



YOURS FAITHFULLY

May 2023

MA Office address

Mail:
office@cnb-parish.org.uk

Tel: 01656 667690

Vicar

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

Tel: 01656 652247

Mail:
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 May
newsletter in to
mapenybontinfo@gmail.com
by 15 May 2023.

Dear friends

Just as Easter is what's known as a 'moveable feast', due to its dependence on when the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox falls, so Ascension Day is also 'moveable'. However, it's always 40 days after Easter and at every service between the two great feasts, the Paschal candle, lit on the morning of Easter Day, will be lit to mark the 40 Days of Eastertide.



Anglicans are good at celebrating Easter, but not so good at celebrating the Ascension. That may be because of it falling on a Thursday, which would understandably be inconvenient for some, but it may also be because of what it represents. The Resurrection proclaims the Good News that Christ has risen, but the Ascension challenges us to do something in response to that truth. The 40 days in between prepare us for the challenge, but the crunch comes with the risen Jesus, having completed his mission, leaves the earth and promises his disciples the Holy Spirit yet with the expectation that they would be his witnesses. To witness to Jesus calls us to pay attention, to observe, to watch for God's activity and then to give our own unique voice to it. That may take some courage, but to put the challenge into its correct perspective, ask yourself when you first heard the gospel.

Who told you?

How did they tell you?

Did they first share Christ with you through their words or
did you first notice Christ working in them through their actions?

Imagine. If that person had never witnessed for Christ to you in the way that made you sit up and notice, you may never have heard the Good News of the gospel and been brought into a relationship with God.

You've heard the Good News, so remember to
pass it on!

*Every blessing
Maggie.*

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Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 30th April (4th Sunday after Easter)	10:00am	Nolton	Eucharist – including the Annual Vestry Meeting	Maggie
Wednesday 3rd May	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Stephen
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 7th May (5th Sunday after Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Mike
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Mike
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Pete	
Wednesday 10 th May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Mike
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 14th May (6th Sunday after Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Eucharist	Tim
		Laleston	Eucharist	Mike
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Mike
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Evening Prayer	Maggie/Chris	

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 17 th May	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Sunday 21st May (7th Sunday after Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val
	11:00am	Coychurch	Family Service	Lay Led
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Eucharist	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Chris	
Wednesday 24 th May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Mike
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Sunday 28th May (Pentecost)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong (no sermon)	Maggie	

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 31 st May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Sunday 4 th June (Trinity Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Chris
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Eucharist – combined service with Newcastle	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Penny
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Chris	

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.

Sunday clubs run at Brackla, Coity and Pen-y-fai.
Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for details.

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.

If you have any questions concerning this, please contact the MA Treasurer, Sandra Arnott sandra.arnott49@gmail.com

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings	
Sunday 30th April (4th 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
Sunday 7th May (5th Sunday after Easter)	Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	Either: Acts 7. 55-60 Psalm 31. 1-5, [15, 16] 1 Peter 2. 2-10 John 14. 1-14	or (with OT reading): Genesis 8. 1-19 Psalm 31. 1-5, [15, 16] Acts 7. 55-60 John 14. 1-14
Sunday 14th May (6th Sunday after Easter : Rogation Sunday)	God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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 17. 22-31 Psalm 66. 8-20 1 Peter 3. 13-22 John 14. 15-21	or (with OT reading): Genesis 8.20 – 9.17 Psalm 66. 8-20 Acts 17. 22-31 John 14. 15-21
Sunday 21st May (7th Sunday after Easter – Sunday after Ascension Day)	O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Either: Acts 1. 6-14 Psalm 68. 1-10, [32-35] 1 Peter 4. 12-14; 5. 6-11 John 17. 1-11	or (with OT reading): Ezekiel 36. 24-28 Psalm 68. 1-10, [32-35] Acts 1. 6-14 John 17. 1-11

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p>Sunday 28th May (Pentecost)</p>	<p>God, who at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen</p>	<p>Acts 2. 1-21 or Numbers 11. 24-30 Psalm 104. 24-34, 35b or 104. 24-36 1 Corinthians 12. 3b-13 or Acts 2. 1-21 John 20. 19-23 or 7. 37-39</p>
<p>Sunday 4th June (Trinity Sunday)</p>	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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</p>	<p>Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-31 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13. 11-13 Matthew 28. 16-20</p>

For your Prayers

Please pray for:

Kath Shenton
Penny Gregory

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

Baptisms

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

Annie Campbell



Weddings

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

Rachel Hayes and Liam Gardner



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

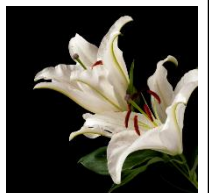
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area. May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement and manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect. May we serve with integrity, creativity and purpose and speak with openness and gentleness. May we 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:

Angela Davies
Les Dodd
Simon Dunlop

Joan Hawkins
Joyce Jones
Arthur Pound



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

Amen.



Forest Church
Celebrates Rogation
Saturday 13th May 3.30pm
Laleston Cemetery

Join us for worship and a light walk
along the Pilgrim Path

Call Rev Maggie –01656 652247 or Philippa –07553
928088 for more details

sowing seeds of hope

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

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.

May

Say no to the mower. Mowing your lawn less, and letting parts of it grow long, saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact for wildlife, don't mow your lawn or a section of it all until August to help even more animals

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

Green News cont...

Eco Church & Forest Church news

Green Quiz

Over the next couple of newsletters, we will be running the A Rocha green quiz. It is a total of 5 rounds with Round 1 & 2 this month. Answers to Rounds 1 & 2 will be published in the next month's newsletter. Good Luck – no prizes on offer but we hope this tests your knowledge of all God's creatures great and small.

Round 1

1. What bird is mentioned 47 times in the Bible?
a) The dove b) The eagle c) The sparrow
2. What is the title of the 1998 American animation film featuring an insect called 'Z' (or Zee) who longs for freedom and individuality?
3. In 1958 Bobby Day had a hit single with a song about a well-known garden bird. What was the name of the song? (hint: this song has been covered by a few artists including the Jackson Five).
4. Name two bands (past or present) with insects in their band name.
5. On what day does the Very Hungry Caterpillar, from the children's book of the same name, eat plums?
6. In Victorian Britain some common birds were considered a delicacy to eat. A dozen of these particular birds sold for one shilling and sixpence and Mrs Beeton had recipes for them! What was the species of the bird in Mrs Beeton's recipe that was destined for the pot?
7. In which year did the comic book character, Batman makes his debut appearance?
a) 1939 b) 1949 c) 1959
8. What is the name of the yellow bird featured in the American children's programme Sesame Street?

Round 2 – Habitat and Flowers

1. Hedges are important for wildlife and the climate. Our word for hedge comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "haeg" - what does "haeg" mean?
2. Trees release chemicals called phytoncides that can boost what?
a) our happiness b) our appetite c) our bank balance
3. What percentage of freshwater habitats in the UK (including rivers, streams and lakes) are in good ecological condition?
a) 54% b) 34% c) 14%
4. The pedunculate oak is one of the most common tree species in Britain. How tall can it grow?
5. What is the most reliable carbon-sink on land in the UK? (a carbon sink is a type of natural environment viewed in terms of its ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere)
a) moorland b) woodland c) grassland
6. The dandelion, a common lawn 'weed', gets its name from the French name dent-de-lion. What is the meaning of dent-de-lion?
7. What percentage of the UK's wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s?
a) 27% b) 67% c) 97%
8. The UK coastlines hosts many different animal and plant species. How many?
a) 500 b) 1200 c) 1500

General News

Coity Flower Club

The next meeting of Coity Flower Club will be held at Coity Church Hall on Tuesday the 9th May at 7.0pm the theme for the flower arrangement will be "A memory of the Seaside". with fun and laughter to follow.

The Flower Club is organising a summer trip to The Three Cocks Garden Centre, Powys, on Tuesday the 6th June with lunch at the Centre. If anybody is interested, could you please get in touch with Jean Rees on 01656 654609.

Ukraine – Host Families Urgently Required

The situation in Ukraine continues and more host families from Bridgend are urgently needed for refugees. If you have a spare room, or know of anyone who has, and could help in this way, please contact Maggie (usual email), or Christoph Auckland (Outreach and Social Justice Lead for the Diocese) on christophauckland@churchinwales.org.uk

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

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.

Mothers Union News



Laleston Branch

The Laleston Branch usually meets on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2.15pm in the Parish Hall but there is no meeting in May. Instead on 2nd May the MU will meet with the rest of the Deanery with banners for the Annual Deanery Festival at Llangeinor Church at 7.00pm.

June 13th - an outing is planned.
Details to follow.

I am hoping to start up the monthly MU Corporate Communion which used to be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Details to follow.

Ann Butler – Branch Leader

Coity & Nolton Branches

Coity with Nolton Mother's Union are celebrating King Charles' Coronation with an afternoon tea at the Grove Golf Club, Porthcawl, on Tuesday the 23rd May @ 3.00 pm.

We are all looking forward to this.

Jean Rees – Branch Leader

Coychurch Branch

The Coychurch branch of the Mothers' Union will meet on Wednesday 10th May at 2pm in the Williams Hall when we will have a tea to celebrate the Coronation. Apart from a Summer Lunch (tba) we will not meet during the summer months until our next meeting on 13th September.

Ruth Weeks – Branch Leader

Easter Thank You

Thank you to all our musicians and to those who decorated the churches beautifully over Easter and made our celebrations so special!

Announcement !!!

It's with great delight that I can reveal that we will be welcoming the Rev'd Roger Pitman to the Ministry Area at the beginning of July.

The date and place of the licensing will be announced as soon as possible and I hope that many of you will be able to attend the service. Roger currently serves in the Tair Afon Ministry Area (Llangeinor and the Garw Valley) and is remembered fondly in our MA from his time as curate in Bridgend some while ago.

General News cont...

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.



Ministry Area news

Welcome to the Ministry Area news for May with one or two interesting events to tell you about.

Thought you would like to know that prayers are being said for our Ministry Area at even song at the Cathedral on Sunday 14th May at 4.00pm. The service is well worth attending to experience the atmosphere of the Cathedral if nothing else but support for our Ministry Area is also a very good reason for attending. All are welcome.

As the Coronation week end approaches there are a number of events planned in celebration across the Area. Pen y Fai and Laleston are hosting events after morning worship on Sunday 7th with Nolton holding a party event with Bridgend Ukelele Club providing entertainment at 2pm in Nolton Hall. For more information contact the individual churches.

The main news of the moment has to be the appointment of a priest to the West side. Rev Roger Pitman will be joining us in July. The date and place of the licencing will be announced as soon as possible and the event will be open to all members of our Ministry Area. It would be lovely to give Rev Roger a hearty welcome. Rev Roger currently serves in the Tair Afon Ministry Area (Llangeinor and the Garw valley) but many of you will have fond memories of Roger from his time with us as a young curate in the early days of his ministry. I am certain that Roger will be a real asset to our Ministry Area as he develops his ministry aspirations in this new venture and I certainly look forward to his presence with us. Good news indeed.

Wouldn't it be nice to have some warmer weather for the forthcoming events. Whatever you do. Enjoy.

God Bless.

Andrew Dix Lay Chair

Bridgend County Borough Council News

Have your say: Open space consultation for Porthcawl Waterfront

The open space consultation for Porthcawl Waterfront is an opportunity for businesses and residents to express their views on proposals for the space.

Although drop-in sessions for the consultation have now taken place, digital copies of the exhibition boards are still available to view even though the consultation ended on the 7 April.

The council are committed to listening and responding to residents' views and want to give opportunities for local people to contribute to decision making.

Comments can be submitted via email to porthcawlplacemaking@bridgend.gov.uk, through [the council's suggestion box](#) or sent to Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB and marked for the attention of BCBC Regeneration.

[To have your say on the regeneration plans, please visit the Council's website.](#)



General News cont...

Bridgend County Borough Council News cont...

Council investigating unauthorised tree and hedgerow removal in Laleston

The Council's enforcement team are investigating the unauthorised removal of trees and hedgerows at the eastern end of Laleston. Natural Resources Wales are also investigating the matter with regards to nesting birds.

The landowners have been contacted and the investigation will determine which enforcement options will be used, including the service of a re-instatement notice.

The Welsh Government and the council's Highways Section have both confirmed that the works have not been carried out by them and they do not form part of a consented scheme.



Council continues to expand digital self-service options for residents

Residents in Bridgend County Borough will soon be able to book appointments to register births via the council's [online 'My Account' service](#).

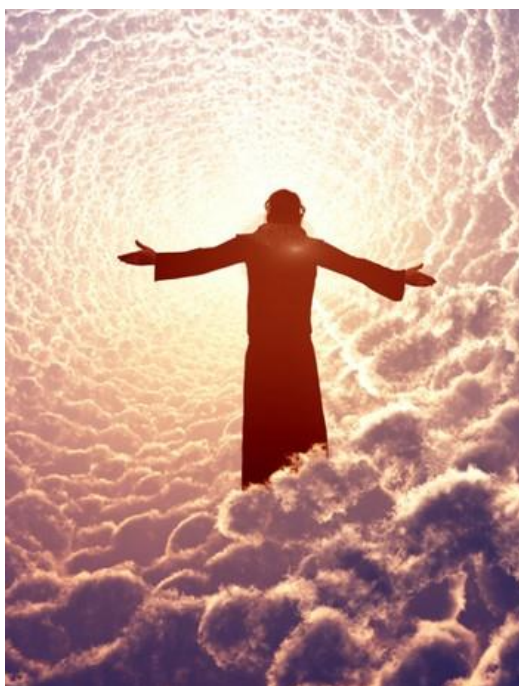
The forms are set to go live on Monday 3 April and individuals will also be able to order birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates digitally.

The increased online service is part of the council's Corporate Front Door project which has also seen a wide range of other forms launched as part of the initiative.

Residents can also use the system to contact the council about:

- Road or pavement issues
- Green areas on the road or pavement
- Grit bins
- Cattle grids
- Loose animals
- Road signs and fixtures
- Damaged bridges

[Please visit the council's website to find out more about the 'My Account' service.](#)



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