory	'Healing' Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist – Bilingual St David's Day	Mike
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March (Lent 2)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie / Pete
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
<p>Morning and Evening Prayer at 8am and 7pm, Monday to Thursday via Zoom  <b>Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne</b> for the Zoom links you need.</p>				
<p>Please note that the rota reflects both the shortage of staff and the rising cost of heating the churches</p>				

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>29<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)	Almighty and everliving God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Malachi 3. 1-5 Psalm 24. [1-6.] 7-10 Hebrews 2. 14-18 Luke 2. 22-40

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month cont...

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>5<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Third Sunday before Lent)	Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Isaiah 58. 1-9a, [9b-12] Psalm 112. 1-9, [10] 1 Corinthians 2. 1-12, [13-16] Matthew 5. 13-20
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Second Sunday before Lent)	Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen	Genesis 1.1 – 2.3 Psalm 136 or 136. 1-9, 23-26 Romans 8. 18-25 Matthew 6. 25-34
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Sunday before Lent, Transfiguration Sunday)	Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Exodus 24. 12-18 Psalm 2; [99] 2 Peter 1. 16-21 Matthew 17. 1-9

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month cont...

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Lent 1)	Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	Genesis 2. 15-17; 3. 1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5. 12-19 Matthew 4. 1-11
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Lent 2)	Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant that all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, may reject those things that are contrary to their baptism, and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Genesis 12. 1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17 John 3. 1-17



## For your Prayers

### Please pray for:

Kath Shenton  
Michael Rees  
Fr David Lloyd  
Fred Custerson  
Chris Merkins  
Rita Cooper  
Marjorie Reed

and all who are sick whether in body, mind or spirit

### Baptisms

Please pray for those who are preparing for baptism, including

Rudy Davies  
Ifan Berrow-Lewis  
Sophia Gordon



### Weddings

There are no weddings this month.



### Please continue to pray for Ukraine

God of all people and author of peace, we pray for all who are involved in the current confrontation in and surrounding Ukraine. May the nations of the world, their governments and leaders base their decisions upon your wisdom in all that makes for peace. Loving God, we recognise that conflict brings tragic loss for all involved, and so we pray that eyes and hearts may be opened to those things that unite us in our common humanity.

At this time of fear and tension, we pray for your beloved children; that they may know a de-escalation of fear and threat, which would enable them to live in peace and dignity.

We pray for a longed-for restoration of tranquillity in Ukraine.

Lord, we recognise that prayer is a privilege and the responsibility of each one of us; and so we hold in our hearts this situation, its context, and the future, secure in the love shown for all people through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



### Ministry Area Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area. May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement and manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect. May we serve with integrity, creativity and purpose and speak with openness and gentleness. May we offer our gifts, time and finances with generosity and face each challenge with courage and the desire to grow through it. May we all be drawn deeper into our relationship with you and be known as your disciples. Help us to tell our joyful stories, increase our capacity for good and extend your kingdom in this place. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### RIP:

Jim James	Roy Davies
Margaret Williams	James Tonner
Janet Lindley-Dalton	Joan Marsh
Ken Marks	Ken Williams
Baby Theo Kargadouris	Brian Shelly



May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory.

Amen.

## Eco Church news

### RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 27- 29 January 2023

Join in the annual family friendly big garden bird watch. It's a great opportunity to learn more about bird identification - with a focus on birds, beaks and bellies.

You can do the Big Garden Bird Watch from the comfort of your own home and watch through the window over a cuppa.

All you need to do is:

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
2. Count how many of each species of bird lands on your patch
3. Go online and tell RSPB what you saw [Big Garden Birdwatch](#)

This year, the BGBW is 27-29 January.



## Eco Valentine's Gift Ideas



To treat your loved ones and the planet – Shop locally - Try to find zero waste store The Station in Coychurch, Sussed on John Street, Porthcawl or Pantri in Newton

The best eco-friendly gift ideas to give your valentine;

- Chocolate. ...
- A homecooked meal. ...
- Eco-friendly candles. ...
- Jewellery. ...
- Valentine's day snack sets. ...
- Charity donation. ...
- Pampering set.

## Low Carbon Communities project

On 27 June 2019, the then energy and clean growth minister Chris Skidmore signed papers that committed the UK to reduce carbon emissions to effectively nothing by 2050. If we are to stand any chance of meeting this target, known as “net zero”, there is one enormous challenge that we will have to tackle: home heating.

Warming our homes is responsible for between a quarter and a third of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. That's more than 10 times the amount of CO2 created by the aviation industry. Around 85% of homes use gas-fired central heating, and a large proportion of gas cooking still takes place. Greening this system is a huge challenge by any measure. But if recent reports are to be believed, there could be a simple and efficient way to do it: change from using natural gas to hydrogen gas. This is a long way off, but those of us old enough to remember the transition from town gas (Coal Gas) to natural gas (North Sea) in the 1960s and 1970s could see a similar thing repeated.

The next phase of the Low Carbon Communities project in South Cornelly will see a feasibility study test the use of locally produced hydrogen which is seen as a viable alternative to non-renewable gas for heating our homes.

The plan is to inject hydrogen into the existing natural gas network at a 20% blend as this will not cause any disruption to local residents.

At this stage, there will not be any home surveys or gas safe checks required and no physical works will be completed.

The project is being organised in partnership with Welsh Government, Challoch Energy and Nuvision Energy (Wales).



## Forced Displacement in the South Hebron Hills

Eye-witness accounts by a human-rights observer in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.  
August - November 2022

### Joan Neary



**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 – 6p.m.**  
**Tabernacle Chapel, Derwen Rd, Bridgend**

**ALL WELCOME! Tell others – bring them!**

Talk organised by Cytûn with support from Christian Aid.  
For further information please contact [Jane.heddwch3@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.heddwch3@gmail.com) or 077200 87132

### Pilgrim Course:

The Pilgrim Course will run via Zoom on:

5, 26 February at 5.00pm –

please use the same zoom link as evensong which will be sent out every week.

The course gives an opportunity to explore the Christian faith with a little bit of Bible study thrown in and gems to reflect on from the saints of the past and the present.

If you'd like to join the group and would like more information, please contact Maggie.

For information on becoming one of the pilgrims, please ring Rev'd Maggie Thorne



### Lent course:

The Lent course will be run at 7:30pm at Nolton Rectory on Mondays during lent on the following dates:

20, 27 February, 6, 13, 20 & 27 March 2023

It will be based on the film *Chocolat* (released in 2000 – directed by Lasse Hallström) which will be shown on the 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Please email Maggie to reserve your seat.



### Giving:

For details on how to give, please contact Sandra Arnott (Treasurer to the Ministry Area) [sandra.arnott49@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.arnott49@gmail.com) or 862211.

Also, here is the link to our easy-to-use online Campaign Page:

[MA Penybont ar Ogwr Donation Page](#)

or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone or tablet.

For your interest, there's also a card reader in church, allowing you to donate via debit/credit cards.

**Please be as generous as you possibly can in your giving as we are very worried that with escalating fuel costs, the Church might be affected detrimentally yet again.**



### Update on Vacancy:

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 the vacancy for a new incumbent in the West End of the Ministry Area (i.e. Laleston, Merthyr Mawr and Pen-y-fai) is being re-advertised in the Church Times for 4 weeks.

Those in CNB who are used to giving through the envelope system will find envelopes in Coity Church.

Please contact Karen Phillips on 651338 or 07944 627519 if you'd like to be included in this scheme.

Please pray for some enquiries or applications as there were none the last time.

### St Teilo's Poppy Cascade Challenge 2023



Are you good at crafting? Could you help us in making poppies?  
Everyone welcome – help provided.

On Remembrance Sunday (Sun 12th Nov) we would like to have a poppy cascade at St Teilo's Church Merthyr Mawr. This is a community effort to produce as many poppies as possible which would be then sewn onto netting.



Other churches that have done this have, albeit with much larger communities, produced cascades from their church towers.

At the church in Rushton, Northamptonshire participants knitted 4000 poppies which were then sewn onto netting and displayed from the church tower:



Being a smaller community, our aim would be to have a cascade from the pulpit. Having taken part in the Rushton challenge it is possible to knit a poppy a day for a month! Alternatively, poppies can be crafted from felt.



#### How we will achieve it:

If you, or any family or friends, would like to take part there will be a meeting at St Teilo's Merthyr Mawr on Thursday 26th January at 2.00pm. Tea/coffee and cake provided! If there is enough demand, I am happy to run the meeting again on the following Saturday morning.

Instructions for knitting 3 different types of poppies will be provided also instructions for making poppies from felt. If you prefer to knit, please bring some knitting needles 3.25mm/3.75mm or 4mm and some Double Knitting Red and Black wool – I do have some spare needles that can be borrowed and also red and black wool – I just need to know in advance. If you prefer not to knit then it might be useful to bring some red felt, black buttons and a sharp pair of scissors.

We will knit/craft through until September with a deadline of submitting poppies on 31st September in order that there is time to sew them onto netting for Remembrance Sunday at the start of November.

Further meet-ups can be arranged if the team would like them.

#### What you need to do:

Please let me know if you are able to attend and whether you need to borrow anything.

If you are unable to attend, I can email patterns to you – please contact me through the FB page ST Teilo's Merthyr Mawr or email: [amanda.buckley1@outlook.com](mailto:amanda.buckley1@outlook.com)

Mandy Buckley St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr

## Jazz Concert

Following the highly successful jazz concert in the summer, on 29th January, there will be another jazz concert in St Mary's, Nolton at 4pm, this time given by Toby Hay (guitar) and Aidan Thorne (bass).

Tickets £8 to include an interval drink. Also raffle and CDs will be on sale.

The musicians will be supporting the Guide Dogs Association.



In the first half of the concert Toby will be performing solo material from his recent albums. He will then be joined for the second half by Double Bassist Aidan Thorne, to perform material from their forthcoming duo album.

## Musicians' backgrounds:

**Aidan Thorne** is an in-demand session musician based in Wales. He has toured across the UK, Europe, South Africa, India and South Korea with bands including Slowly Rolling Camera, Khamira, Burum and his own group [Duski](#).

Duski has released three albums to date and is currently signed to Ropeadope Records. Most recently, he has toured Wales with the fusion group Cwml Tystion which featured jazz heavy weights Soweto Kinch and Orphy Robinson. Aside from his work in the jazz world, Aidan also performs as an actor musician and has worked with the theatre companies Gagglebabble and Nation Theatre of Wales.



## Press quotes

*'A refreshing taste of ambient, grooved out jazz...Repeat... Repeat.....Repeat'*

Bobby Colcombe, Freshonthenet

*'Progressive Jazz at its best'*

AberJazz

*'Duski's set shows originality, quality and productive collaboration'*

Nigel Jarrett, Jazz Journal

**Toby Hay** is a guitarist and composer from near Rhayader in mid Wales.

Inspired by history, people and landscape, [Toby](#) writes beautifully evocative guitar instrumentals that effortlessly transport the listener to the mountains and rivers of his homeland. Twice nominated for the Welsh Music Prize, Toby has toured the UK and Ireland extensively over the last few years and has built a reputation as a captivating live performer. He performs using custom built guitars in a variety of unique tunings.

The instruments were built by Roger Bucknall of [Fylde Guitars](#).



## Press quotes

*"It is only two years since his debut and he is already one of the finest guitarists of his generation."*

Folk Radio

*"Humanity pours forth from every note on this rewarding collection. Images of dew-soaked countryside's emerge as the pastoral folk settings play, the guitarist gifted with an ability to evoke the soul-nourishing rapture of outdoor landscapes not yet despoiled by human intervention. Here's hoping Hay never loses his ability to translate authentic experience into music of equivalent character."*

Textura

*"Toby Hay is a master player and this album, his fourth, is a complete delight from his first raga like chord to its final notes of future promise."*

Fatea

### Ministry Area news

Belated Happy New Year everyone and welcome back. The first full meeting of the Ministry Area Council is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> February. At this time, we hope to make progress with expanding our activities in the development of a variety of committees including Events, Finance and Fabric ( Heritage ). Any thoughts on these subjects, please pass on to your MAC rep.

In the meantime, one or two other groups have already met prior to the main meeting. Notably, treasurer Sandra met with local church treasures to provide a more detailed explanation of how the financial system works so far and answer any questions. Very useful session it was too. Thanks to Sandra for that.

The appointment of a priest for the South side is back in our thinking, with the advert reappearing in the Church Times late January/early February.

We are also approaching the season of the Annual Vestry meeting. This year it will probably be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Finally, Jan Fenney has decided the time has come to retire from MAC duties for Merthyr Mawr. Jan played a significant part in the early days of transition and up to the present time. On behalf of everyone in the Pen y Bont Ar Ogwr Ministry Area I would like to thank Jan, so very much, for all her hard work. We wish Jan well for the coming months and years and pray for good health to be with her always. Thank you.

Andrew Dix, Lay Chair.

### Bridgend County Borough Council News

#### Self-defence training for women as part of Safer Streets fund

Self-defence training for women will be available every Tuesday and Thursday in February and March. The sessions are funded by the Safer Streets initiative and will take place at Bridgend Life Centre between 6pm and 8pm. The classes are suitable for all females aged 16 and over.

The Safer Streets project is a partnership between Bridgend County Borough Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales and South Wales Police. One of the key aims of the project is to make sure that all females feel as safe as possible.

The sessions will be taken by a self-defence expert and aim to provide guidance and tools to face threats with confidence by offering training in situational awareness, conflict de-escalation and basic self-defence techniques. It will raise awareness of inappropriate behaviours by others and provide simple tactics to keep yourself, friends, and colleagues safe.

[Places are limited so it's advised that anyone interested reserves a place online.](#)

#### Health board remind residents about the importance of getting vaccinated

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board would like to remind eligible residents about the importance of getting vaccinated against both the flu and Covid-19.

People who are vaccinated are three times less likely to be admitted into critical care with Covid-19.

This year's autumn vaccine programme has been offered to the following priority groups:

- anyone aged 50 or over
- residents and staff in care homes for older people
- frontline health and care workers
- people aged between 5 and 49 who are in a clinical risk group, and their household contacts

For more information, please visit the [Public Health Wales website](#).



## General News cont...



Welsh Blood Service

### Bridgend County Borough Council News cont.....

#### Give blood and save lives

The need for blood has never been more important. Can you help?

Welsh Blood Service need more people from the Bridgend area to sign up as donors to help patients across Wales.

Appointments are available in Bridgend at the following locations – please see the [Welsh Blood Service website](#) for further details and dates:

Dates	Locations
30 January 2023	Bridgend Designer Outlet (CF32 9SU)
6 February 2023	Princess of Wales Hospital (CF31 1RQ)
17 February 2023	Heronston Hotel (CF35 5AW)

Please be advised that if you have recently had a Covid-19 vaccination, then you must wait two days before making a blood donation.

Book your appointment to help save lives today..



**Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, is the gift of Christ, the Lord**