

YOURS FAITHFULLY

November 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 send any
information for the
December newsletter in
to
mapenybontinfo@gmail.com
by 15 November 2023.

Dear friends

The growing season which is Ordinary Time, or Trinity, is now over and the Church enters the four-week period known as the Kingdom Season. During this time, we're called to remember and reflect, seeking out God's kingdom on earth as well as in heaven. We have travelled through the cycle of the Incarnation and Resurrection and now we seek the glory of Christ's kingdom, so we mark All the Saints (remembering all Christians who have passed to glory), All Souls (remembering those loved ones who we've lost), Remembrance Sunday (remembering those who have given their lives for the sake of justice and truth in combat and conflict) and culminating in the celebration of Christ the King. This brings the season to a climactic end before the cycle begins once more on Advent Sunday. The tone of this season is that of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. The scripture readings are apocalyptic, depicting the end times and are dominated by judgement themes. The season ends in triumph as we acknowledge that Christ reigns over all things in the peaceable Kingdom of God.

November is a busy month with lots of National Days for certain things. I really need not mention Guy Fawkes, but others include World Jellyfish day (3rd), World Numbat Day (6th), Steve Irwin Day (15th) and National Tree Week (26th-3rd Dec), which all encourage us to reflect on different aspects of nature, loss of habitat, global warming and so on: Anti-bullying Week (13th-17th), Odd Socks Day (13th), World Prematurity Day (17th) and Universal Children's Day (20th), which encourage us to reflect on our care towards all God's children's health, welfare and rights; World Ballet Day (1st) and National Saxophone Day (6th) which encourage us to reflect on God's creativity and beauty; and World Kindness Day (13th), World Hello Day (21st) and Thanksgiving (23rd/24th), which all encourage us to reflect on our own behaviour in the light of God's abundant, loving provision for us.

So, 'remember, remember...' not just the 5th November, but give yourself time this month to remember and reflect. Please take note of our special services this month, and on occasion, slightly different timings.

*Love and every blessing
Maggie.*



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Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 22nd October (20 th 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 th October	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
Sunday 29nd October (The Last Sunday after Trinity)	11:00am	Nolton	Combined MA Eucharist	Maggie/Roger
	No evening service			

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 1 st November	9:30am	Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 5th November (All Saints) (The First Sunday of the Kingdom)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
4:00pm	Nolton	Service in Commemoration of the Departed Service	Maggie/Roger	
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong		
Wednesday 8 th November	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward
Sunday 12th November (Remembrance) (The Second Sunday of the Kingdom)	9:15am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward (Pete at the War Memorial)
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward
		Nolton	Eucharist	Tim
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
	2:00pm	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Maggie
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Service	Maggie/Roger	
Wednesday 15 th November	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Graham
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 19th November (The Third Sunday of the Kingdom)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Val or Penny
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie	
Wednesday 22 nd November	9:30am	Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 26th November (Christ The King -The Fourth Sunday of the Kingdom)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie	
Wednesday 29 th November	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 3rd December (First Sunday of Advent)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger or Edward
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger or Edward
	6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie/Roger

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.

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings	
<p>Sunday 22nd October (20th Sunday after Trinity)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Continuous: Exodus 33. 12- 23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10 Matthew 22. 15-22</p>	<p>or Related: Isaiah 45. 1-7 Psalm 96. 1-9, [10-13] 1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10 Matthew 22. 15-22</p>
<p>Sunday 29nd October (The Last Sunday after Trinity)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Continuous: Deuteronomy 34. 1-12 Psalm 90. 1-6, [13-17] 1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8 Matthew 22. 34-46</p>	<p>or Related: Leviticus 19. 1, 2, 15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8 Matthew 22. 34-46</p>

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

<p>Sunday 5th November (The First Sunday of the Kingdom)</p>	<p>Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Revelations 7. 9-17 Psalm 34. 1-10 1 John 3. 1-3 Matthew 5. 1-12</p>
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Collects and the Sunday readings for the month cont...

Date	Collects	Readings	
<p>Sunday 12th November (The Second Sunday of the Kingdom)</p>	<p>Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>either: Wisdom 6. 12-16 Canticle: Wisdom 6. 17-20 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-18 Matthew 25. 1-13</p>	<p>or: Amos 5. 18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4. 13-18 Matthew 25. 1-13</p>
<p>Sunday 19th November (The Third Sunday of the Kingdom)</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Zephaniah 1. 7, 12-18 Psalm 90. 1-8, [9-11,] 12; or 90. 1-8 1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 Matthew 25. 14-30</p>	

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

<p>Sunday 26th November (Christ The King -The Fourth Sunday of the Kingdom)</p>	<p>Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95. 1-7a or 95. 1-7 Ephesians 1. 15-23 Matthew 25. 31-46</p>
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Collects and the Sunday readings for the month cont...

Date	Collects	Readings
<p>Sunday 3rd December (First Sunday of Advent)</p>	<p>Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Isaiah 64. 1-9 Psalm 80. 1-7 [, 17-19] 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 Mark 13. 24-37</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:

Willow Morgan
Sonny Haswell

Theo Parry
Emma Litten-James



Weddings

There are no weddings in November.



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

Pray for Israel and Palestine

Joint Statement on Israel and Gaza

By the Archbishops of Canterbury and York 7th October 2023

“We are grieved and deeply concerned at the violence in Israel and Gaza, and we unequivocally condemn the attacks by Hamas. We pray for those who are mourning, those who are injured, and all those fearing for their safety. We pray for restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all. The way forward must be for both sides to build confidence in a secure future through which Israel and its people can live in security within its internationally recognised borders, and Palestinians have their own state and live in their lands in security, and with peace and justice.”

Lord God of compassion, whose will is for peace built on righteousness,

We pray for peace in Gaza and Israel:

For an end to hostilities, for comfort and help for all who suffer,

And for reconciliation between Palestine and Israel,

Through Jesus Christ, The Prince of Peace. Amen.

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestine or Israeli.

But pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers.

But keep them both together in our hearts. Amen.

Llandaff – Urgent Calls for Prayers for the Holy Land

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/blog/reflections-and-prayers-for-peace>

RIP:

Derek Davies

Russell Hopkins

Geraldine Brown

Barbara Dew

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



For your Prayers cont...

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.

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



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.

November

Have yourself a Greener Christmas.

What ways can you make sure your Christmas is both a celebration of Christ's coming and better for His creation? Check out A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas: arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas

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

Forest Church



Single-Use Plastic Ban and Advice to Churches

Do you have single-use plastic cups, cutlery, plates, and drinking straws, or polystyrene cups and food containers hidden away at the back of your church's kitchen cupboard; or, perhaps in the Sunday School's arts and crafts box, you might find plastic-stemmed cotton buds and balloon sticks?

Now is the time to use them up as Phase 1 of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act comes into force on Monday, 30th October.

From 30th October, it will be against the law for churches to supply the following single-use plastic items, even if giving them away free. For more advice see here <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-blog/single-use-plastic-ban-and-advice-to-churches/>

State of Nature report

The latest State of Nature report is out – the most up-to-date and accurate picture we have of how wildlife is doing in the UK and its Overseas Territories. Its findings make it very clear that the nature we love is in crisis. In Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) almost 1,500 species are now at risk of being lost completely. In Northern Ireland, 281 face a similar fate.

This [landmark report](#) brings together information from over 60 research and conservation organisations collected by thousands of skilled volunteers. It gives us a comprehensive picture of how different species and habitats are doing – with some faring much worse than others. Key findings include:

- Across the UK species studied have declined on average by 19% since 1970
- Farmland bird species in the UK have, on average, seen their numbers fall by more than a half since 1970
- Invertebrate species are found in 13% fewer places now than in 1970. There have been strong declines in some insect groups with important roles, such as pollinators like bees and hoverflies
- More than half of the plants in Great Britain have been lost from areas where they used to thrive
- Only one in seven (14%) of the UK's important habitats for wildlife were found to be in good condition

But there's reason for hope. The [report](#) again highlights that the UK is one of the most nature depleted places on the planet. But it does offer hope, showing us that when we take action to protect and restore nature, it works. We've never had a better understanding of the State of Nature and what is needed to fix it.





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 28th October	Bryncethin Community Centre
Saturday 18th 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 with basic details of your item before the relevant Saturday or just turn up and take a chance!

Annual Service in Commemoration

Our annual Service in Commemoration of the Departed will be held on Sunday November 5th in St Mary's, Nolton, at 4pm. Do come and support this moving opportunity to remember the loved ones we've lost.

If you'd like the name of your loved one to be read out, please email the name to Rev'd Maggie or sign the list in your church.

Plea:

Is there a calligrapher in the MA who could update our memorial books across all the churches? Please contact Rev'd Maggie if you can help.



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 christophaukland@churchinwales.org.uk

Pilgrim Course:

The Pilgrim Course will resume on Sundays at 5:00pm on 22nd, 29th October and 19th, 26th Nov. Zoom links will be sent prior to the dates.



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

FILKIN'S DRIFT

870 MILES ON FOOT - 2 FOLK MUSICIANS - 40 SHOWS

deuawd gwerin yn cerdded holl llwybr 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 paulfenny1@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



Live Music Now Help Musicians www.filkinsmusic.com ticketpass

Churches Together – Nativity

Through Churches Together in Bridgend over the past years before COVID, there was a Christmas Nativity in the Tabernacle where all the churches came together. Tabernacle will move forward To do the Nativity Play again this year and invite schools to come watch the Nativity play. The minister there extends an invitation to anyone from our congregations who would be interested to join with them. If you feel moved to help, please contact Dylan Rhys by email: dylan89rhys@gmail.com.



Ministry Area & Diocese News

As you will have read in the October newsletter, our Lay Chair, Andrew Dix, is retiring from his role at the end of this year. He will be a great loss to the MAC and I'm glad to say that he will continue to be active in the MA. Andrew's successor will be announced asap. Our Archdeacon, Mike Komor, is retiring on the Feast of the Epiphany, and he too will be missed by those who have known him over the years he spent in Bridgend. His successor will be the Rev'd Canon Mark Preece who's currently Sub-Dean and Precentor at the cathedral. This is a very positive appointment and Mike passes the baton to a very capable pair of hands.

Fr David Lloyd has been suffering ill health for some time now and has had a prolonged absence due to sick leave. He has now informed me of his retirement as from this August, meaning that there is now an official vacancy for a third priest in the MA.

I realise that rumours and speculations about my future are being tossed around and I can now inform you that I will be retiring next year. My apologies for having given vague responses to those who have asked me, but several pieces of my life's jigsaw puzzle have had to come together before making a formal statement. + Mary has been aware of my rough plans for a while and my last service with you will be on Easter Day.

Having consulted with the Archdeacon, team vicar Roger and the Lay Chair, it was felt that my role of MA Leader should be the position to be filled first, before a second team vicar. The planning period for this can begin whilst I am still in post so that there is as little time as possible in interregnum. I can assist with this as much or as little as people want me to!

Between now and Easter it will be very much 'ministry as usual' although there are a number of things I'd like to draw your attention to. I'll shortly be taking a half term break (a little early) and will be away 7th-17th October. Following that I'll be participating in the Provincial pre-retirement course, 13th-15th November. My Christmas break will be 26th-30th December. However, the most significant dates will be 12th Jan - 9th Feb, when, I've just had confirmed today, I'll be undertaking the Ignatian 30-day silent retreat (please pray for me!!). I'll be back in time for the whole of Lent. This is all part of my own preparation for a good ending with you and for what ministry might look like in retirement. Most retired clergy continue to work pretty hard, but there are other personal and family things to consider too.

As far as possible, services will be covered and rotas planned well in advance, although I will be extremely reluctant to change the current pattern. Please be supportive of Roger, Tim, the retired clergy, the Lay Ministers, the local lay teams and the MAC during this next phase in the life of the MA. The Church can only survive with your continued support and I'm confident that with such wonderful people in our congregations that this will be the case.

Rev'd Maggie

Ministry Area News – New Lay Chair

It is with pleasure that I can introduce the next Lay Chair of our Ministry Area. Jenny Morgan will take up the position from January 1st 2024. I trust everyone will make her welcome and provide the same cooperation and support as was offered to me. Best wishes and welcome, Jennifer.

All our Churches have now been given a sample copy of a Calendar spread sheet to enable usage of the scheme in the coming weeks. Thanks to Mandy Buckley for compiling it. We also wish her well as she recovers from surgery.

It is with some regret that we announce the retirement of Allan Dowlman as Heritage Secretary (fabric that was) on the MAC. Many thanks to Allan for all his hard work in seeing us through the early years of our MA. A hard act to follow I feel. Jan Dowlman is also stepping back from her role as book keeper to the MAC. Thank you to Jan too for all her efforts in supporting the MAC in so many ways.

With so many changes in personnel there are one or two positions that we need to fill. Thank you to Kevin M for taking on the role of Heritage Secretary to Nolton. We need to fill a similar role in Coity but we need to replace Allan as overall Heritage Secretary.

Other important roles which need filling include treasurer to St. Mary's Nolton and a book keeper to assist the MAC Treasurer Sandra. Should you have any interest or experience in any of these fields, your MAC has need of you. Do please have a chat with the Rev'd Maggie or me for further information.

Finally, please be sure to read the introduction to Jenny Morgan which is on page 18 of the newsletter. Welcome Jenny.

Best Wishes Andrew Dix

Lay Chair

Remembrance Events
at
St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr

- **Monday 6th November - Friday 18th November**
Church open 8am - 4pm to view poppies and Remembrance display
- **Saturday 11th November**
Church open for tea/coffee and cake 10.30am - 3pm
- **Sunday 12th November 2pm**
Remembrance Service including Eucharist and Last Post

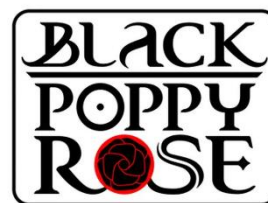
All are very welcome to these events where you can see the results of our Poppy Cascade Challenge

What do the different coloured poppies mean?

Many people choose to wear a poppy in November for Remembrance Day to show respect for the people who died fighting in the First World War and the conflicts that followed it.

But there are other coloured poppies too - purple, black and white - that have different meanings.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/45975344>



The Black Poppy Rose commemorates the contributions of black, African and Caribbean communities to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians.



New Lay Chair – Jennifer Morgan - Biography

I was born in December 1949 in Cardiff where I spent my childhood, and youth, in various areas of the city. On qualifying as a teacher in 1971 I completed my probationary year in Gabalfa Primary School, followed by a second year of teaching at Viriamu Jones Primary School prior to spending eighteen months as a teacher in Kensington Primary School in Madrid. On my return I gained a post in the special needs department at Willows High School In Splott, from where, in 1982, I was fortunate enough to gain a secondment to pursue a degree in special education. Following this, and as a direct result of a placement during the study year, I was offered a post at Woodlands Special High School, for 11 to 19 year old pupils, in Ely, where I totally adored working, and remained until my retirement in 2014.

Having married my husband, David, in 1977, in St. Isan's Llanishen, the church I had attended since childhood, I moved from Cardiff to Kenfig Hill, where I attended St. Theodore's Church for a while. In April 1979 we moved to Court Colman and, at the invitation of my two young neighbours, I began attending All Saints' Church in Pen-y-fai where I immediately felt warmly welcomed and very soon became a member of the PCC and was assisting Anne Komor in the organisation of the Sunday School, which we continued together for in excess of 20 years. We no longer work with the young people at church but do enjoy our involvement with 'Open the Book' sessions organised by Val Trimlett. In 2010, the Reverend Elaine Harris invited me to become a church warden, which alarmed me at first, as my school life was exceptionally busy, but, I accepted the invitation and am, with Delyth Parry, still in post, albeit as a newly designated Ministry Area 'verger' now.

Sadly, in July 2022, my husband died but I have much to be thankful for as a result of my many, and varied, life interests. I have always maintained that I have been blessed with three families: my biological family; my school family and my church family.

Jennifer Morgan.

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.



Bridgend County Borough Council News

Council Leader warns of toughest budget yet

Bridgend County Borough Council's Leader Huw David has warned that the upcoming budget setting process for 2024/2025 will be the toughest of his time in local government.

At the end of the first quarter of the financial year, the council has a projected year end overspend of approximately £10 million.

The main financial pressures are in the service areas of Home to School Transport and Social Services and Wellbeing. The sustained high levels of inflation are having an impact on the cost of Home to School Transport while Social Care is particularly affected by an exponential increase in demand.

The local authority delivers up to 800 services ranging from education and social services for children and older people, supporting people who are homeless through to implementing regeneration projects and school modernisation programmes.

Every year, as part of the budget setting process, the council consults with the public to seek their views on what they consider should be the priority areas for allocating the budget for the forthcoming financial year, and to examine those views against funding provided by the Welsh Government.

The Leader, Cllr Huw David said: "From a financial perspective, this is a really challenging time for local authorities all over the United Kingdom and unfortunately, we are not exempt to these pressures here in Bridgend County Borough.

"A perfect storm has been created in relation to local government finances with the ongoing war in Ukraine, Brexit and of course the sustained high levels of inflation all having an impact. The vast majority of local authorities and health boards all find themselves in a similar position to us."

"Regrettably, this means that some difficult decisions will have to be made for next year's budget and it is inevitable that we are going to have to look very closely at everything we do and determine if it's sustainable to continue doing it in the same way moving forward. We will also need to review the level and frequency of some services and look at whether there is a need to increase or implement charges. At this stage, there are no confirmed proposals, but I want to make residents aware of the scale of the situation before any formal proposals emerge."

"Despite these challenges, we remain an ambitious and successful local authority, delivering some fantastic services and projects for local people that make Bridgend a wonderful place to live and work. Our new Corporate Plan, 'Delivering Together', will also play a key part in helping the council to achieve our aims between now and 2028."

"Finally, I would like to ask residents to keep an eye out for our budget consultation later this year. I would urge you to take part in the process and share your thoughts with us on the delivery of those services that really matter to you."



Waste Collection and Recycling – New Contractor

Bridgend Council Cabinet have approved new contractor for waste and recycling services.

Plan B Management Solutions Ltd. will also be assuming all existing vehicles, plant and equipment, currently used by Kier Services Ltd.



Bridgend County Borough Council News

Cabinet approve Coety Primary School expansion plans

Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet have approved plans to expand Coety Primary School following the outcome of a statutory notice.

This will result in the school's capacity increasing from 420 to 525 places for pupils aged between 4 and 11-years-old.

An options appraisal previously identified the need to increase the number of places at the school and a two-storey, four-classroom extension was found to be the preferred option. All new classrooms will meet net zero carbon targets in both construction and operation.

There will also be an opportunity to increase nursery provision by an additional 12 full-time-equivalent places. This means there will be 75 full-time places for pupils aged 3-4 years and a further 9 part-time places to bring the total number to 84.

The existing yard will also be extended, and games courts will be painted on outdoor spaces. This will help to cater for the increase in pupils at the school. In addition, the school's facilities will provide an opportunity for Welsh language courses to be offered to parents/carers and will support the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which aims to increase the amount of Welsh language opportunities available.

Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "The expansion of Coety Primary School is a really important project which helps to make sure that the school reflects the continued growth of the area while maximising the choice available for parents/carers and learners. The plans will ultimately mean that more learners will have the choice of attending their most local school and this can often have a big impact on an individual's education. We are also proposing a major expansion and relocation of the nearby Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a brand-new site. This will make sure that learners continue to benefit from the choice of high-quality Welsh- and English-medium education."

A planning application will now be submitted as the project enters its next phase.



Bridgend County Borough Council News

First Cymru confirms changes to X1 and X3 bus routes

Following the recent announcement by First Cymru that it will be introducing changes across a range of south and west Wales bus services, Bridgend County Borough Council is advising local residents that both the X1 and X3 services will be affected.

The X1 service will move from a half-hourly timetable to an hourly one, and the X3 will move from an hourly service to running every 90 minutes. The changes will apply between Monday and Saturday across both services, and are set to begin on Sunday 29 October.

In a statement, First Cymru has cited reductions in the amount of Welsh Government funding support for buses and passenger numbers which remain well below previous levels as being the reason for why the changes are necessary. Welsh Government's Bus Emergency Scheme fund, which ended in July, was followed by the £46m Bus Transition Fund. This is currently in place, and is intended to support bus provision until 31 March 2024.

Doug Claringbold, Managing Director at First Cymru, said: "The majority of services are unaffected, but despite our efforts to protect our customers from the impact of this reduced funding, we have no option but to reduce or stop operating some services.

"We recognise the Welsh Government has had some tough decisions to make as it changes the way it funds bus services. At the same time, we share the disappointment customers will feel from the knock-on impact that will have on some routes. We are committed to getting more people to use the bus, and adequate levels of funding are essential where passenger numbers are below the cost of operating services."

Cllr John Spanswick, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change, said: "This remains an extremely difficult situation, especially when passenger levels remain too low to make some routes viable without heavy subsidies. Bridgend County Borough Council is continuing to work alongside providers and Welsh Government to find ways of promoting bus travel as an alternative to using the car, and we are committed towards efforts for developing a sustainable, viable public transport system."

Full details of the changes introduced by First Cymru have been made available at www.firstbus.co.uk

You can also find more details about the Bus Transition Fund at the Welsh Government website, www.gov.wales



General News cont...

Ministry Area Social Media Pages

MA Webpage



[Ministry Area of Penybont ar Ogwr – Celebrating Christian worship for over a thousand years \(cnb-parish.org.uk\)](http://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 Bart Ros on Unsplash

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