

# YOURS FAITHFULLY

January 2024

## MA Office address

Mail:  
[office@cnb-parish.org.uk](mailto:office@cnb-parish.org.uk)

Tel: 01656 667690

## Clergy

The Rev'd Maggie Thorne  
Leader,

Ministry Area of  
Penybont ar Ogwr

The Rectory

Merthymawr Road North  
Bridgend

CF31 3NH

Tel: 01656 652247

Mail:  
[maggie53thorne@gmail.com](mailto:maggie53thorne@gmail.com)

The Rev'd Roger Pitman  
(Team Vicar to MA) –

The Vicarage,  
Rogers Lane, Laleston,

Bridgend,

CF32 0LB,

Tel: 01656 532402,

Mail:  
[vicar@the-vicarage.net](mailto:vicar@the-vicarage.net)

## 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  
February newsletter in to  
[mapenybontinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mapenybontinfo@gmail.com)  
by 10 January 2024.

Dear friends

I wonder whether you've made any New Year's resolutions this year? If you're now trying to lose excess pounds after the Christmas feasting or vowing to take more exercise, then all the very best to you! Making any kind of change is hard work and requires determination. When it comes to discipleship, we might also be thinking of praying more, reading the Bible more, or even doing these things for the first time. Again, all the very best to you with your efforts. But perhaps I may suggest something really EASY as a resolution that anyone and everyone can do?

A short while ago, the Rev'd Roger and I participated in a course on evangelism. This was the ACORN course and as it was only going to be for an hour over 2 or 3 weeks, plus it was online so we didn't have to travel anywhere, there wasn't much effort involved. The background to this begins with the simple fact that offering a warm welcome in our churches isn't enough, and is based on statistics that noted that out of participants on other mission-based courses, 70% of them said that they had a person in mind to invite to church. The statistics revealed that 50% of those had no intention of inviting them.

The ACORN course was formed with this in mind: why were people NOT following their thoughts through? When pressed, the answer had its roots in fear (of being rejected, laughed at, never spoken to again, etc, etc), yet there are at least two Biblical reasons why we should fear the fear and do it anyway: how many times does it say in the Bible, 'Do not be afraid? 365 (ie, one prompt for every day); and in the Parable of the Talents we're reminded of our need to obey in order to grow so that one day we hear the words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' Note that the words aren't, 'Well done, good and successful servant.'

In the ACORN course, success means one person invites one other person to church and then leaves the rest to God, who is, after all, the One who gives the growth, not us. So, the suggestion is to pray this one prayer: Lord, is there someone you want me to connect with outside the church family? Just wait for the nudge, then ACT on it.

ACORN is an acronym:

Ask (for a person to connect with),  
Call (everyone is called to do this);  
Obey (follow the nudge);  
Report (share what happens with others) and  
Notice (what God has done).

Simple. And I really wouldn't ask you to do something that I wouldn't be prepared to do myself!

Happy New Year!

*Love and every blessing*  
*Maggie.*

**Note: Rev'd Maggie is on retreat from 12th Jan, returning for services on 11th Feb, and can only be contacted in emergencies. Rev'd Roger should be the first port of call for all enquiries/pastoral needs.**



## Inside this issue:

Service Schedule ...	Page 2
Collect and Sunday Readings ...	Page 7
Psalms .....	Page 11
For Your Prayers .....	Page 17
Green News .....	Page 18
General News .....	Page 19

## Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Archdeacon John Lewis School Christmas Service	Maggie
	(NB no other 11am services today)			
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	10:30am	Coity	Nativity from scratch	Nader/Maggie
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)	9:30am	Brackla	9 Lessons and Carols	Pete
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Nolton	9 Lessons and Carols	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
	4:30pm	Coychurch	Nativity/Christingle	Pete/Maggie
	7:00pm	Newcastle	'Midnight Mass'	Maggie
11:00pm	Pen-y-fai	'Midnight Mass'	Roger	
11:30pm	Coychurch	'Midnight Mass'	Edward	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Tim
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	No Services			

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> (The First Sunday of Christmas)	11:00am	Nolton	Joint MA Service	Maggie
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Graham
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Baptism of Christ) (The First Sunday of Epiphany)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Maggie	
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	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
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Second Sunday of Epiphany)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Service	Roger	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b> (The Third Sunday of Epiphany)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Val or Penny
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Pete
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Note: No service in Nolton this week		
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Tim
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Tim
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b> The Second Sunday before Lent (Creation Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Mike Lewis
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Mike Lewis
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	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.

**Note: Rev'd Maggie is on retreat from 12th January, returning for services on 11th February,  
 and can only be contacted in emergencies.**

**Rev'd Roger should be the first port of call for all enquiries/pastoral needs.**

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> (Third Sunday of Advent)</p>	<p>O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.</p>	<p>Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1. 47-55) 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24 John 1. 6-8, 19-28</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)</p>	<p>Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16 Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1. 47-55) or Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-26 or Psalm 89. 1-8 Romans 16. 25-27 Luke 1. 26-38</p>
<p><b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)</p>	<p>Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit: 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>(Midnight Mass) Set III Isaiah 52. 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1. 1-4, [5-12] John 1. 1-14  (Morning) Set I Isaiah 9. 2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-14, [15-20]</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> (The First Sunday of Christmas)	Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3 Psalm 148 or 148. 7-14 Galatians 4. 4-7 Luke 2. 15-21
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Baptism of Christ) (The First Sunday of Epiphany)	Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we who are born again by water and the Spirit may rejoice to be called your children; 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	Genesis 1. 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19. 1-7 Mark 1. 4-11
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Second Sunday of Epiphany)	Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.	1 Samuel 3. 1-10, [11-20] Psalm 139. 1-6, 13-18 or 139. 1-10 Revelation 5. 1-10 John 1. 43-51
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b> (The Third Sunday of Epiphany)	Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.	Genesis 14. 17-20 Psalm 128 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11



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

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)	Creator God, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Deuteronomy 18. 15-20 Psalm 111 Revelation 12. 1-5a Mark 1. 21-28

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>                      The Second Sunday before                      Lent                      (Creation Sunday)</p>	<p>Almighty God,                      you have created the heavens and the earth and                      made us in your own image:                      teach us to discern your hand in all your works and                      your likeness in all your children;                      through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with                      you and the Holy Spirit                      reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.                      Amen.</p>	<p>Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31                      Psalm 104. 24-35                      Colossians 1. 15-20                      John 1. 1-14</p>

## Psalms for the month

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> (Third Sunday of Advent)</p>	Psalm 126	<p>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.</p> <p>Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b> (Fourth Sunday of Advent)</p>	Psalm 89. 1-4	<p>I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.</p> <p>You said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: “I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations.”’</p>
<p><b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)</p>	Psalm 98 (Midnight Mass)	<p>O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.</p> <p>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.</p> <p>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)</p>	<p>Psalm 96 (Morning)</p>	<p>O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.</p> <p>Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth.</p> <p>Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> (The First Sunday of Christmas)</p>	<p>Psalm 148. 7-14</p>	<p>Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!</p> <p>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!</p> <p>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!</p> <p>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!</p>
<p><b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Baptism of Christ) (The First Sunday of Epiphany)</p>	<p>Psalm 29</p>	<p>Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour.</p> <p>The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.</p> <p>The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.</p> <p>The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.</p> <p>The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'</p> <p>The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever. May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Second Sunday of Epiphany)	Psalm 139. 1-6, 13-18	<p>O Lord, you have searched me and known me.                      You know when I sit down and when I rise up;                      you discern my thoughts from far away.                      You search out my path and my lying down,                      and are acquainted with all my ways.                      Even before a word is on my tongue,                      O Lord, you know it completely.                      You hem me in, behind and before,                      and lay your hand upon me.                      Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;                      it is so high that I cannot attain it.</p> <p>For it was you who formed my inward parts;                      you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am                      fearfully and wonderfully made.                      Wonderful are your works;                      that I know very well.                      My frame was not hidden from you,                      when I was being made in secret,                      intricately woven in the depths of the earth.                      Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.                      In your book were written                      all the days that were formed for me,                      when none of them as yet existed.                      How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!                      How vast is the sum of them!                      I try to count them—they are more than the sand;                      I come to the end—I am still with you.</p>
	or Psalm 139. 1-10	<p>O Lord, you have searched me and known me.                      You know when I sit down and when I rise up;                      you discern my thoughts from far away.                      You search out my path and my lying down,                      and are acquainted with all my ways.                      Even before a word is on my tongue,                      O Lord, you know it completely.                      You hem me in, behind and before,                      and lay your hand upon me.                      Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;                      it is so high that I cannot attain it.</p> <p>Where can I go from your spirit?                      Or where can I flee from your presence?                      If I ascend to heaven, you are there;                      if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.                      If I take the wings of the morning                      and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,                      even there your hand shall lead me,                      and your right hand shall hold me fast.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024</b> (The Third Sunday of Epiphany)	Psalm 128	A Song of Ascents. Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.  Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.  The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life. May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b> (The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)	Psalm 111	Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>                      The Second Sunday before                      Lent                      (Creation Sunday)</p>	<p>Psalm 104. 24-35</p>	<p>O Lord, how manifold are your works!                      In wisdom you have made them all;                      the earth is full of your creatures.                      Yonder is the sea, great and wide,                      creeping things innumerable are there,                      living things both small and great.                      There go the ships,                      and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.</p> <p>These all look to you                      to give them their food in due season;                      when you give to them, they gather it up;                      when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.                      When you hide your face, they are dismayed;                      when you take away their breath, they die                      and return to their dust.                      When you send forth your spirit, they are created;                      and you renew the face of the ground.</p> <p>May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;                      may the Lord rejoice in his works—                      who looks on the earth and it trembles,                      who touches the mountains and they smoke.                      I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;                      I will sing praise to my God while I have being.                      May my meditation be pleasing to him,                      for I rejoice in the Lord.                      Let sinners be consumed from the earth,                      and let the wicked be no more.                      Bless the Lord, O my soul.                      Praise the Lord!</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:

Arabela Margulescu



### Weddings

There are no weddings in December or January.



### 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.  
Amen



### Prayer for Gaza and Israel

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.  
We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.  
We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.  
We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.  
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.

### Rev'd Maggie – Silent Retreat

Please pray for the Rev'd Maggie as she enters her silent retreat.

“Help her to quiet her mind so that she may hear God’s word and receive God’s wisdom. Ask that she is filled with peace and God’s presence. Help her to find rest and rejuvenation during her retreat so that she may return to the MA refreshed and renewed in spirit.”  
Amen.

### RIP:

Raymond Nash

Geoff Markwell

Rosemary Cleverdon

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

There is no Forest Church this month.



#### December

Recycle right this Christmas (and beyond!) Since more waste ends up in landfill over Christmas than during the rest of the year, it's a great time of year to review and improve your own recycling set up at home.

Different boroughs offer different recycling provisions, but you can find out exactly what you can recycle at home by entering your postcode here: [recyclenow.com/recycling-locator](https://recyclenow.com/recycling-locator)

#### January

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority. From bird watching, to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or veg or visiting an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK - be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this year.

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](mailto:arocha.org.uk/wild-christian)

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

## Lectionary Books

Several of our churches require lectionary books. As the cost of printing is high, we hope to issue general CiW booklets which have the words of the Eucharist, but no readings. Many of you like to follow, so we suggest that you take note of the readings published in the newsletter and use your own Bible (some are available in the churches) or, if able to use an online version, 'Oremus Bible Browser'. The psalms will be published in the newsletter for ease of congregational participation.

Rev'd Maggie



# 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):

January 20th [Brynirion & Laleston Community Centre, Mount Pleasant, CF31 4EF](#)

February 17th [Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmores Terrace, Bryncethin, CF32 9YF](#)

March 16th [Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmores Terrace, Bryncethin, CF32 9YF](#)

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

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!



## Pop up Hot Drinks and Snacks

St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

10.30am – 3pm



## Calling all confirmation candidates!

Confirmation classes will be held during April.

Please send your name to Rev'd Roger so that you don't miss out!

### MA News – Lay Chair

It is with great delight, but also some feelings of trepidation, that I take on the role of Lay Chair of the Ministry Area Council. Delight because it means that I will work more closely with so many of you, but trepidation because I follow 'in the footsteps' of the outstanding Andrew and fervently hope that I may live up to expectations.

My sincere thanks are offered to Andrew who has so thoughtfully prepared me for my new role, and to each of the Ministry Area Council members who have welcomed me so warmly. In the coming months I hope to visit all of our Ministry Area churches and my ultimate hope is that we may together build on the, already laid, firm, foundations of our Ministry Area, thus strengthening our bonds with each other.

May you all know good health, and peace, in 2024 but, above all, as I'm certain is the dearest wish of each one of us, may the conflict in the fractured areas of God's world be brought to an end.

Jenny Morgan.  
Lay Chair to the MA.

My personal thanks to Andrew Dix as he retires from his post as Lay Chair. You've been great and a wonderful support to me over the last three years.

Thank you from all of us for helping launch our Ministry Area.

Rev'd Maggie.



## St Teilo's, Merthyr Mawr Craft and Chat 2024



Come and join us on Thursdays 10.30am – 12.30pm for craft, chat, tea/coffee, and cake.

Either bring your own project to work on or join us to make items for our Christmas Fayre – materials provided.



Group will take place on the following Thursdays:

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>,  
July 11<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Welsh Government – Road Safety Strategy - consultation

The Welsh Government wants to our views about road safety, so they can understand our priorities and how to make roads safe for all.

I don't know about you but I have a few thoughts on what should be done around 20 MPH zones, e-Bikes, e-Scooters etc. so please take the time to make your feelings known.

Consultation ends on 31st January 2024

<https://www.gov.wales/road-safety-strategy>



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

### 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



#### Thieves target local cemeteries and disrupt water supplies

South Wales Police and Bridgend County Borough Council are urging residents to remain alert and to report any suspicious behaviour they may witness when visiting local cemeteries.

It follows a series of thefts in which sexton's huts and maintenance outbuildings at five council-maintained cemeteries have been broken into. The thieves, who appear to be targeting metal items, have vandalised and damaged the cemeteries while attempting to gain access before removing pipes, taps and more.

This has left the cemeteries without a water supply, which has caused issues for mourners and grieving families who have been visiting to pay their respects and tend to graves.

Anyone who has any information about the thefts can contact the police confidentially using the 101 number – remember to quote one of the following crime references when making your call:

Laleston Cemetery - 2300394859

Cornelly Cemetery - 2300395227

Porthcawl Cemetery - 2300395257

Ogmore Vale Cemetery - 2300395286

Pontycymmer Cemetery - 2300395313

### Bridgend County Borough Council News



#### Give blood and save lives

Appointments are available at:

30 December - Bridgend Masonic Hall (CF31 2AP)

24 January – Tesco Extra Bridgend (CF31 3SQ)

Please be advised that if you have recently had a Covid-19 vaccination, then you must wait two days before making a blood donation.

**Welsh Blood Service**

[Book your appointment today to help save lives.](#)

## 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 \(St Illtyd\)](#)



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