

YOURS FAITHFULLY

April 2024

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Clergy

Leader of the Ministry Area
of Penybont ar Ogwr
In vacancy

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

I'm writing in advance of Holy Week and Easter for obvious reasons, but anticipating a wonderful week of celebrations, thank you to all who have participated in the smooth running of services and imparting the meaningfulness of the most spiritually profound week of the Church's year in any way: all the 'team' of clergy and lay people, organists, singers, readers, intercessors and sidespeople. Any omissions are entirely accidental and I am most grateful to everyone.

All that remains is to thank you all for your support over the (nearly) 5 years of my ministry here in Bridgend.

You will realise that it hasn't been easy to navigate some substantial pastoral problems, covid and bringing the MA to birth and I most certainly couldn't have managed without your positivity, encouragement and general good humour.

The MA is now looking ahead to a new chapter. It's in good heart and poised for whatever is next in God's great plan for you. For sure, it'll be something, so under the new leadership of the Rev'd Mark Broadway, who many of you know, there'll be no resting on your laurels!

Of all the Easter traditions, I've always been baffled by the Easter Bunny. School children have frequently asked me what it symbolises and my answer has been that because rabbits are prolific breeders they teach us about the abundant life that God gives us through the rising of Jesus. This is true, but if you're interested, I've done a little bit of extra research and have discovered that the Easter Bunny dates back to 13th Century Germany and has the curious ability to lay coloured eggs which are then distributed to children who have been good over the Easter period. Bonkers, or what? An Easter Chicken would make much more sense. No wonder the secular world is confused!

Easter is a time of new life and new beginnings so what better time than to celebrate one last and very special Eucharist with you.

My email isn't changing, so if you plan a trip to Cardiff, just drop me a line and call in to see us. You will be most welcome.

Richard joins with me in sending you all love, prayers and every blessing for the future.

Maggie



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 May
newsletter in to
mapenybontinfo@gmail.com
by 15 May 2024.

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Services Schedule

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 17th March (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 th March	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Maggie
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Sunday 24th March (Sixth Sunday of Lent) (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 th March	7:30pm	Newcastle	Stations of the Cross	Maggie
Tuesday 26 th March	7:30pm	Nolton	Stations of the Cross	Huw

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Wednesday 27 th March	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Maggie
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Maggie
Thursday 28 th March (Maundy Thursday)	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Maggie
	7:30pm	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Maggie
Friday 29 th 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
Saturday 30 th March	7:30pm	Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Maggie

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 31st March (Easter Day)	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
	No Evening Zoom Services			
Wednesday 3 rd April	NO SERVICES			
Sunday 7th April (Second Sunday of Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Tim
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val/Penny
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Val/Penny
		Nolton	Eucharist	Edward
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Tim
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 10 th April	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 14th April (Third Sunday of Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Roger
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Val/Penny
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Laleston	Eucharist	Edward
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Edward
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Val/Penny
6:30pm	Zoom	Taizé Evening Prayer	Roger	
Wednesday 17 th April	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Sunday 21st April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Val/Penny
		Coity	Eucharist	Edward
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val/Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Edward
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 24 th April	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
		Nolton	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 28th April (Fifth Sunday of Easter)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Edward
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 1 st May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Sunday 5th May (Sixth Sunday of Easter) (Rogation Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Tim
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val / Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val / Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Tim
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 8 th May	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 12th May (Seventh Sunday of Easter) (Sunday after Ascension Day)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Edward
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 15 th May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 19th May (Day of Pentecost) (Whitsunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Café Church	Pete
		Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Coychurch	Eucharist	Tim
		Merthyr Mawr	Non-Eucharist	Val / Penny
	11:00am	Laleston	Non-Eucharist	Val / Penny
		Newcastle	Non-Eucharist	Pete
		Nolton	Eucharist	Tim
		Pen-y-fai	Eucharist	Roger
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 22 nd May	9:30am	Coity	Eucharist	Roger
		Laleston	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Graham
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger

Services Schedule cont...

Date	Time	Church	Service	Vicar
Sunday 26th May (Trinity Sunday)	9:30am	Brackla	Eucharist	Edward
		Coity	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
		Coychurch	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
	11:00am	Merthyr Mawr	Eucharist	Edward
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Non-Eucharist	Penny
		Pen-y-fai	Non-Eucharist	Lay Team
6:30pm	Zoom	Evensong	Roger	
Wednesday 29 th May	9:30am	Laleston	Eucharist	Roger
		Nolton	Eucharist	Graham
	11:00am	Coychurch	Eucharist	Roger
		Newcastle	Eucharist	Graham
Morning and Evening Prayer at 8am and 7pm, Monday to Thursday via Zoom Please contact Rev'd Roger for the Zoom links you need.				
Sunday clubs run at Brackla , Coity and Pen-y-fai . Please contact Rev'd Roger for details.				

Collects and the Sunday readings for the month

Date	Collects	Readings
<p>Sunday 17th March (Fifth Sunday of Lent)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Psalm 51. 1-12 Hebrews 5. 5-10 John 12. 20-33</p>
<p>Sunday 24th March (Sixth Sunday of Lent) (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><i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Mark 11. 1-11 or John 12. 12-16 Psalm 118. [1, 2,] 19-29</p> <p><i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50. 4-9a Psalm 31. 9-16 [17, 18] Philippians 2. 5-11 Mark 14.1 – 15.47 or 15. 1-39 [40-47]</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 31st March (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>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 7th April (Second Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son 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</p>	<p><i>Either:</i> Acts 4. 32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1.1 – 2.2 John 20. 19-31</p> <p><i>or (with OT reading):</i> Exodus 14. 10-31; 15. 20-21 Psalm 133 Acts 4. 32-35 John 20. 19-31</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 14th April (Third Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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><i>Either:</i> Acts 3. 12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3. 1-7 Luke 24. 36b-48</p> <p><i>or (with OT reading):</i> Zephaniah 3. 14-20 Psalm 4 Acts 3. 12-19 Luke 24. 36b-48</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 21st April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen</p>	<p><i>Either:</i> Acts 4. 5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3. 16-24 John 10. 11-18</p> <p><i>or (with OT reading):</i> Genesis 7. 1-5, 11-18; 8. 6-18; 9. 8-13 Psalm 23 Acts 4. 5-12 John 10. 11-18</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 28th April (Fifth Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen</p>	<p>Either: Acts 8. 26-40 Psalm 22. 25-31 1 John 4. 7-21 John 15. 1-8</p> <p>or (with OT reading): Baruch 3. 9-15, 33 – 4.4 or Genesis 22. 1-18 Psalm 22. 25-31 Acts 8. 26-40 John 15. 1-8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 5th May (Sixth Sunday of Easter) (Rogation Sunday)</p>	<p>God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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><i>Either:</i> Acts 10. 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5. 1-6 John 15. 9-17</p> <p><i>or (with OT reading):</i> Isaiah 55. 1-11 Psalm 98 Acts 10. 44-48 John 15. 9-17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 12th May (Seventh Sunday of Easter) (Sunday after Ascension Day)</p>	<p>O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen</p>	<p><i>Either:</i> Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5 9-13 John 17. 6-19</p> <p><i>or (with OT reading):</i> Ezekiel 36. 24-28 Psalm 1 Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26 John 17. 6-19</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p>Sunday 19th May (Day of Pentecost) (Whitsunday)</p>	<p>God, who at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever Amen.</p>	<p>Acts 2. 1-21 or Ezekiel 37. 1-14 Psalm 104. 24-34, 35b Romans 8. 22-27 or Acts 2. 1-21 John 15. 26-27; 16. 4b- 15</p>

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

Date	Collects	Readings
<p>Sunday 26th May (Trinity Sunday)</p>	<p>Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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>Isaiah 6. 1-8 [, 9, 10] Psalm 29 Romans 8. 12-17 John 3. 1-17</p>

Psalms for the month

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p>Sunday 17th March (Fifth Sunday of Lent)</p>	<p>Psalm 51. 1-12</p>	<p>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...

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p>Sunday 24th March (Sixth Sunday of Lent) (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p><i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> 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...

Dates	Psalm	Readings
<p>Sunday 24th March (Sixth Sunday of Lent) (Palm Sunday)</p>	<p><i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Psalm 31. 9-16 [,17, 18]</p>	<p>Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.</p> <p>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.</p> <p>I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.</p> <p>For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.</p> <p>But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'</p> <p>My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.</p> <p>For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.</p> <p>I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours, an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me. I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.</p> <p>For I hear the whispering of many— terror all around!— as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.</p> <p>But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.'</p> <p>My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.</p>

Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 31st March (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>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 7th April (Second Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Psalm 133</p>	<p>A Song of Ascents. How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.</p>

Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 14th April (Third Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Psalm 4</p>	<p>To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David. Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.</p> <p>How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah</p> <p>But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.</p> <p>When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah</p> <p>Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.</p> <p>There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!' You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.</p> <p>I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 21st April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Psalm 23</p>	<p>Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.</p> <p>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.</p> <p>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.</p> <p>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.</p>

Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 28th April (Fifth Sunday of Easter)</p>	<p>Psalm 22. 25-31</p>	<p>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 5th May (Sixth Sunday of Easter) (Rogation Sunday)</p>	<p>Psalm 98</p>	<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...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 12th May (Seventh Sunday of Easter) (Sunday after Ascension Day)</p>	<p>Psalm 1</p>	<p>Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.</p> <p>They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.</p> <p>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.</p>

Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p>Sunday 19th May (Day of Pentecost) (Whitsunday)</p>	<p>Psalm 104. 24-34, 35b</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>

Psalms for the month cont...

Date	Psalm	Readings
<p>Sunday 26th May (Trinity Sunday)</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.</p> <p>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>

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:

Ivy-May Ciezar Pitchard



Weddings

Please pray for those who are preparing for their wedding, including:

Suzanne Davies and Jonathan D'adamo



Prayers for the wars around the world

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

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.

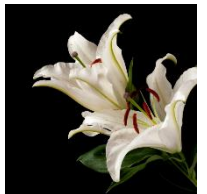
Ministry Area Prayer

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:

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 Easter Sunday (31st March 2024) 7am at Coychurch – Dawn Service with breakfast.



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.

May

Say no to the mower. Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space - sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8-16 June 2024) at caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churchescount-on-nature-faqs/.

June

Join #30DaysWild. One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at wildlifetrusts.org/30-dayswild

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

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 Roger

MA News – Lay Chair

As yet another month has disappeared in what seems to be the 'blink of an eye' we move ever nearer to our joyous Easter celebrations, and our service of farewell for Reverend Maggie.

It was in January 2020 that our eight diverse Bridgend churches combined to form the Ministry Area of Penybont ar Ogwr. Whatever our views on this were, and maybe still are, we owe, without doubt, the successful transition to the Reverend Maggie who, with the support of others, both clergy and lay members of the churches, was instrumental in establishing our remarkably successful Ministry Area. From the outset, she sought to overcome so many challenges, with, it must be said, determination, organisation and patience. We all, including me, have a love our own churches, but I really look forward to, enjoy and appreciate the joint services at St. Mary's Church, Nolton when we gather as a Ministry Area to share worship and fellowship. We therefore look forward to gathering together there for a 10am service on Easter Day, a very early March 31st, to send Reverend Maggie on her retirement journey. Following the service, refreshments will be served in Nolton Hall, that we might all have an opportunity to wish her peace, good health, happiness and many new experiences with Richard, the whole family and especially little Freya, her dear little granddaughter.

With thanks,
Jenny Morgan.
Lay Chair to the MA.



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:

~~January 4th~~, ~~February 1st~~, ~~March 7th~~, Apr. 11th, May 9th, June 13th,
July 11th, Aug. 8th, Sept. 12th, Oct. 10th, Nov. 14th, Dec. 12th.

St Teilo's Church Bluebell Festival Childrens and Young Person's Photography Competition

The Bluebell Festival at St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr is on **Saturday April 27th**. We are repeating our very successful photograph competition from last year. There will be prizes for the best Bluebell themed photograph. Here are 2 entries from last year:



Rules of the Competition:

All photographs should be no larger than 6" x 8" and should be 'bluebell themed' and printed out as hard copy.

There are 4 age groups: **5 – 10 years, 11-14 years, 15 - 18 years and 19+ years.**

All photographs should have the name, age, and contact details of photographer on the reverse and be clearly marked 'St Teilo's Bluebell Festival photograph competition.'

Judging will take place at 3pm on Sat. 27th April.

Entries can be handed in at the following times/places:

Placed in the marked box at St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr from 1st April onwards.

On 26th April in St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr from 3pm – 4pm.

On 27th April in St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr by 2pm.

If you wish to send photos to us, please contact us through our FB Page:

Merthyr Mawr, St Teilo's Church.

A Pen Portrait – Mark Broadway (incoming Ministry Area Leader)

It's a great joy for me to be returning to Bridgend to take up the Ministry Area Leader role in the Penybont ar Ogwr Ministry Area. I'm looking forward to all that Jesus has in store for me, and for us as his people.

Some in church will remember me from my time with the former parish of Coity with Nolton (2017-2020), or my association with Archdeacon John Lewis primary school, where both my children attend. I'm also connected to the town through the Princess of Wales Hospital, where I have served as an assistant chaplain for about four years.

Since leaving ministry in Bridgend in 2020, I have been serving Porthcawl as Associate Priest. During this time I have been looking after three churches and have planted a new congregation, 'Margam Calling'. I was fortunate enough whilst in Porthcawl to become an operational member of the Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat crew, and to have published my debut book, *Journeying With God in the Wilderness*, through IVP.

My passion is for building community. For my wife and I this begins at home. We hope to welcome you to join with us to pray, study, worship, and eat, as we 'do life' together as the Body of Christ.

With every blessing
Mark

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 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):

April 20th	Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmore Terrace, Bryncethin, CF32 9YF
May 18th	Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre, Mount Pleasant, CF31 4EF
June 15 th	Bryncethin Community Centre, Ogmore 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 with basic details of your item before the relevant Saturday or just turn up and take a chance!



**Saturday
April 27th**

Bluebell Festival St. Teilo's Church Merthyr Mawr

**Please join us to celebrate the beautiful
bluebells in our churchyard**

- Tea, coffee, and cake
- Prize Draw Bluebell Quiz
- Craft Stalls
- Children's activities
- Bluebell churchyard trail
- Children's and Young Person's photographic competition

All proceeds to Y Bont and St Teilo's Church

See Facebook page: Merthyr Mawr, St Teilo's for details of competition

**Time:
10am - 4pm**

Free Entry

Bridgend County Borough Council News

Council sets its budget for 2024-25

Bridgend County Borough Council has agreed a new budget for 2024-25 amid what the Leader, Cllr Huw David has described as being 'some of the biggest challenges that local government has ever faced'.

With a gross revenue budget of £520m, a net revenue budget of £359.7m, an additional capital investment budget of £110.5m and a council tax increase of 9.5 per cent, the total amount of savings that the council will need to find for the year will be just over £13m.

A planned reduction in school funding has decreased from a proposed 5 per cent to 3 per cent, and Cabinet has agreed that schools will receive additional money to help meet pay and price pressures which could reach as high as £5m, meaning an overall cash increase for the year.

Proposals for closing Bridgend bus station have been removed, and planned cuts to funding for street cleaning, recycling centres, community centres, play areas, support for children with additional needs, and support to help the third sector deal with hospital discharges have all been avoided.

With £103m to directly support schools with running costs, teacher and staff salaries and more, services provided by Education and Family Support will receive more than £30m of the budget. This will include £6.8m to provide essential support for learners, £3.8m for services which help local families and £3.87m for the school modernisation programme which is dedicated towards improving and enhancing educational facilities across the county borough.

As part of the £110.5m capital investment programme, the council will provide modern replacement premises for schools such as Heronsbridge (£23.2m), Mynydd Cynffig Primary (£9.2m) and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr (£10.1m). The capital investment programme includes £2.3m for classroom extensions at Pencoed and Coety primary schools.

It also includes £2.1m for enabling greater community use of school facilities, £1.5m for a new teaching block at Bryntirion Comprehensive, £1.1m for Welsh-medium childcare provision in Bridgend and Porthcawl, just over £1m for the ongoing rollout of the free school meals initiative, and more.

Social Services and Wellbeing will receive almost £105m to provide essential services for 2024-25. This will include £29.5m for services aimed at older people, £27.6m for children's social care, £25m for adults with learning disabilities and £5.8m for services which look after people's wellbeing, preserve their independence and prevent them from needing further support for as long as possible.

More than £5.9m will support adults with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, and £4.8m will be used for the management and provision of services aimed at adults. A further £5.3m will be directed towards helping adults who have mental health needs.

Capital investment into the directorate for the year will include £395,000 for Telecare services to support people at home and help keep them safe, and £108,000 for enhanced facilities at Ogmere Valley Life Centre.

The Communities directorate will receive more than £30m which will be used to provide services such as cleaner streets, recycling and waste services (£12.9m), highways and green spaces (£11.5m) and supporting the local economy and natural resources (£1.4m).

Communities will also benefit from a number of capital investments throughout the year, including £4.6m for the shared prosperity fund which supports community regeneration, £2.8m for the ongoing upgrade of children's playgrounds, and a £2.3m investment into fleet vehicles.

With £1m for a highways refurbishment programme, £521,000 will be invested into highways structural improvements, £400,000 for new street lighting columns and works to strengthen river bridges, and £250,000 for carriageway improvements.

Elsewhere, services covered under the Chief Executive's directorate will receive £22.4m including £3.48m for housing and homelessness and £5.7m for the council's legal, democratic and regulatory services, while £59m will be spent on council-wide budgets covering areas such as the council tax reduction scheme, discretionary rate relief, insurance budgets, pay and price increases and more.

Other significant capital investments for the year ahead include £10.6m for the ongoing redevelopment of Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion, and £1.7m for disabled facilities grants to help support people within their own homes. **cont...**

Bridgend County Borough Council News cont...



Council sets its budget for 2024-25 cont..

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Huw David said: “The national funding crisis which is affecting councils all across the UK has forced us to make some particularly tough decisions for 2024-25, and I think it is important for people to understand why we, and every other council, now find ourselves in this position.

“After the UK Government initiated national austerity measures in 2010, councils were forced to spend more than a decade trying to provide services using constantly shrinking resources. They achieved this through a mix of cutting budgets, increasing charges and council tax, dropping some non-statutory services altogether or developing new initiatives such as our Community Asset Transfer programme.

“Recent research from Cambridge Econometrics highlights how the situation worsened following Brexit in 2020, and that this in turn has led us directly into the current Cost Of Living crisis. The global pandemic also played its part in that we have seen massive increases in the numbers of people who are presenting as homeless or in need of social services’ support.

“Put all of these things together within such a short period of time, and you have a recipe for the funding crisis that we are now dealing with.

“In setting the budget for 2024-25, we have once again prioritised our most vulnerable residents and have taken great care to ensure that we can continue to provide vital services over the next 12 months, but I cannot emphasise enough just how difficult the situation is.

“Make no mistake, local government is in the grip of a national funding crisis, and some of the biggest challenges that councils have ever faced. Urgent action needs to be taken on a national scale to remedy this now, well before the next round of budget planning has to begin for 2025-26.”

Cllr Hywel Williams, Cabinet Member for Resources, added: “We have faced unprecedented pressures in setting this budget, and are grateful to everyone who took part in the consultation and scrutiny process which drew more than 2,839 responses and 40 cross-party recommendations.

“While we have incorporated as much of this feedback as possible, it is important to note that some suggestions were unworkable or did not deliver the required savings or revenue. As a result, not all of it could be used as it would have created an unbalanced budget, which we are legally required to avoid.

“In an ideal world, we would not have to cut budgets or increase council tax in order to sufficiently fund vital services such as social services and education. Unfortunately, this is the reality that we must face, and we cannot shy away now that difficult decisions have to be made.

“While local government funding continues to face a difficult and uncertain future, I want to reassure residents that Bridgend County Borough Council will continue to fight and advocate on your behalf, and to do everything within our power to find new and innovative ways of delivering essential services as we move into 2024-25 and beyond.”

Ministry Area Events

Date	Time	Church	Event
Thu 11 th April 2024	10:30am – 12:30pm	Merthyr Mawr	Craft and Chat
Thu 18 th April 2024	TBC	Laleston	St Patrick's Day Meal + Quiz
Thu 25 th April 2024	12:00pm	Pen-y-fai	Warm Welcome Lunch
Fri 26 th April 2024	9:00am – 11:00am	Brackla	Messy Coffee Morning Y4/5
Sat 27 th April 2024	10:00am – 4:00pm	Merthyr Mawr	Bluebell Festival
Thu 9 th May 2024	10:30am – 12:30pm	Merthyr Mawr	Craft and Chat
Wed 22 nd May 2024	7:00pm	Merthyr Mawr	LLC Meeting
Thu 30 th May 2024	12:00pm	Pen-y-fai	Warm Welcome Lunch
Fri 31 st May 2024	TBC	Pen-y-fai	Quiz + Meal at Pheasant

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](#)

[Penyfae](#)

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

