

# YOURS FAITHFULLY

March 2024

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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 April  
newsletter in to  
[mapenybontinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mapenybontinfo@gmail.com)  
by 15 March 2024.

Dear friends

How is Lent going for you this year? There are still a few weeks until Easter, so it's not too late to get back on track and re-evaluate your spiritual life and your charitable giving.

Are you groaning? It's hard these days to give things up when we've suffered and are continuing to suffer the high cost of living and fuel, isn't it? It's also difficult to change our spiritual habits of a lifetime and with Lent already underway, you may feel it's not the right time to do something new.

BUT, this **is** the season for making sacrifices as we walk through the wilderness with Christ and so I'm going to offer you a few practical (and easy) suggestions.

Several years ago, I was the recipient of a 'random act of kindness'. One of my parishioners at the time had taken the 40 Day Challenge and I was the very blessed person to anonymously receive a voucher for a meal out for two. Delightful! Not so long ago when we were on a cruise holiday, someone randomly attached a homemade gift to our cabin door. It was a crocheted mug warmer. Again, delightful! It can really make a change to someone's day to receive something unexpected, so here are just 14 ways in which to make a difference and spread a little happiness which can count as almsgiving without costing you anything other than time. And, as we know, time is spelt L-O-V-E.

1. Drink more water. It's easier to be kind when you feel healthy and energetic
2. Tell someone how much you love them
3. Go without a meal - and remember what it's like to feel hungry
4. Make eye contact and smile at everyone you meet (strangers too)
5. Give someone a genuine compliment
6. Offer a helping hand to a neighbour
7. Leave something nice on a neighbour's doorstep
8. Write a list of at least 5 things that you're grateful for - and thank God for those things
9. Make a real effort to save on your electricity/gas use
10. Recycle something made of paper
11. Clear a cupboard and give something away
12. Ring someone to say that you're thinking and praying for them
13. Say the Lord's Prayer on waking and on retiring to bed
14. Make a real effort NOT to complain about anything

Jesus himself assumes that we have a regular practice of giving alms, praying and fasting (see Matt. 6. 1-6, 16-21); it's not just something for Lent, but it's a good opportunity to start, so see how just doing 14 acts of kindness towards others and the planet changes you – and keep doing them!

*Love and every blessing  
Maggie.*



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## Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Second Sunday of Lent)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> (Third Sunday of Lent)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Maggie
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fourth Sunday of Lent) (Mothering Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Eucharist	Tim
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Tim
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Service	Maggie/Roger	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton Rectory	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fifth Sunday of Lent)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Val or Penny
		Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Pete
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Val or Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Palm Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Maggie
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Val
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Newcastle	Stations of the Cross	Maggie
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Nolton	Stations of the Cross	Huw
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March (Maundy Thursday)	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Maggie
	7:30pm	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday)	10:00am	Pen-y-fai	Stations of the Cross	Penny
	10:30am	Coychurch	Good Friday Service	Pete
	11:00am	Nolton	Reflections on the wounds of Christ	Maggie
	12:15pm	Coity	Reflections on the wounds of Christ	Maggie
	2:00pm	Merthyr Mawr	Reflections on the wounds of Christ	Maggie/Roger
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	7:30pm	Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie

## Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March Easter Day</b>	7:00am	Coychurch	Dawn Service (Forest Church) with breakfast	Maggie
	10:00am	Nolton	Joint Service – Please stay for refreshments afterwards in the hall	Maggie/Roger
	<b>No Evening Zoom Services</b>			
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>NO SERVICES</b>			
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 <span style="color: orange;">Brackla</span> , <span style="color: red;">Coity</span> and <span style="color: blue;">Pen-y-fai</span> . <b>Please contact Rev'd Maggie Thorne for details.</b>				

## Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Second Sunday of Lent)	Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant that all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, may reject those things that are contrary to their baptism, and follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen	Genesis 17. 1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22. 23-31 Romans 4. 13-25 Mark 8. 31-38
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> (Third Sunday of Lent)	Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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	Exodus 20. 1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25 John 2. 13-22
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fourth Sunday of Lent) (Mothering Sunday)	God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.	Exodus 2. 1-10 or 1 Samuel 1. 20-28 Psalm 34. 11-20 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7 or Colossians 3. 12-17 Luke 2. 33-35 or John 19. 25-27
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fifth Sunday of Lent)	Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.	Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Psalm 51. 1-12 Hebrews 5. 5-10 John 12. 20-33

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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>Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11. 1-11 or John 12. 12-16 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> (Easter Day)</p>	<p>Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.</p>	<p>Acts 10. 34-43 or Isaiah 25. 6-9 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 14-24 1 Corinthians 15. 1-11 or Acts 10. 34-43 John 20. 1-18 or Mark 16. 1-8</p>



## Psalms for the month

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Second Sunday of Lent)</p>	<p>Psalm 22. 23-31</p>	<p>You who fear the Lord, praise him!  All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  For he did not despise or abhor  the affliction of the afflicted;  he did not hide his face from me,  but heard when I cried to him.  From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  May your hearts live for ever!  All the ends of the earth shall remember  and turn to the Lord;  and all the families of the nations  shall worship before him.  For dominion belongs to the Lord,  and he rules over the nations.  To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  and I shall live for him.  Posterity will serve him;  future generations will be told about the Lord,  and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  saying that he has done it.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> (Third Sunday of Lent)</p>	<p>Psalm 19</p>	<p>To the leader. A Psalm of David.</p> <p>The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.</p> <p>Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.</p> <p>There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.</p> <p>In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.</p> <p>Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat.</p> <p>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.</p> <p>More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.</p> <p>Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.</p> <p>But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.</p> <p>Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.</p> <p>Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.</p> <p>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fourth Sunday of Lent) (Mothering Sunday)	Psalm 34. 11-20	<p>Come, O children, listen to me;            I will teach you the fear of the Lord.            Which of you desires life,            and covets many days to enjoy good?            Keep your tongue from evil,            and your lips from speaking deceit.            Depart from evil, and do good;            seek peace, and pursue it.</p> <p>The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,            and his ears are open to their cry.            The face of the Lord is against evildoers,            to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.            When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears,            and rescues them from all their troubles.            The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,            and saves the crushed in spirit.</p> <p>Many are the afflictions of the righteous,            but the Lord rescues them from them all.            He keeps all their bones;            not one of them will be broken.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Fifth Sunday of Lent)</p>	<p>Psalm 51. 1-12</p>	<p>To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.</p> <p>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.</p> <p>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.</p> <p>For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.</p> <p>Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.</p> <p>Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.</p> <p>You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.</p> <p>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.</p> <p>Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.</p> <p>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.</p> <p>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.</p> <p>Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.</p> <p>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p>Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29</p>	<p>O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!</p> <p>Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.']</p> <p>Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.</p> <p>This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.</p> <p>I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!</p> <p>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.</p> <p>You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.</p> <p>O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures for ever.</p>

## Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> (Easter Day))</p>	<p>Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 14-24</p>	<p>O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!</p> <p>Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'] The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.</p> <p>There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'</p> <p>I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.</p> <p>Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.</p> <p>This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.</p> <p>I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p>

## For your Prayers

### Please pray for those who receive Holy Communion in their homes or in hospital:

Joy Aylesbury	Lily Laessler
Phyllis Edwards	Gerald Baker
Vernon Knill	Mair and John Cripps
Dick and Kath Shenton	Dilys Leyshon
Barbara Keirl	Gwen Davies
Joan Thomas	

### Baptisms

There are no baptisms in February or March.



### Weddings

There are no weddings in February or March.



### Prayers for the wars around the world

With the wars in Ukraine, Israel and other parts of the world, we pray for universal peace this Lent:

Loving God,  
Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.  
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:

Arthur Harries  
Idris Jones  
Annie Ball

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 will be a Forest Church on the 7am at Coychurch – Dawn Service with breakfast.



### March

Celebrate Spring. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the season – breathe in the fragrance of blossoms, observe budding catkins, note different bird songs, spot footprints, or use the Pl@ntNet app to identify spring flowers. Nature can boost our happiness, so spend time in your garden, on your balcony, and in local green spaces. Dedicate quality time to appreciate creation's beauty, and thank God for the hope that spring can bring with our Lent resources at [arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/](http://arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-overlent/)

### April

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. Reevaluate your journeys: explore walking or cycling options, or modify your route to include some form of active travel, i.e. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot, indulge in a leisurely stroll, or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route. Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences. Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.

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



## 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

## Calling all confirmation candidates!

Confirmation classes will be held during March.

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



## 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):

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!

## MA News – Lay Chair

It is such a joy to witness the signs of Spring appearing all around us. The tiny little snowdrop is such a special and welcome sight. Should you have an opportunity, a visit to St. Teilo's Church in Merthyr Mawr is more than worthwhile. The graveyard is a sight to behold with its carpet of delicate little snowdrops interspersed with the brightly coloured crocus. As our Lenten journey begins we have so much to be hopeful and grateful for, and as we progress towards a joyful Easter, may we always be mindful of those who have so little to be thankful for, whilst we have so much.

Many of our church yards are now bursting into life around our beautiful Ministry Area churches, of which we have a diverse range. Just like our homes, unfortunately, the church buildings need to be maintained and often give cause for concern as unexpected, and often expensive, issues arise. As you are aware, so many, across the whole Ministry Area, willingly take on voluntary roles of responsibility. Unfortunately, it has proved to be an impossibility to replace our previous Heritage (fabric) Secretary, Mr. Dowlman, to whom we were grateful for his time and expertise. As an alternative solution, some churches have already established small groups comprising of members who are willing to take on responsibility for overseeing the church fabric and to address issues as they arise. It would seem that this is the way forward as such tasks are less onerous when addressed with the support of others. It has become imperative that each church in our Ministry Area establish such a heritage (fabric) team. If you have not already done this, we would be so grateful if it could be addressed as a matter of urgency as our church buildings mean so much to us all.

With thanks,

Jenny Morgan.  
Lay Chair to the MA.

### 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 below 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.**



## 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. 8<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>.

### Bridgend County Borough Council News



#### A natural haven set to be developed at Heol-y-Cyw

Facilitated by Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature funding and the partnership between the Bridgend Local Nature Partnership, Bridgend County Borough Council and Coychurch Higher Community Council, a new space for nature and the community is set to be developed at Heol-y-Cyw playing field.

The scheme includes the creation of new habitat involving wet woodland, wildflowers, and an area of wetland. The wetland will be created by directing existing surface water to an attenuation pond, not only to improve the conditions of the field, but also to provide a valuable wetland habitat for a range of species, such as bats, amphibians, birds, and invertebrates.

The £150,000 project will also include benches, picnic benches, a new path, and a boardwalk over the wetland area. The scheme will also feature artwork from sculptor, Will Nash, in the form of a bee column, which will provide vital nesting opportunities for solitary bees. The initiative will support this species, which does not swarm or belong to colonies, but is a very important pollinator.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, Cllr John Spanswick, said: "We welcome the development of this area, which promises to offer sanctuary for both wildlife and people wanting to enjoy the natural environment – the perfect antidote to the fast-paced culture in which we live.

"Currently, there are around 250 species of the solitary bee in the UK and the space offers support in helping them to thrive. We would like to thank Welsh Government and our partners for allowing the playing field at Heol-y-Cyw to be cultivated in a way that has an abundance of environmental benefits, as well as advantages for wellbeing. We would like to reassure residents that the planting scheme will not be taking up all of the open space, the area will still feature two pitches and there will still be plenty of recreational ground for any informal activity. We are also currently working closely with Heol-y-Cyw RFC and are discussing a possible Community Asset Transfer at the playing fields, should the rugby club wish to pursue this, and if funding opportunities become available."

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



#### 10,000 trees to be planted in the Ogmore Valley to tackle climate change and habitat loss

As part of the council's commitment to responding to climate change and habitat loss, it will be planting 10,000 trees at Aber Fields in the Ogmore Valley, known locally as the Planka.

The scheme, which started today (15 February), is a phased programme of works involving tree planting, wildflower meadow and wet land creation and the removal of non-native species.

The first phase will involve planting over 5,000 native tree species, starting within the current planting season in February 2024.

As a result of these works, the scheme will create a more ecologically diverse area, promote habitat connectivity and benefit species in the Ogmore Valley. The works are being funded through Bridgend County Borough Council and Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Fund.

The other phases of the scheme will be scheduled in subsequent years/seasons and subject to finances.

### Bridgend County Borough Council News



#### Give blood and save lives

Appointments are available at:

27 February – WBS – Talbot Green (CF72 9WB)

7 March – Asda Bridgend (CF31 3AU)

25 March – Tesco Extra Bridgend (CF31 3SQ)

**Welsh Blood Service**

Please be advised that if you have recently had a Covid-19 vaccination, then you must wait two days before making a blood donation. [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 \(St Illtyd\)](#)

