



# YOURS FAITHFULLY

October 2023

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## Vicars

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

Dear friends

This month I'm going to do my best to refrain from focusing on Harvest: we'll be celebrating God's gifts to us through Creation on 1st October, so I'm going in a different direction now instead. Although it's still early autumn, as the crops, fruit and veg are all 'safely gathered in' and the leaves begin to die away, it becomes the natural time of year for reflection on all that has past. For me, early October is always a time of acknowledgement rather than celebration, but this year perhaps I'm celebrating rather than just acknowledging as this month marks 15 years of ordained ministry for me. One of my cohort at theological college reminded me a while ago that somewhere along the line I'd said that we would be liminal priests since the Church was facing a time of change. I barely remember saying this, but it may have stemmed from the fact that the group of 12 were 10 women and 2 men, indicating a swing away from such a historically male-dominated vocation. My prophecy turned out to be true and as I reflect on my ministry so far; things have changed in ways that we could never have imagined. Not only are women well and truly part of the priesthood now, we also have women bishops. As typical students (in our final year, I seem to remember), we all donned purple tee shirts with a slogan that reflected a well-known mobile 'phone provider at the time: The future's bright: the future's purple. That feels like a century ago and since then I've woken up to what ministry is about. Yes, it's about serving both God and neighbour, but it's also about fire-fighting, that is, peace-keeping in communities where people often have very different opinions and theologies, and it's about weathering personal attacks. Over my 15 years I've been stalked, verbally and almost physically attacked by a racist, hauled over the coals via the internet for trying to tidy up a church yard that violated every rule the Archdeacon could find, and if I had a pound for every hateful email received, I'd be a very rich lady! That was all in the Church of England. My time with the Church in Wales has had its moments too. Very soon after arriving in Bridgend the pandemic was upon us. That meant working very differently and learning to minister online, and I'm afraid, while everyone else seemed to be making their homes pristine and taking up new hobbies, the clergy were working harder than ever to keep the churches functioning. I admit to being quite jealous of having no time to do such things. I now regard those years as 'missing' and in a sense, I grieve for them. Yet in the middle of the trials and tribulations of life and ministry, there have been moments of glorious sunshine: people deepening their faith, exploring vocations, celebrating weddings and baptisms, schools wanting to engage and make links with the churches, and most recently, everyone across the new Ministry Area realising that we're all quite nice people, actually, other churches are different, but as beautiful and special as our 'home' church, and everything feared by the formation of MA has turned out OK. There are still the ongoing problems of finances, not enough clergy and fluctuating numbers of members, but the Church is still here. May we all learn to be as generous with our personal gifts and talents as God has been generous to us in his great provision so that the Church in Bridgend may grow, flourish and have fruit to harvest.

*Love and every blessing  
Maggie.*



Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

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## Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> (16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong		
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b> (17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity) (Harvest)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Roger	
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b> (18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Service	Roger	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Graham
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Lay Team
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Pete
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Edward
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Val
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Val
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Penny
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Roger	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 29<sup>nd</sup> October</b> (The Last Sunday after Trinity)	11:00am	Nolton	Combined MA Eucharist	Maggie/Roger
	No evening service			
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	9:30am	Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Morning and Evening Prayer at 8am and 7pm, Monday to Thursday via Zoom <b>Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for the Zoom links you need.</b>				
Sunday clubs run at <b>Brackla</b> , <b>Coity</b> and <b>Pen-y-fai</b> . <b>Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for details.</b>				
Please note that Rev'd Maggie will be on leave from 7 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> October				

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings	
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b> (16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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.	Continuous: Exodus 16. 2-15 Psalm 105. [1-6,] 37-45 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16	or Related: Jonah 3.10 – 4.11 Psalm 145. 1-8 Philippians 1. 21-30 Matthew 20. 1-16
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b> (17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity) (Harvest)	Lord of all creation, you give us the fruits of the earth in their season and crown the year with your goodness: help us so to receive your gifts with thankful hearts that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in want and to meet our daily needs; through Jesus Christ the Bread of life, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Deuteronomy 8. 7-18 or 28. 1-14 Psalm 65 2 Corinthians 9. 6-15 Luke 12. 16-30 or 17. 11-19	
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b> (18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.	Continuous: Exodus 20. 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 or 19. 7-14 Philippians 3. 4b-14 Matthew 21. 33-46	or Related: Isaiah 5. 1-7 Psalm 80. 7-15 Philippians 3. 4b-14 Matthew 21. 33-46
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b> (19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.	Continuous: Exodus 32. 1-14 Psalm 106. 1-6, [19-23] Philippians 4. 1-9 Matthew 22. 1-14	or Related: Isaiah 25. 1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4. 1-9 Matthew 22. 1-14

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

Date	Collects	Readings	
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)	God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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.	Continuous: Exodus 33. 12- 23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10 Matthew 22. 15-22	or Related: Isaiah 45. 1-7 Psalm 96. 1-9, [10-13] 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10 Matthew 22. 15-22
<b>Sunday 29<sup>nd</sup> October</b> (The Last Sunday after Trinity)	Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Continuous: Deuteronomy 34. 1-12 Psalm 90. 1-6, [13-17] 1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8 Matthew 22. 34-46	or Related: Leviticus 19. 1, 2, 15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8 Matthew 22. 34-46

## For your Prayers

### Please pray for:

Barbara Dew  
Joy Fry

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

### Baptisms

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

Amelie and Hugo Nixon  
Alfie Coupland  
Rhiwben Jones  
Ruby and Chester Bowden  
Aria and Beauden Carter



### Weddings

There are no weddings in October.



### 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



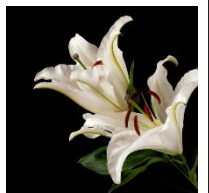
### Ministry Area Prayer

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:

Tony Cunningham  
Sue Connell  
Roger Pryce



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

Amen.

### A reminder for your Diaries

A Service in Commemoration of the Departed will be held on Sunday 5th Nov at 4pm in Nolton Church.

Eco Church & Forest Church news

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

Forest Church

**FOREST CHURCH**  
Season's Change  
**Autumn**  
**Newbridge Fields**  
Beside the running track  
Saturday  
**14th October**  
3.30pm

Contact Philippa—07553 928088 Or Rev Maggie—1656 652247

### September

Green your home this Autumn. Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bill by testing how draughty

or leaky your home is. Find the gaps that let the cold air in and warm air out (think keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around the edges or bottoms of windows and doors, loft hatches, floorboards etc.) and fix these gaps using the correct materials: (there are lots of handy tutorials on how to do this online). Now is also a very good time to prepare for winter by sticking tinfoil or radiator panels between the wall and radiator, as these will help reflect heat back into your room during the colder months.

### October

Provide food and shelter for wildlife, now and in preparation for next year. Clean all your bird feeders to avoid the spread of disease to winter migrants and put up a nest box well in advance of breeding season. A nest box could also prove a cosy spot for small birds to spend the night on particularly cold winter evenings ahead.

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)





# Bridgend Repair Café

Do you want something fixed **for free**, your **bike safety checked** or some **sewing repairs carried out**?

Bridgend Repair Café is a volunteer organisation that helps fix household items for free, **for anyone**, in a friendly environment at the following locations and dates (ample parking):

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Bryncethin Community Centre
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Bryncethin Community Centre
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Bryncethin Community Centre

**All from 10am to 12.00 mid-day**

Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre, Mount Pleasant, Bridgend CF31 4EF  
Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmores Terrace, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9YF

We will have fixers for a range of items including:

- ✓ **Bikes** an 'M safety check'
- ✓ **Electrical items** e.g. toasters, kettles, vacuum cleaners
- ✓ **Clothing** e.g., jeans, bags, shirts (Repairs of all types of textile products- not general alterations but **we will repair or alter/adjust school clothing**)
- ✓ **IT** e.g. PCs, laptops (hardware and software)
- ✓ **Costume Jewellery**
- ✓ **General** e.g. toys, ornaments, small furniture

Bring your items to us and we'll try our best to fix it! Free Tea and biscuits while you wait!

To make sure we have an appropriate fixer for your item, it would be really helpful if you could email [bridgendrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:bridgendrepaircafe@gmail.com) with basic details of your item before the relevant Saturday or just turn up and take a chance!

### 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](mailto:christophauckland@churchinwales.org.uk)

### Pilgrim Course:

The Pilgrim Course will resume on Sundays at 5:00pm on 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October. Zoom links will be sent prior to the dates.

If any new pilgrims would like to join, contact Maggie for further details.



### “WARM WELCOME” LUNCH

**On Thursday 21 September 2023 from 12.00 noon to 2.00pm on each day at All Saints Church in Pen-y-fai.**

This is a continuation of the successful “Warm Hub” initiative held at the church.

Although the “Warm Hub” programme has finished the congregation of All Saints Church are now offering a warm welcome and light lunch at the church on the last Thursday of each month.

All are welcome at these events which are free of charge. For more details, please contact Mrs. Jenny Morgan on 01656 722953.

### Ministry Area News

So, welcome back to a new season and term. Should you have any items to bring to the attention of the Ministry Area Council please do not forget consult your local rep who will present your item to council for you. Council meetings are already being added to diaries.

The very good news to kick off the season is that we have a willing body to take over and develop the role of keeper of the Ministry Area diary. Welcome to Mandy Buckley. Details of how to contact Mandy with diary entries for all our Church activities should be available via your local reps after this month's MAC meeting. I'm sure this scheme will be a valuable asset in developing our future activities together and help organisers avoid clashes of dates.. Thanks to Mandy for taking it on.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity of announcing my retirement as lay chair on 31st December 2023. My appointment was made by Bishop June to last for three years. That period comes to an end on 31st December 2023 and so I would like my retirement to coincide. It has been an interesting three years and I will always treasure the new friendships and acquaintances made along the way. Thanks to each and every one of you for your help and support in setting up our Ministry Area, a new venture for all of us. An announcement regarding a new Lay Chair will be made in due course.

Best Wishes. Andrew Dix. Lay Chair.

***My personal thanks to Andrew for his massive input into the formation of the MA and his continued enthusiasm and support, Revd Maggie.***

# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**  
**St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr**  
**10am – 1pm**



**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**  
**AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, PEN-Y-FAI**  
**On Monday 25th September 2023**  
**from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.**

In addition to tea and coffee, a range of delicious cakes will be available.  
 All are welcome at this event, so please come along with your friends and show your support for this very worthwhile cause.

For more details, please contact:  
 Miss Delyth Parry on 01656 724994 or  
 Mrs. Jenny Morgan on 01656 772953.

## St Teilo's Poppy Cascade Challenge 2023



**A big thank -you to  
everyone who has been  
crafting**



So far, we have:

- 1384 red knitted poppies
- 102 red knitted with leaves.
- 32 white knitted poppies
- 30 purple knitted poppies
- 7 black knitted poppies
- 79 big felt poppies.
- 76 small felt poppies.
- 57 poppies with pins
- 5 key ring poppies

So, we have a total of 1,634 poppies to sew onto a cascade so far. This is a fantastic achievement-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.

At our next get together we will be starting to attach poppies to the netting for the cascades.

Our next get together for tea/coffee cake is on  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am** at St Teilo's  
 church Merthyr Mawr – **all are welcome.**

# FILKIN'S DRIFT

870 MILES ON FOOT - 2 FOLK MUSICIANS - 40 SHOWS

deuawd gwerin yn cerdded holl llywyr arfordir Cymru mewn 2 fis  
 folk duo walk the entire Wales coast path on a 2 month tour

St Teilo's Church 25 Hydref / Oct  
 Merthyr Mawr, Bridgend, CF32 0LS 7:00 PM  
 Tocynnau / tickets £10 paulfenney1@btinternet.com 07794678198  
 cagreen@btconnect.com 01656 659288

fiddle and guitar duo reimagine traditional tunes and songs

"utterly mesmerising" and "hugely entertaining"  
 Bristol 24/7 RnR magazine



## General News cont...

### 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

#### Porthcawl's new promenade and flood defence work officially opened

A £6.4m scheme which will help to defend Porthcawl from flooding and any potential future rise in sea levels has been officially opened.

The work was jointly funded by Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council as part of the Coastal Risk Management Programme. Construction specialists Knights Brown have transformed the promenade area into a flat, easily accessible space with new planters and enhanced flood defences which blend into the overall design and run between Porthcawl Marina and Coney Beach.

The promenade was officially opened by Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS and the Leader, Cllr Huw David. The work also focused on the iconic Western Breakwater and extensive refurbishment was required to ensure that the 200-year-old structure can continue to stand up to the tides and tough maritime weather conditions. Around 550 tonnes of grout was used during the upgrade. The second phase of the project extended into Sandy Bay and as far as Rych Point, where flood defences and dune protection works were also upgraded.

Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters said, "We've suffered devastating flooding and weather conditions over the past few years, which has affected communities across Wales.

"We're helping to safeguard those areas at risk through our Coastal Risk Management Programme, and it was good to see how homes and businesses will benefit from Porthcawl's latest flood scheme."

Cllr John Spanswick, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, said: "It's really pleasing to work with Welsh Government on this important scheme which will help to benefit the local community for generations to come.

"This project forms a vital part of the infrastructure for defending the town against flooding and key stakeholders who continue to live, work, visit and invest in the area will be reassured by the quality of the upgrade."

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



### Ministry Area Social Media Pages

#### MA Webpage



[Ministry Area of Penybont ar Ogwr – Celebrating Christian worship for over a thousand years \(cnb-parish.org.uk\)](#)

#### Facebook Pages



[Parish of Coity, Nolton and Brackla with Coychurch](#)

[Laleston St David's Church](#)

[Merthyr Mawr](#)

[Penyfai](#)

[Newcastle \(St Illtyd\)](#)



Photo by Erik-Jan Leusink on Unsplash

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