



YOURS FAITHFULLY

April 2023

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Vicar

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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.

I'm away from Easter
Monday to the 22nd April

Rev'd Maggie Thorne

Please send any
information for the May
newsletter in to
mopenybontinfo@gmail.com
by 15 April 2023.

Dear friends

I wonder if you've come across this poem before, by A. E. Housman. It's a new one for me, and I stumbled across it quite by chance the other day.

The Lent Lily

'Tis spring; come out to ramble
the hilly brakes around,
for under thorn and bramble
about the hollow ground
the primroses are found.

And there's the windflower chilly
with all the winds at play,
and there's the Lenten lily
that has not long to stay
and dies on Easter day.

And since till girls go maying
you find the primrose still,
and find the windflower playing
with every wind at will,
but not the daffodil.

Bring baskets now, and sally
upon the spring's array,
and bear from hill and valley
the daffodil away
that dies on Easter day.

daffodils, offers a different story: it's as much a reminder that part of the joy of daffs lies in their being remembered long after they have been seen and admired.

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
that floats on high o'er vales
and hills,
when all at once I saw a crowd,
a host, of golden daffodils;
beside the lake, beneath the
trees,
fluttering and dancing in the
breeze.....*

I hope that all our local daffs are resplendent on Easter Sunday to trumpet the wonderful announcement of the Good News to the whole world, but perhaps we should also remember that, for Christians, Easter continues throughout the year, as does the Incarnation. Every time we come together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, we remember all that Christ has done for us through his life, death and resurrection, and are given a glimpse of heaven. May the joy of the risen Lord be with you this Easter and may you remember long beyond. Alleluia ! Christ is risen!

*Every blessing
Maggie.*



This slightly strange 5-line verse is typical of Housman and it puts an extra emphasis on the last line of each verse to good effect. The Lent Lily is the daffodil, reminding us that although daffs are around at this time of year, they don't last very long and there's a narrow window for us to enjoy their beauty in all its bright, abundant, cheerful yellowness. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day, having died on Good Friday.

The juxtaposition of the final line, 'that dies on Easter day' is deliberate. Daffs don't all die on Easter Sunday, of course, but Housman's choice of day brings together nature and Christianity and invites us to acknowledge the dovetailing of the flower's death and short lifespan and Christ's rebirth and immortality.

Sadly, Housman lost his faith early. For him, Easter is about the death of daffodils, and perhaps the brevity of all life. With that view, there's no consolation to be gained from the Easter message.

But William Wordsworth's poem, 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud', itself a celebration of the joyous quality of

Inside this issue:

Service
Schedule Page 2

Collect and
Sunday
Readings Page 5

For Your
Prayers Page 7

Green News Page 8

General News ... Page 9

Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 26th March (Lent 5) Passion Sunday	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
	6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie / Chris
Wednesday 29 th March	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 2nd April (Lent 6) Palm Sunday	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Tim
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
	6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie / Pete
	Tuesday 4 th April	7:30pm	Nolton	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 5 th April	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Stephen
	10:00am	Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	7:30pm	Newcastle	Stations of the Cross	Maggie / Chris
Thursday 6 th April (Maundy Thursday)	7:30pm	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-Fai	Eucharist	Mike Komor
Friday 7 th April (Good Friday)	10:00am	Coychurch	Family activities	Pete
		Merthyr Mawr	Stations of the Cross	Penny
	11:00am	Nolton	Reflections on the Wounds of Christ	Maggie / Graham
	12:15pm	Coity	Reflections on the Wounds of Christ	Maggie / Graham
	2:00pm	Newcastle	Reflections on the Wounds of Christ	Maggie / Graham

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 9th April (Easter Day)	6:30am	Nolton	Dawn Service (Forest Church) – blessing of candles Followed by breakfast in the Rectory	Maggie
	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Mike L
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Eucharist	Edward
Pen-y-Fai		Eucharist	Mike L	
Sunday 16th April (2 nd Sunday of Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	11:00am	Coychurch	Family Service	Pete
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward	
Wednesday 19 th April	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 23rdth April (3 rd Sunday after Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Edward
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Tim
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Val
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie / Chris	
Wednesday 26 th April	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 30th April (4 th Sunday after Easter)	10:00am	Nolton	Eucharist – including the Annual Vestry Meeting	Maggie
Wednesday 3 rd May	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Stephen
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
<p>Morning and Evening Prayer at 8am and 7pm, Monday to Thursday via Zoom Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for the Zoom links you need.</p>				
<p>Sunday clubs run at Brackla, Coity and Pen-y-fai. Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for details.</p>				
<p>Please note that the rota reflects both the shortage of staff and the rising cost of heating the churches. Unfortunately, we have to be very mindful of our spending as congregational giving has reduced substantially over the years, especially since Covid. It should also be noted that when it comes to legacies left to our churches and because of the terms and conditions attached to them, approximately 98-99% of the legacy capital money cannot be spent. The capital is invested to generate an income which can then be used for charitable purposes for the designated church/old parish as per the donor's wishes.</p> <p>If you have any questions concerning this, please contact the MA Treasurer, Sandra Arnott sandra.arnott49@gmail.com</p>				

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings
Sunday 26th March (Lent 5) Passion Sunday	Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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	Ezekiel 37. 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8. 6-11 John 11. 1-45
Sunday 2nd April (Lent 6) Palm Sunday	Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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.	Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21. 1-11 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29 Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50. 4-9a Psalm 31. 9-16, [17, 18] Philipians 2. 5-11 Matthew 26.14 – 27.66 or 27. 11-54
Thursday 6th April (Maundy Thursday)	God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Eucharist: Exodus 12. 1-4, [5-10,] 11-14 Psalm 116. 1-2, 12-19 or 116. 12- 19 1 Corinthians 11. 23-26 John 13. 1-17, 31b-35
Friday 7th April (Good Friday)	Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12 Psalm 22 or 22. 1-11 or 22. 1-21 Hebrews 10. 16-25 or 4. 14-16; 5. 7-9 John 18.1 – 19.42

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

Date	Collects	Readings	
Sunday 9th April (Easter Day)	Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen	Acts 10. 34-43 or Jeremiah 31. 1-6 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 14-24 Colossians 3. 1-4 or Acts 10. 34-43 John 20. 1-18 or Matthew 28. 1-10	
Sunday 16th April (2 nd Sunday of Easter)	Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of 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	Either: Acts 2. 14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1. 3-9 John 20. 19-31	or (with OT reading): Exodus 14. 10-31; 15. 20, 21 Psalm 16 Acts 2. 14a, 22-32 John 20. 19-31
Sunday 23rd April (3 rd Sunday after Easter)	Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	Either: Acts 2. 14a, 36-41 Psalm 116. 1-4, 12-19 or 116. 1-8 1 Peter 1. 17-23 Luke 24. 13-35	or (with OT reading): Zephaniah 3. 14-20 Psalm 116. 1-4, 12-19 or 116. 1-8 Acts 2.14a, 36-41 Luke 24. 13-35
Sunday 30th April (4 th Sunday after Easter)	Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	Either: Acts 2. 42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2. 19-25 John 10. 1-10	or (with OT reading): Genesis 7 Psalm 23 Acts 2. 42-47 John 10. 1-10

For your Prayers

Please pray for:

Kath Shenton
Chris Merkins
Dilys Leyshon
Penny Gregory

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

Baptisms

Please pray for those who are preparing for baptism, including:
Orion Cawley



Weddings

Please pray for those who are preparing for their wedding, including:

Natalie Benjafield and Lloyd Morris



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



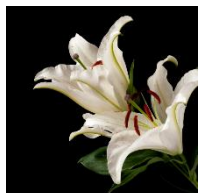
Ministry Area Prayer

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:

Margaret Jones
Michael Rees
Alice West
Elizabeth Hawkins
Joyce Jones



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

Amen.

Eco Church & Forest Church news

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT
WILD CHRISTIAN
connecting faith, nature and climate

Forest Church Sunrise Easter Sunday

Dawn Service at Nolton Church

6.30am, 9th April

Followed with Breakfast in Rectory

****Booking Essential - Let Rev Maggie Know***

contact Rev Maggie 01656 652247
or Philippa 07553 928088

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

March

Celebrate Spring! Make sure you're giving yourself quality time enjoying creation: smelling the blossom, tapping catkins, copying bird song, finding a footprint or identifying spring flowers with the Pl@ntNet app. Nature can boost our happiness so take time to observe nature in your gardens, on your balconies, and in your local green spaces.

April

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at:
arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

God is Love



(Lisa Voss, *God is Love*)

There is a single force, which nothing can replace and nothing destroy, a force which urges us forwards and draws us upwards; this is the force of Love.

(P. Leroy SJ 'Teilhard de Chardin: the man', in Teilhard de Chardin, *Le Milieu Divin*)

A Lenten Taizé Service of Music, Meditation and Prayer

St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend
Thursday 30th March 2023, 7pm
All are welcome



Mothers Union News

Coychurch Branch

The Coychurch branch of the Mothers' Union is a small but faithful group who meet once a month, usually on the second Wednesday, in the Williams Memorial Hall.

Our next meeting is on 12th April at 2pm. when we shall be holding an Easter quiz.

The Mothers' Union is a large organisation which strives to promote and support marriage and family life both at home and across the world. Anyone who would like to join us in April will be most welcome.

St Illtyd's Church - Newcastle Branch

"It was our privilege and pleasure to enrol Nicola Cross and Karen Kim Edwards into the Mothers' Union at St Illtyd's Church - Newcastle Branch on Mothering Sunday, 19 March 2023. We will hold Nicola and Kim in our prayers as they fulfil their commitment to the Aims and Objectives of the Mothers' Union."

Hilary Markwell - Branch Leader.

Giving:

For details on how to give, please contact Sandra Arnott (Treasurer to the Ministry Area) 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 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.

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 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.





Saturday
April 22nd

Bluebell Festival St. Teilo's Church Merthyr Mawr

Please join us to celebrate the beautiful
bluebells in our churchyard.

- Tea/coffee/cake
- Prize Draw Bluebell Quiz
- Craft Stalls: Glass Artist and Knitwear
- Children's activities
- Bluebell churchyard trail
- Children's bluebell photograph competition

Time:
10am - 4pm

Free Entry

See Facebook page Merthyr Mawr, St Teilo's for details of competition entry.

Attention all singers!

If you have sung in your church choir prior to covid and would like to join a MA choir for the joint services, please let Maggie know.

Our next joint service is 30th April (also the day of the AVM) and it would be marvellous to have a choral procession and strong lead for the singing. On this occasion it will only be to sing hymns, but perhaps in the future.....

Ideally, robes from the individual churches will be worn.

Merthyr Mawr "Bluebell Festival"

On **Saturday 22 April 2023** there will be a "Bluebell Festival" at St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. where teas/coffees/ cakes will be available while you sit and enjoy the beauty of the bluebells in the churchyard.

There will also be a prize Bluebell Quiz, Children's Activities, Bluebell Churchyard Trail, Children's Bluebell photo competition, Craft Stalls. Entry free - donations welcome for "Y Bont" and St Teilo's Church.

For more details please contact Olga Woolfenden - olga.woolfie@gmail.com

Ministry Area Annual Vestry Meeting :

The Annual Vestry Meeting of the Ministry Area will be held in Nolton Church on Sunday 30th April following a Ministry Area Eucharist starting at 10:00am.

The AVM will present MA Annual report and re-elect or appoint Ministry Area Council members, which has to be completed annually, and consider any other matters which have been raised in advance. All members enrolled on the Ministry Area Electoral roll can stand for election and vote on any issues at the AVM .

The Electoral Roll was renewed last January 2022 and is current for 5 years. Forms are available in the churches for anybody who is not currently enrolled on the Electoral roll to apply to be added.

Thank you
Stuart Davidson MAC Secretary

UK Gov to introduce "Emergency Alerts" System

A siren-like alert will be sent to mobile devices (those connected to the 4G & 5G networks) across the UK next month (April) to test a new government public warning system. The test is expected to take place in the early evening of **23rd April**.

Mobile device users will have to acknowledge the alert before they can use other features on their devices.

A message will appear on the home screens of people's devices during the test, with vibration and a loud warning sound that will ring for about 10 seconds, even if the phone is set to silent.

For further details visit the link here: <https://www.gov.uk/alerts>



Ministry Area news

There are a couple of significant events to note for April. We have the Ministry Area Annual Vestry Meeting and the arrival of Bishop Mary to the Diocese.

The Annual Vestry meeting will be held on Sunday 30th April at St. Mary's Nolton. The meeting will begin with a Eucharist service at 10.00 A.M. followed by the main meeting. During the meeting officers may be appointed or elected to the Ministry Area Council for the coming year or as necessary. If elections are needed, don't forget you will need to be enrolled on the electoral register before the meeting in order to take part. Forms to register will be available in all our Churches shortly. Look out for them.

Bishop Mary will be with us on Saturday 29th April. We, as a Ministry Area have already submitted a Ministry Area Profile for the Bishop to consider ahead of her arrival. Along with all the other Ministry Areas in the Diocese we are invited to make a contribution to a welcoming gift for Bishop Mary. A service of welcome will be held at the Cathedral at 12noon on Saturday 29th April when the gift will be presented. The welcome service is open to all, just turn up on the day.

The Coronation of King Charles will take place on Saturday 6th May. The whole event will be televised by the BBC with a Bank holiday granted on Monday 8th May. (This is in addition to the May Bank holiday which falls on Monday 1st May.) Should anyone be organising a suitable Coronation event of any sort, especially for the Bank Holiday Monday, you may like to consider sharing it with the whole of the Ministry Area through our Facebook page maybe.

All we need now is some friendly spring weather.

Best Wishes All.

Andrew Dix, Lay Chair.

Bridgend County Borough Council News

Demolition soon to start on former police station

Demolition of the former police station in Bridgend town centre is due to start soon with the site earmarked to house a new Bridgend College campus.

The contractors Cardiff Demolition are due to begin demolition in the week beginning Monday 20 March with work expected to take up to 12 weeks. Access to Cheapside and local businesses will be maintained during the demolition, although there will be some temporary narrowing of the carriageway and minor alterations to pedestrian crossing points. The contractor will be contacting local businesses before demolition starts to advise on the programme of works.

The site, at Cheapside, forms a significant part of Bridgend County Borough Council's regeneration plans for the town centre.

Once the building is demolished, the site, together with the former Cheapside multi-storey car park site will be leased to Bridgend College, enabling the relocation of the Cowbridge Road campus to the new town centre location.

The college plan to create a net-zero carbon building, with 21st century learning and teaching facilities for post-16 education in Bridgend, with community benefits including a 200-seat theatre space, a coffee shop and flexible meeting spaces.

It represents a £50 million investment into the skills and training of the young people in Bridgend and members of the community who need opportunities to retrain and gain valuable employability skills. This investment is part funded by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Cllr Neelo Farr said: "The new college campus which will cater for at least 1,000 staff and students will be a catalyst for the wider regeneration in the area, increasing footfall and supporting local businesses.

"Meanwhile our plans for developing enhanced public transport will make it easier for people to access its facilities."



Bridgend County Borough Council News cont.....



Council budget 2023-24: What it means for finance and resources

Budget proposals for 2023-24 have been endorsed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council to ensure the local authority can continue to provide essential services and meet some of the most difficult challenges that it has ever faced.

Cllr Hywel Williams, Cabinet Member for Resources, believes that while it represents the toughest budget that he has ever worked upon, it also prioritises people's wellbeing and reflects the reality of the unique situation facing the UK right now.

He said: "This budget has been set against a backdrop of huge increases in demand for essential council services, an unavoidable need to make savings of £2.6m, a massive 10 per cent rise in inflation, increasing difficulties in sourcing materials and resources including staff, and the ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis upon us all.

"The council is not immune to any of this, and while householders have been rightly concerned about pressing issues such as rising food and energy bills or how they can afford to heat their homes, the same issues have affected our day centres for adults, our homes for looked-after children, our residential care facilities and more.

When you consider that we have already covered a £72m shortfall since 2010-11, setting a fully balanced budget which enables us to meet these increased costs while also continuing to provide important services has been truly challenging.

What we have done is to finely-tune this budget, making sure it is as fair as possible to the taxpayer while also remaining realistic and fit for purpose, all while focusing upon maintaining the ongoing health, safety and wellbeing of the people we serve."

To help guide their decision-making, Cabinet developed a set of principles outlining their aims which have underpinned the budget – to protect the most vulnerable people in local communities, to focus upon preserving and protecting services by limiting growth for the coming financial year, to review all budgets and identify savings, to prioritise reductions against back office functions, to anticipate future budget pressures, and to consider whether schools are able to contribute towards the overall savings after having been protected from cuts for more than a decade.

Councillor Williams said: *"In addition to applying these principles, we have learned from best practice at other local authorities, have both lobbied for and received a fair settlement from Welsh Government, and have taken the proposals through multiple meetings of the all-parties Budget Research And Evaluation Panel, the scrutiny committee process, Corporate Management Board, a wide-ranging public consultation and more.*

All of this has resulted in a gross revenue budget of £485m, a net budget of £342m and a capital investment programme of £69m. At 4.9 per cent, we have kept council tax as low as possible, reducing it down from the previously suggested 6 per cent in order to fund additional budget pressures and cover a funding shortfall of £8m.

This works out as being the equivalent of an extra £1.50 a week for an average Band D property. We have also been able to avoid proposed cuts for home-to-college transport, fly-tipping enforcement and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution while investing money such as £1.8m for upgrading children's play areas, £1.75m on grants to provide disabled facilities in people's homes, £1m on refurbishing local highways and much more."

Cllr Williams also addressed two of the most commonly asked questions around the issue of setting the council budget.

He said: *"We are often asked why we do not use council reserves when faced with having to make cuts, but the clue really is in the name - it is money which has already been reserved for specific purposes, and which is subject to regular audit to ensure that it is maintained at the right level. Similarly, while some have suggested that the council gains extra revenue by charging council tax on new housing developments, this isn't true – before providing councils with their funding allocations for the year, Welsh Government first deducts the amount of council tax that each area is expected to raise."*

Bridgend County Borough Council News cont.....



Rebel Business School returns to Bridgend

The Rebel Business School, in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council, will be delivering their popular course to budding business owners across the county borough from the 20 – 24 March 2023.

The free course, which takes place at Halo Life Centre, Bridgend, will help local start-ups across the county borough to get their ideas off the ground.

A spokesperson for Rebel Business School said: “Since 2011, our courses have been showing a new way of thinking and practical ways to get your business idea off the ground without going into debt.

“We have helped over 17,000 people via our courses through partnerships with local housing associations and councils. Over the last few years, we have continually proved that starting a business has changed and needs to be taught differently. Whether you are at the beginning of your journey, an already established business or building your side hustle, our course will give you the information, inspiration and practical advice you need to get your idea off the ground.”

Each day of the course runs from 10am – 3pm and covers topics including:

- How to start a business for free
- Sales and marketing
- How to build a website with no money
- Finding customers on social media
- Navigating through legal practices

A free place on the course can be booked on the [Rebel Business School website](#).

Council steps in to improve traffic issues related to Welsh Water works

Bridgend County Borough Council has stepped in to ask Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to suspend works in Tondu due to traffic issues caused by the installation of a new water main.

The works are taking place at the Maesteg Road (A4063) traffic lights junction in Tondu and are being delivered by Welsh Water. Despite significant efforts from Welsh Water and the council, the temporary traffic management system led to congestion on the morning of the 27th February.

The council has since asked Welsh Water to suspend the works, whilst a more suitable solution is found.

Due to the nature of the works, it is impossible to avoid clashing with peak times but all options are being explored to keep any unavoidable disruption to a minimum.

The council would like to thank residents and motorists for their patience and understanding at this time.

Bridgend County Borough Council News cont.....

Over 30 Warm Hubs set to receive grant funding

Over 30 groups and community centres in Bridgend County Borough are set to receive grant funding as they continue to open up warm spaces for people to get together.

The Warm Hubs Grant Scheme which is open for applications until the fund runs out is being administered by the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO). Grants of up to £2,000 are available for community centres, groups, facilities, as well as not-for-profit enterprises. The funds are to support new or existing warm spaces, where people can come together, participate in activities, and connect. It is being funded by Welsh Government.

So far over 30 organisations have had their applications for funding approved – they are

Splice Child and Family; Bridgend Community Outreach (BARC), Noddfa Community Project, Caerau Development Trust, Talbot Community Centre; NatureQuest; Nantymoel Boys & Girls Club; Cornelly & District Luncheon Club; Sense; Wyndham Boys and Girls Club; Cornelly & District Development Trust (CADDT); Bridgend Carers; Pyle RFC; Bryncethin RFC; STEER; Wildmill Youth Club; Y Bont; Inclusability; Llynfi Valley 11-25 project (The Courthouse); Ogmere Vale Bows Ltd; The Rectorial Benefice of Margam - All Saints Church Hall; Cornelly Outreach Group; North Cornelly Playgroup; All Saints Church Pen y Fai; Wesley Church Centre Tondy; Ogmere Valley Dragons Boxing Club; Peniel Evangelical Church - Maesteg; Porthcawl Town Council - Griffin Park Bowling Pavilion Warm Space; Laleston Community Council - Bryntirion Community Centre; Tanio; Llangeinor Football Club; Kenfig Hill RFC and Calon y Cwm at William Trigg Hall Blaengarw.

[Eligible groups can apply for a grant via BAVO's website](#). The grants panel meets twice a week to ensure a quick turnaround for applicants.

Bridgend County Borough Council's Cost of Living Coordinator Maxine Barrett, said: "Warm Hubs across our county borough are offering a safe, warm and welcoming space this winter for many with hot drinks available and in some cases a range of activities, including craft and live music. *"We'd like to thank those who are providing these vitally-important spaces. While much of the fund has now been allocated, we'd encourage any Warm Hubs who have yet to apply for a grant to do so before it closes in due course."*



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