



# YOURS FAITHFULLY

August 2023

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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.

Rev'd Maggie Thorne

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

Dear friends

It's with great joy that we welcome the Rev'd Roger Pitman to our Ministry Area. Although Roger is living in the Vicarage in Laleston, he will be serving the entire MA so all of you will be seeing both of us frequently. The licensing service, led by +Mary, was a delight: a full church, hearty singing, profound promises, marvellous food and a MA coming together in worship, prayer and goodwill. How wonderful that in such a relatively short time, all 8 of our churches are increasingly becoming friends and companions on the spiritual journey. May we all pray that Roger will be a great blessing to us, and that we will be a blessing to him. Welcome, Roger, Kim and your whole family!

Speaking of prayer, it's strange how things lead us to remember events from our past. I had the privilege to meet +Alf Cooper a few years ago. You will probably remember the drama of the 33 Chilean miners who, in 2010, were trapped underground for 69 days before, remarkably, being brought to safety. Alf, as the President's Chaplain, was heavily involved in the spiritual side of ensuring that the miners survived and he had some absolutely fantastic stories to tell. Here is just one part of the story:

*The engineer, André Sougarret, the brains behind the rescue but not a believer himself, said publicly: 'In the drilling process, things happened that held no logic with engineering. I believe that something happened.' He attributed it to an energy generated through prayer and goodwill. Several have expressed the wish to give all the glory to God. The reason is that they share very simply how their spiritual awakening began under the landslide. They say that during the first moments of the accident, the younger miners panicked greatly. The older more experienced miners also felt that they were going to die but tried not to show it. José Hernández told me that that was the moment he heard God's voice: 'Call them together.' He did so and said: 'We may seem to have lost everything at present, brothers, but we still have prayer.' So they held hands and he prayed. They sensed then the living presence and power of God as well as being given a renewed sense of hope. They were almost a kilometre underground but God was with them! They prayed from then onwards at noon and at 6pm every day and were often aware of God's real presence. José told me that only 5 had descended the mines with a close relationship with God, but 22 received Christ underground.*

*All 33 came to the surface speaking of the reality of God's help in their extreme time of need.*

(If you want to know more, the film *The 33* is well worth a watch, although nothing as exciting as the real stories!)

What a reminder of how powerful coming together in fellowship and prayer can be! What a reminder that together we can achieve great things! St Paul knew all about this. He writes in his letter to the Ephesians, 'Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever, amen.'

*Love and every blessing  
Maggie.*



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## Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	11:00am	Nolton	Eucharist – MA Joint Service	Maggie / Roger
	<b>Please note that there will be NO evening service on the 30<sup>th</sup> July</b>			
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b> (Transfiguration of Our Lord)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Coity	Taizé Service	Maggie	
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30am	Laleston (only)	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Led
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Val
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Lay Led
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Graham
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Mike Komor
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Mike Komor
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	9:30am	Laleston (only)	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny or Val
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
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.				
Sunday clubs run at <b>Brackla</b> , <b>Coity</b> and <b>Pen-y-fai</b> . <b>Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne</b> for details.				
Please note that there will be NO Wednesday Eucharist in <b>Newcastle</b> through August.				
Please note that the August rota takes into consideration clergy holidays.				

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings	
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern us in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	<i>Continuous:</i> Genesis 29. 15-28 Psalm 105. 1-11, [45b]; or Psalm 128 Romans 8. 26-39 Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52	<i>or Related</i> 1 Kings 3. 5-12 Psalm 119. 129-136 Romans 8. 26-39 Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b> (Transfiguration of Our Lord)	Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength, listening to his voice, to bear our cross steadfastly in this world, that we may see him as he is in the world that is to come; where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Daniel 7. 9, 10, 13, 14 Psalm 97 2 Peter 1. 16-19 Luke 9. 28-36	
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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.	<i>Continuous:</i> Genesis 37. 1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105. 1-6, 16-22, 45b or 105. 1-10 Romans 10. 5-15 Matthew 14. 22-33	<i>or Related:</i> 1 Kings 19. 9-18 Psalm 85. 8-13 Romans 10. 5-15 Matthew 14. 22-33
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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.	<i>Continuous:</i> Genesis 45. 1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. [10-20,] 21-28	<i>or Related:</i> Isaiah 56. 1, 6-8 Psalm 67 Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15. [10-20,] 21-28

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

Date	Collects	Readings	
<p><b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August</b> (12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)</p>	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of 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.</p>	<p><i>Continuous:</i> Exodus 1.8 - 2.10 Psalm 124 Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13-20</p>	<p><i>or Related:</i> Isaiah 51. 1-6 Psalm 138 Romans 12. 1-8 Matthew 16. 13-20</p>

## For your Prayers

### Please pray for:

All those who are sick whether in body, mind or spirit.

### Baptisms

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

Nellie Mae Feeley,  
Matilda Flather,  
Tobias Adams,  
Alfi Carvell-White,  
Thomas Broughton



### Weddings

Please pray for those who are preparing for their wedding, inc

Sally Richards and Gavin Meredith



### 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

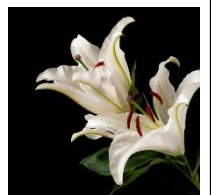
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to work together as a Ministry Area. May we engage with each other with faith and encouragement and manage each situation with wisdom and mutual respect. May we serve with integrity, creativity and purpose and speak with openness and gentleness. May we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

Don Keirl  
Ray Smith  
Sylvia O'Brien

Enid Powis  
Matthew Walker



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

### Forest Church

Forest Church June pics. There were an abundance of Meadow Brown butterflies on our walk and we added our own. These are now displayed in the porch at Coity.



Forest Church will return in September.

### A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

#### July

Help hedgehogs in hot weather. Hedgehogs particularly need help in a heatwave, as their usual prey of slugs, snails and worms are often unavailable. Leaving out a juicy snack, such as mealworms or canned dog food, can help in sustained warm weather. If you have a garden pond, ensure there's always a way for hedgehogs (and other small mammals) to climb out if they fall in.

#### August

Help birds in hot weather. Keeping your bird bath topped up with fresh water in warmer weather can be a life saver for our feathered friends. Get your garden birds through a heatwave when natural supplies, like worms, become scarce, by putting out supplementary food - black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins and currants, mealworms, waxworms and good seed mixture.








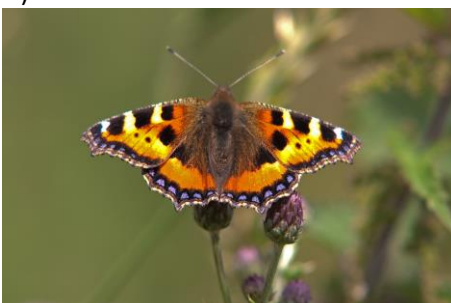
For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: [arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian](mailto:arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian)

## Green News cont...

### Green Quiz – Part 4

As mentioned in the last couple of newsletters, we are running the A Rocha green quiz. There are a total of 5 rounds with the last Round 5 this month. Answers to Round 4 can be found on the next page. Good luck – no prizes on offer but we hope this tests your knowledge of all God’s creatures great and small.

### Round 5 – Butterfly picture round

A) 	B) 	C) 
D) 	E) 	F) 
G) 	H) 	<p><b>Match these names to the correct pictures</b></p> <p>Peacock, Small tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Painted lady, Comma, Meadow brown, Common blue, Speckled wood.</p>

A)	B)	C)
D)	E)	F)
G)	H)	



### Eco Church & Forest Church news

Answers to last months A Rocha quiz – Round 4

#### Round 4 – Insects, bees and mammals

1. True or false, bees cannot see the colour red

*Answer: True (bees cannot see the colour red but they can see the ultraviolet patterns in flowers so they do visit red flowers)*

2. Since the 1980's the population of UK butterflies has declined considerably. By how much?

a) 66%            b) 76%            c) 86%

*Answer: C) 86% (The destruction and deterioration of their habitats are still considered the main causes of long-term decline among butterflies in the UK)*

3. True or false, dragonflies and damselflies have teeth?

*Answer: False - They are in the order 'Odonata' meaning 'toothed ones'. You can usually spot them around freshwater ponds, rivers and lakes*

4. Dung beetles are found on every continent except one. Which continent does not have the dung beetle in residence?

*Answer: Antarctica (Dung beetles are very important as they break down and recycle dung into the soil helping the nutrients to work through the ecosystem)*

5. The name 'Gardeners Friend' is given to this animal because it can munch up to 200g of insects in a night. What animal is it?

*Answer: Hedgehog*

6. Hedgehogs usually hibernate between November and April in a nest of leaves or logs. What is the name given to the nest they hibernate in?

*Answer: Hibernaculum (rural hedgehog numbers are in decline, the loss of hedgerows could be a factor in this)*

7. Bats are nocturnal and navigate by sending out waves of sound from their mouths or noses which bounce off their surroundings, to help build up a picture of what surrounds them. What is the process in which bats use to navigate in the dark?

*Answer: Echolocation*

8. *Neomys fodiens* is a small mammal which lives in wetlands. It has a venomous bite that can cause pain in humans, but is fatal to other small mammals. What is it more commonly known as?

*Answer: Water shrew*





# You are invited to our *Family Fun Day*

Free entry,  
activities  
and  
refreshments



Sunday 20th August



2:30pm - 4:30pm



Archdeacon John Lewis  
Primary School, CF31 2JS



scan here  
to book  
your free  
ticket!



## St Teilo's Poppy Cascade Challenge 2023



A big thank you to  
everyone who has been  
crafting



So far, we have:

- 1219 red knitted poppies
- 32 white knitted poppies
- 20 purple knitted poppies
- 7 black knitted poppies
- 34 big felt poppies
- 76 small felt poppies
- 57 poppies with pins
- 5 key ring poppies

So, we have a total of 1,381 poppies to sew onto a cascade so far. This is fantastic – thank you so much for all of your support. I know also that some of you have poppies that you are going to hand in at the end. We may also have, thanks to Megan, access to some of the curtain of poppies from Wonderwool which some of you knitted previously.

There will be another get together for tea/coffee cake on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 10:30am** at St Teilo's church Merthyr Mawr – **all are welcome.**

### St Teilo's – Pop Up Teas

Following on from our pop-up teas on 22nd July we have another date for August. All are very welcome to come and enjoy our beautiful church yard:

### Pilgrim Course:

The Pilgrim Course will return in September.

If you'd like to join the group or become one of the pilgrims, and would like more information, please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne.



**Pop up Teas**  
St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August  
10.00am – 4pm



### 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 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.**



### Bridgend County Borough Council News

#### Fun in the Park' to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge at Newbridge Fields

Awen Cultural Trust will launch the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge and their summer programme of library activities with a fun-filled, family event at Newbridge Fields in Bridgend on Saturday 8th July from 12pm to 3pm. The event is supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, Valleys to Coast, Arts and Business Cymru and Halo Leisure.



'Fun in the Park' will include inflatables from Full of Bounce, performances by Dance Crazy, giant games, balance bikes with Halo, crafts and sports day races with Valleys to Coast and story times with Awen Libraries. Bridge FM will be broadcasting live from the event. All activities are provided free of charge.

The aim of the Summer Reading Challenge, which has been run by the Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries since 1999, is to encourage children to read at least six library books over the summer holiday, in order to prevent the 'dip' in literacy levels while the schools are closed.

This year, it is hoped that the theme of 'Ready, Set, Read!' will not just inspire young people to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure, but also those associated with sport, play and physical activity.

To encourage this across the Bridgend area, children who register at Fun in the Park or any of the county borough's libraries will receive 25% off selected Halo activities including family swim sessions, JumpInGym indoor soft play, bouncy castle/soft play sessions, family racket sports and café purchases.

Following the launch, libraries across Bridgend will run a programme of events including AfroSheep Animation, YouTube, Dance Crazy and Zack Franks Movement and Dance workshops. All dates and venues are available on the Awen Libraries website ([www.awen-libraries.com](http://www.awen-libraries.com)) and social media.

Richard Hughes, Chief Executive of Awen Cultural Trust, said: "Developing and retaining children's literacy remains a key priority for us and the Summer Reading Challenge offers a fantastic opportunity to keep our young library members engaged with books in a fun and creative way. We also know that the summer holidays can be an expensive time for families looking for ways to keep their children entertained so, thanks to the kind support of our partner organisations and funders, our library activities are frequent and free."

The Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Neelo Farr, said: "By encouraging children to take part in the annual summer reading challenge, they not only have fun and keep busy during the long summer break. They also keep on top of their reading progress, to ensure they return to school in September as more fluent, confident, and happy readers. We'd encourage as many children as possible to take part and see if you can hit that target of six books in six weeks!"

Cathy Fletcher of Halo Leisure, added: "Words and workouts go hand in hand and we are delighted to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge. You can find libraries located in Halo centres in Bridgend, Ogmores, Garw and Maesteg.

"The theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge shines a spotlight on the importance of physical activity, and by taking part in the challenge, families can not only discover the joy of words but also enjoy a remarkable 25% discount on selected, family fun physical activities at our centres as well."

### Bridgend County Borough Council News



#### Local active travel plans are boosted by Welsh Government investment

Bridgend County Borough Council is set to receive £1.5m to facilitate new and improved active travel routes across the county borough. Enhancements will include building new active travel routes, consultation work for future scheme developments, as well as promotion work.

Welsh Government will invest over £58m into active travel routes across Wales, in a bid to encourage people to make more sustainable choices of travel for short journeys, such as walking or cycling.

Lee Waters, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, with responsible for transport, recently said: "Walking and cycling provides a practical and vital response to help Wales meet its environmental and health targets.

"The Active Travel (Wales) Act puts pressure on us to deliver on high-quality active travel networks that encourage more and more people to regularly walk and cycle for journeys instead of using a car."

Cllr Spanswick, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, said: "Since 2018, the Welsh Government has increased active travel funding from £15m to £70m across Wales. This investment allows local authorities, including Bridgend County Borough Council, to implement the necessary changes on our roads to facilitate active travel.

"Earlier Welsh Government funding for active travel routes has allowed the county borough to benefit from active travel upgrades, including widened footways along sections of the A48 and A473 for shared use facilities, vegetation clearance, traffic sign and street lighting improvements and more. We welcome this further funding of £1.5m, so that we can continue to invest in active travel routes across the county borough – with the largest allocation being directed at a new active travel route between Ynysawdre and Bryncethin – encouraging people to make more physically active journeys, which will not only have a positive impact on the mental and physical health of residents, but also on the environment."

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



#### Free school meals initiative extended to Year 3 pupils at schools in Bridgend County Borough

From September 2023, approximately 1600 primary school pupils starting Year 3 will be offered a free school meal.

The offer, which coincides with the start of the new academic school year, follows the previous roll-out of free school meals to Reception pupils in September 2022, and to Year 1 and Year 2 pupils in April this year.

Over 4600 pupils in the county borough are now entitled to a universal primary free school meal, and it is hoped that the offer will be extended to Nursery school pupils in January 2024, Year 4 pupils in April 2024, and to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils in September 2024.

The scheme is part of the Welsh Government Universal Primary Free School Meals initiative, which was launched in 2022 to help families ease the burden of the cost-of-living crisis.

Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell, Cabinet Member for Education, said "I am delighted that we are now able to offer the free school meals initiative to Year 3 pupils in the county borough, alongside the Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 pupils who have already benefitted from the scheme.

"The significant capital funding we have secured in funding from the Welsh Government has helped us to improve and refurbish school kitchens to further provide support to pupils and we hope to extend this support in 2024 and eventually offer a free school meal to every primary school pupil in the county borough. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and schools in Bridgend County Borough Council for their continued support, and for their hard work in delivering this vital service."



# AUGUST

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