

BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE

JUNE 2017



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June 2017

IN THIS EDITION

- Parishes Letter
- Mission Area Appointments
- Mothers' Union Dementia Friends
- Prayer Diary
- Around the parishes
- Plus all the usual features

Gwernaffield Church 82 Club Reunion

2017 is the 35th anniversary of the founding of the 82 Club and the 30th anniversary of the first of three 82 Club canal holidays.

A re-union evening for former members and leaders will be held on 14th October 2017 at 7.00p.m. in Gwernaffield Church Hall.

We are attempting to contact as many former members as possible.

If you would like to attend please contact John Thelwell
01352 750962 or at john.thelwell@btinternet.com

LETTERS:

If you wish to submit a letter for publication please use the contact details above. All letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. Letters may be edited and shortened.

The magazine panel welcomes the submission of relevant articles for consideration for publication.

email to brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com

THE PARISHES LETTER...Rev Carole Poolman

An Easter Reflection



“When it was evening and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’”

John 20:19

How often have you heard or read those words? Each Easter we remember the time when the disciples were afraid and Jesus came to them with the message of peace.

Each Easter we accept the message as a sign of the reality of the Risen power of Christ. It happened ... the Disciples knew the Saviour’s presence in the midst of their fear, but that wasn’t the end of the story.

Fear can be debilitating, no matter what we are afraid of! The future? Physical pain? The loss of some-one we love? Harsh words? Making a fool of ourselves? Feeling inadequate? The list is endless – but the presence of Christ is not.

This month we will come to the end of the Easter Season. The Ascension (when Jesus ascends to the Father) and Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit fills the church with his presence) lead us rather dramatically into “Ordinary Time”. However, those celebrations also highlight the fact that for those who believe in the Risen Christ, the blessings of Easter-time never end and our relationship with our Saviour is constant.

That visit, on Easter Day to his disciples when they were afraid, was only the first of hundreds of thousands of similar visits to hundreds of thousands of ordinary people over the centuries. For whenever our fear takes over, and all we want to do is to lock ourselves away, (physically, mentally or emotionally) then our Lord comes, (repeatedly if necessary) and says to us *“Peace be with you”*.

We may find it hard to believe – the disciples did – but if we accept his presence then PEACE,

“Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half hearted peace,
but the PEACE
of the Lord Jesus Christ
is with us”

The fear may remain, but it no longer has the power
to paralyse.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Carole Poolman

Mold Mission Area Leader



WORSHIP in JUNE 2017

Sunday 4th June

Pentecost

**Licensing of Daniel Stroud, St Mary's Church, Cilcain,
3.30 pm with refreshments at Capel Gad afterwards**

Wednesday 7th June

Group Mission Area Service

Cilcain, St Mary's

10.30 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 11th June

Trinity Sunday

Cilcain

8.00 Holy Communion

Gwernaffield

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Evening Prayer

Llanferres

9.30 Morning Worship

Nannerch

9.30 Family Service

Rhydymwyn

9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 18th June

First Sunday after Trinity

Cilcain

11.00 Morning Worship

Gwernaffield

11.00 Holy Communion

**16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church
Hall**

Llanferres

9.30 Holy Communion

Nannerch

9.30 Morning Worship

Rhydymwyn

9.30 Morning Worship

Sunday 25th June

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Second Sunday after Trinity

11.00 Holy Communion

9.30 Family Praise (in Church Hall)

18.00 Evening Worship

9.30 Morning Worship

9.30 Family Service

10.30 Family Service

Mid week Services

Tuesdays at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

9.30 a.m.

Wednesdays at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain

10.30 a.m.

Treasurers Wanted!

Elsewhere in this issue there is a plea from Holy Trinity Church, Gwernaffield, for a Treasurer. It is important to the life of a church that their finances are kept in order; the person who fills the post does not need to be a member of that church, but they will be co-opted onto the church committee.

We also need a Bro Famau Group Treasurer to replace Melanie Langton - Davies, to whom we are extremely grateful for doing it over the last few years, but is increasingly busy with her accountancy practice.

This Treasurer looks after the Bro Famau account which serves the common interests of our five churches. It is not as busy as a church account, but has a critical function in Bro Famau life. We would be grateful for any competent person, whether a member of any of the churches or not, to do it.

If you are interested in knowing more about either of these roles, please could you contact a churchwarden (details on the magazine back cover) or Revd Carole Poolman.

IS THERE A GOD?

I think you would say, yes of course there is, otherwise there would be no point in coming to church. But what or who is God? I once asked a hippy friend who she prayed to, and she said, ‘ Sometimes God, sometimes Osiris.’ Osiris was an Egyptian pagan god, and obviously I rejected that part of her divine image. But in order to respond sensibly to such mistaken ideas, we should be clear about our own image.

The Christian idea of God is a Trinity of Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, separate but one. There is the first difficulty - how can they be three Persons but one God? Trinity Sunday is coming up, on 11th June this year (It falls on the Sunday after Pentecost, which is fifty days after Easter, so it moves each year.) On Trinity Sunday preachers are charged with the traditionally difficult task of explaining the Holy and Blessed Trinity. There are various devices that can be employed; one is St Patrick’s explanation that it is like a clover, with three leaves on one stem; another is the invaluable illustration made by Andre Rublev of three beings sitting round a table which depicts the story of three men coming to Abraham’s camp by the oaks of Mamre. (Genesis 18: 1-15)

The possible problem with these images is that we might think of the Holy Trinity as three beings each with a different job to do in keeping things going. When I worked for Unilever, right at the top of everything there was a group of three people called the Special Committee. Those at my level could not imagine with what mighty tasks they spent their days, but we just knew they controlled the whole business. Is that the way we view the Holy Trinity?

Perhaps we should change the heading to, ‘ Is there a God or Three?’ It is a charge some of other faiths make about Christians, that we worship more than one god. In a connected way, something that used to concern me is that in the Old Testament, we read ‘Lord’ as meaning God the Father, whereas in the New Testament, ‘Lord’ means Jesus. When we pray saying ‘Lord’ whom are we addressing?

When we think about this matter we are inevitably constrained by our human understanding. What happens in the divine sphere is outside our experience, and there is an example from the world of physics.

The electron, a tiny sub-atomic entity, was discovered by J J Thomson in 1896, as a particle. In 1926 Erwin Schrodinger discovered that it also sometimes behaved as a wave (like radio waves, microwaves etc.) Scientific

people of the time were very disturbed, because in their experience things had to be one or the other, it should not be possible to change form according to the circumstances. To make joke out of it a saying went round, God runs the electron as a wave on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the Devil runs it as a particle on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, on Sunday it has the day off.

However, they had to accept the evidence of both scientists and broaden their minds to accept that electrons could be understood as both waves and particles.

We have to broaden our minds and say that exactly what God is may be beyond our present understanding.

Each of us probably has our own comprehension of what Father Son and Holy Spirit is, and it would be fascinating to explore what these are, and what different concepts exist in people's minds. They must be formed largely from what we read in the Bible, and particularly the gospels, which are accounts of the ministry of Jesus. There are Christian sects that deny there is a Trinity, and while this term does not appear in the Scriptures (It was invented as a Latin term, *Trinitas*, in Roman Christian times) the phrase Father, Son and Holy Spirit appears in Matthew 28: 19. We therefore need to accept their presence in the divine sphere, and out of our curiosity want to explain their relationship: our shorthand term for the three is the Holy Trinity.

The most revealing of the gospels about the nature of Jesus to my thinking is that of St. John. John was chosen and followed Jesus as a disciple, saw what he did and experienced the miraculous event of the Resurrection while he was still quite a young man. He went out as an apostle, evangelising, baptising and lived on until old age. If, as many scholars believe, he was the author of the Book of the Revelation to St John, he also received visions of divine mysteries. Towards the end of his life, possibly at Ephesus, having read the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, he was dissatisfied that they did not portray Jesus in his true light, so he wrote his own. It is agreed by scholars that it was written close to the end of the first century AD.

I believe the key passage to the purpose of St John's gospel is 14: 7-14. Jesus tells his disciples they know the Father and have seen him. Philip questions this and Jesus firmly says that in seeing him they have seen the Father, ending his statement with, 'Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;'

He recognises that it might be outside their comprehension (and ours!) and offers an alternative proof: ‘ but if you do not (believe me) then believe me because of the works themselves.’

These are the ‘seven signs’, miracles performed by Jesus and related by John as the alternative proof of Jesus’ divinity.

They are: the wedding at Cana in Galilee (2: 1-11), healing the royal official’s son (4: 46-54), healing the paralysed man (5: 1-18), feeding the five thousand (6: 1-14), walking on water (6: 16-21), healing the blind man (9: 1-12) and finally raising Lazarus (11: 1-44.)

This is the alternative narrative that shows Jesus is divine; the more basic one pointing towards the same conclusion is throughout the gospel; while he was in the world, sent by but in communion with God he was the Son, but ascended he is God.

It starts in the beginning of the book with the resounding passage we read at Christmas, John 1: 1-14. This places Jesus at the Creation and is modelled on the first words in the Bible in the book of Genesis. Jesus is the Word, and at the end of the first verse it states ‘ the Word was God.’

There are indications throughout his gospel, other than the signs, pointing to his sameness with God. For example in John 2: 19 he says, ‘ Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.’ (referring to his body as a temple)

In John 8: 58 Jesus says, ‘ Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.’ I AM is what God told Moses is his name in Exodus 3: 14.

There are many other passages, referring to his time on earth, when he is called the Son of God, or the Son of Man as though by descending he has taken a step down. This is the only way I can explain it with my poor human mind - you must decide for yourself.

God has made us curious, and this is what enables our minds to be lifted towards his, and our being above that of animals. But we cannot know it all at once (John 16:12) So we should be at peace with what we do understand about the Holy and Blessed Trinity and leave the rest for a more enlightened day.

John Foxlee

Letter from Ysgol Nannerch

Ysgol Nannerch has had strong links with St. Michael and All Angels Church for many years. Incumbents have always come into school to meet children and take assemblies. David Wright currently comes into school once a week to lead the Act of Worship, and has done so for many years. For several years Mothers' Union members have come into school and made posies for Mothering Sunday, Palm crosses for Palm Sunday and Christingles for the Christingle service. Gradually our links have expanded and strengthened.

For 5 years now, Mothers' Union and the School staff have worked with the children in Croeso Pawb sessions each half term. Each session has a biblical theme. The children really enjoy the story telling and craft activities. There is a lovely response when we meet with the parents at the closing service with refreshments in church at the end of the sessions.

These links have meant that many children from Ysgol Nannerch are involved in St Michael's Sunday Family Service. This service was started by Canon Basil Tuffield in the interregnum 14 years ago. Rev. Brian Harvey enthusiastically carried the service on and in the next interregnum it was continued to the present date by Ken Benison and David Wright. It is always a joy to see so many families attend church for this service with the children contacting David beforehand to volunteer to read and lead prayers. They are very enthusiastic!

We (the School and Mothers' Union) aim to celebrate Pentecost this year with an interactive, multi - sensory experience in church to engage the children imaginatively with the events surrounding the festival.

We are very grateful that forging these important links and reinforcing the children's knowledge and faith is only possible because the school community is so supportive. We promote and strengthen the Christian ethic in school. Thanks too, for the continuing help and funding of Mothers' Union.

Jennie Downes
Headteacher

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

The late Bill Barker of Nannerch, service at St Asaph Crematorium with burial of ashes in St Michael's churchyard on 5th May.

The late Aneurin Hughes of Nannerch on 11th May, service in St Michael's church with cremation at Pentrebychan.

The late John Williams of Mold, formerly of Cilcain on 15th May, service in St Mary's church with burial in Cilcain cemetery.

'Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest, and let light perpetual shine upon them'

The Bro Famau Parishes Magazine is produced by the Editorial Team: Tracy Davies, John Foxlee, Charlotte Jaggard, Kathleen Mason, Liz Thomas, Lindsay Wilding.

Please contact team members individually in parishes.

Articles printed in this publication may not represent the views of the church or all of its members. Final date for receiving material is 15th of each month at 12 noon. The right is reserved to edit submissions and the editorial team's decision about the content of the magazine is final.



St RICHARD of CHICHESTER

St Richard of Chichester, who lived from 1197 to 1253, is patron saint of the English county of Sussex.

In 1244 Richard was elected Bishop of Chichester but King Henry III wanted someone else as bishop and he ordered that no one should feed or house Richard. So Richard lived with a friend who was a parish priest and visited his entire diocese on foot for two years until the king relented.

Richard is widely remembered today for the prayer he is supposed to have said as he was dying. The prayer was adapted for the song 'Day by Day' in the musical Godspell and it is in this form that most people know it today:

Day by day,
Dear Lord, of thee
three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly,
Day by Day.

SOUNDS STRANGE

There are still quite a few people called Richard today but some saints' names sound very strange to our modern ears - how many of these names are saint's names and how many of them are something else all together? Answers at the bottom of the page.

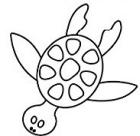
1. Wenceslas
2. Mesrop
3. Blaise
4. Porphyry
5. Waudru
6. Methodius
7. Attracta
8. Sebbi
9. Fiacre
10. Budoc



What do you call a man with a map on his head?

Miles.

What do you call a woman with a tortoise on her head?



Shelley.

What do you call a man checking your homework?

Mark.

What do you call a Vicar on a moped?

Rev.

Answer: all of them are saints listed in the Penguin Dictionary of Saints – honestly.

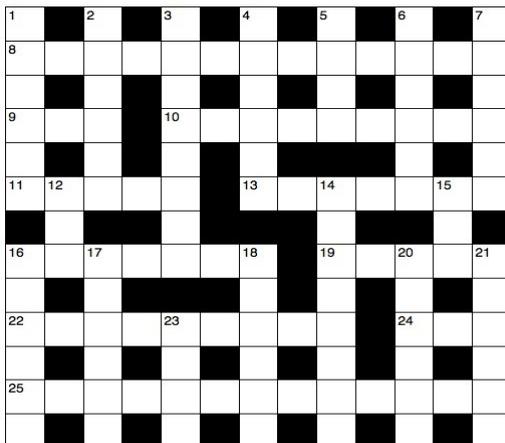
PRAYER DIARY for June 2017

ON THESE DAYS OF THIS MONTH LET US GIVE THANKS AND PRAY FOR.....

- 1 St Justin, martyr AD165
- 2 Those taking part in services in ‘ Thy Kingdom Come,’
prayer cycle
- 3 Cilcain Church Community Cafe
- 4 The Day of Pentecost; installation of Revd Daniel Stroud
at St Mary’s Cilcain
- 5 St Boniface, bishop, missionary & martyr AD754
- 6 Collection for North-West Cancer Research this week
- 7 Mission Area Morning Prayer St Mary’s Cilcain
- 8 General Election candidates and a free and fair poll to-
day
- 9 Concert in St Mary’s Mold this evening in aid of RNLI
- 10 Ember Day
- 11 The Holy and Blessed Trinity
- 12 Teachers, schoolchildren and parents in our Bro Famau
- 13 Midweek Communion at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield this
morning
- 14 St Barnabas, apostle

- 15 Thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)
- 16 St Richard of Chichester, bishop (AD1253)
- 17 Exploring your faith journey, a diocesan event in Chirk church this morning
- 18 Messy Church in Gwernaffield church hall this afternoon
- 19 Those experiencing loneliness in our Bro Famau
- 20 Sts. Alban (AD250) Julius & Aaron (AD304-5), martyrs
- 21 The summer solstice, the longest daylight hours
- 22 Those within our Bro Famau who are having difficulty making ends meet
- 23 Those within our Bro Famau suffering from hay fever
- 24 Nativity of St John the Baptist
- 25 The new Family Service in St John's Rhydymwyn this morning
- 26 People with disabilities in our Bro Famau
- 27 Gwernaffield Mothers' Union this evening
- 28 Cilcain Show Committee meeting this evening
- 29 Sts Peter & Paul, apostles & martyrs
- 30 Rhydymwyn Kids Club

CROSSWORD



The Bible version used in our crossword is the NIV.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in 'Three Down, Nine Across.' by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)

Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)

9 In favour of (3)

10 'The child's father and mother — at what was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)

3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)

4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)

5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)

6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)

7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)

12 Ate (anag.) (3)

14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)

15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)

16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)

17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)

18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)

20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)

21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)

23 Diva (anag.) (4)

AROUND THE PARISHES

CILCAIN

Congregational Meeting

At the Congregational Meeting held on 26th April, the following people were elected as officers. John Prior Egerton and Amanda Griffiths agreed to continue as Church Wardens. Amanda Griffiths and Kathleen Mason are the Mission Area Representatives, with Anne Prior Egerton as Reserve.

Mike Simkins is to continue as Lay Chairman and John Prior Egerton as Secretary. Melanie Langton Davies stood down as Treasurer and Lisa Worthington Jones agreed to take on this position and was duly elected. John Prior Egerton was nominated to stand as Mission Area Warden, and was elected to this position at the Mission Area Vestry meeting at Christ Church Pontblyddyn.

Cilcain Community Café

Cilcain Church will be running the Community Café in the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June 2.0 pm to 5.0 pm. Come & join us for Tea, Coffee & Cakes & a friendly chat.

Daniel Owen Centre

We will also be holding a Coffee Morning at the Daniel Owen Centre in Mold on Saturday July 8th. Donations of raffle prizes, cakes, biscuits and unwanted gifts would be appreciated. Contact Amanda Griffiths

GWERNAFFIELD

Mothers' Union

The speaker at the April Meeting was Rev Carol Poolman who gave a very interesting and informative talk on the Mission Area. At the May Meeting, which will be held on 30th May, our speaker will be Capt Mark Padely who will talk about the Mission Aviation Fellowship - Flying for Life. On 28th June, a special service will be held at 2pm in St Asaph Cathedral to celebrate 125 years of the Mothers' Union in St Asaph Diocese. New members are always welcome – we meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Church Hall. Please telephone Mrs Gaynor Morgan (secretary) on 01352 741515 for more information.

Scone and Scrabble Evening

The recent Scrabble and Scones Evening raised a wonderful £102.00 - thank you to all who supported and donated to this event

Strawberry Tea and Car Boot Sale

We will be holding another car boot sale and strawberry tea on 1st July in the Church hall and field from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Tickets will be £3.50 for the strawberry tea and £5.00 for anybody wishing to book a car space. There will also be a bigger raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Please contact Carole for further details and tickets – 01352 740550

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

We are holding a coffee morning and raffle to raise funds for Christian Aid Week. This is going to be held at Gwernaffield Church Hall at 9.30am-12.30pm on Friday 19th May next. All are welcome

Church Tidy

Thank you to the nine volunteers and to young Tomas who turned out on Holy Saturday to do a splendid job of tidying the church yard. We were able to tackle the far end of the area and attack the moss on the back paths. Thanks too to Pat for the welcome refreshments.

Mold Mission Area

For information, a chart outlining the structure of the “Mold Mission Area” has been placed on the two church noticeboards (rear of the church and porch)

Would ALL members of the congregation please read COVENANT for Mold Mission Area and feedback any comments (in writing please) to the Churchwardens or Carol Bradley before Sunday 28th May next. Copies can be found either on the noticeboard or in the Resource Room

Church Diary

A Church Diary has now been placed in the Vicar's Vestry. To avoid double-booking (in particular when arranging Weddings/Funerals etc), would anyone wishing to use the Church Monday through to Saturday, please make an entry in the Diary or else advise Churchwardens. Thank You.

New Treasurer Wanted!

As most of you will be aware our Treasurer, Shirley Hughes, has stepped down from her post and we urgently and immediately need a new Treasurer. If you know of any-one with a book-keeping or financial background and who you think might consider filling this very important position, would you please let either Peter or Kath (Church-Wardens) or Carol Bradley (lay-chair) know. Meantime, we would like to express our grateful thanks to Mr. David Smith whose help and guidance in this matter has been invaluable

Butterfly Garden

Our Meadow/Butterfly Garden, which provides a wonderful array of colour during the Spring/Summer months, has been carefully tended over a number of years by Betty Lee, and we thank her most sincerely for all her hard work in keeping this lovely area of our Church-yard so well cared for. However, she would now appreciate a little help from time to time with weeding etc. If any-one is able to spare an hour or so to assist Betty, she would be most grateful. Her telephone number is 01244 550993

LLANFERRES

Trees in the Churchyard

Over the last few months there have been several instances of trees in the churchyard being lopped or cut back. If there is a problem with a tree in the church yard could you please approach a member of the church committee rather than take independent action. In most instances the church groundsman will undertake the work promptly on a free of charge basis. Thank you.

Flintshire Foodbank

Anyone who wants to donate items to the Foodbank can leave them in the donation box at the back of church.

Open Church

The church is once again open daily during daylight hours for all who want to visit our beautiful church or come for a quiet moment of reflection. Please also join us for our regular service on Sundays at 9.30am.

NANNERCH

Mothers' Union

The date of next MU is June 20th. The MU deanery festival was held on Wednesday 17th May at St Davids Connahs Quay. Marion Watts as President of the Deanery gave a very good address highlighting all the good work MU does both globally and locally in our own Deanery, drawing attention to our faith in action in supporting marriage and family life. Marion had clearly carried out extensive research and worked so hard in writing an address that I am sure not only made people stop and think about all that MU does but also to motivate us to continue in carrying out our mission in the community.

RHYDYMWYN

Charity Shop.

We are taking over the Charity Shop in Holywell once again for 2 weeks from 16th July. The proceeds raised will go to the reordering fund. If anyone has any donations for the shop, eg. clothes, bric a brac, then please leave them at the back of the church, which is open daily. Thank you.

Mothers' Union become Dementia Friends

Dementia is a devastating disease and one we are told in the news, is set to be a major killer in the 21st century. The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about the condition.

Dementia Friends tackles the stigma and lack of understanding that means many people with the condition experience loneliness and social exclusion. With this in mind we invited Caroline, a local Dementia Champion to talk to us in our April meeting.

A Dementia Friends Champion is a volunteer who encourages others to make a positive difference to people living with dementia in their community. They do this by giving them information about the personal impact of dementia, and what they can do to help.

It was such an informative and eye-opening session, listening to Caroline tell stories and taking part in activities to help deepen our understanding of how this disease affects those it strikes..

After her session we were invited to make a pledge as part of our responsibility as newly appointed Dementia Friends, from telling friends about Dementia Friends to visiting someone we know living with dementia.

I pledged to wear my badge and tell others about the initiative and I hope by writing this short piece for our church communities, that I have done just that.

Thank you Cath Yeardeley



The Mission Area Conference met on Wednesday 17th May.

*The following appointments were made
for the year 2017/18*

Mrs Judith Johnson – MA Secretary
Mrs Mavis Bartlett – MA Treasurer
Mrs Susan Hellen – MA Gift Aid Secretary

Appointed to The Executive Committee

Revd Carole M Poolman (Mission Area Leader)
Revd Dr Rich J Hainsworth
Revd Kevin Horswell
Revd Daniel Stroud
Melanie Morgan (MA Warden)
John Prior-Egerton (MA Warden)
Judith Johnson (Secretary)
Mavis Bartlett (Treasurer)
Emily Clarke-Jones (Development Officer)
John Foxlee
Kathy Stewart
Valerie Salvoni
Ken Massey
Sue Sawyer (Standing Committee Rep)
Amanda Griffiths

Co-opted onto the MA Conference

Mr Dominic Cawdell (under 25 Representative)
Dr Emily Clarke-Jones (Development Officer)
Miss Jess Carr (Children's Chaplain)

ACROSS: 8, Grandchildren, 9, Pro, 10, Marvelled, 11, Strut, 13, Startle, 16, Babysit, 19, Orate, 22, Eucharist, 24, Map, 25, Commissioners.
DOWN: 1, Egypt's, 2, Favour, 3, Edomites, 4, Thorns, 5, Blue, 6, Armlet, 7, On edge, 12, Tea, 14, Adoption, 15, Lot, 16, Breach, 17, Become, 18, This So, 20, Armes, 21, Expose, 23, Avid.

SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS PREVIEWED

Please use these introductions to prepare for worship. If you are a reader at home who is unable to come to church, you might like to use these pages, with your Bible, to join the congregation on a Sunday in the reading of the same passages.

Sunday 4th June - Pentecost - service of installation of Revd Daniel Stroud at St Mary's Cilcain

Acts 2: 1-21 In Jerusalem, many pilgrims had come for the great Pentecost Harvest Festival. As Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit of God came upon the gathered company of disciples with great power. They found themselves impelled to proclaim the resurrection gospel to everyone who would listen.

Or,

Numbers 11: 24-30 When Moses could no longer carry the burden of leadership alone, the gift of the Spirit was granted to seventy of the Israelite elders, to share god's work on the journey to the Promised Land. Even those not present at this event received an equal measure of the Spirit's inspiration.

1 Corinthians 12: 3-13 Paul explains something of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives: he is active everywhere, inspiring different gifts in different people. All should work together in the unity of the Church which is now Christ's body on earth.

John 20: 19-23 John's gospel is unique in speaking of the gift of the Holy Spirit before the events of Pentecost. Here, Jesus appears to his friends in a locked room on the evening of the first Easter. He gives them his peace, a breath of the Holy Spirit and a commission to pronounce forgiveness of sins.

Or

John 7: 37-39 The Holy Spirit is compared by Jesus to the life-giving water he said could be found in him. When he has been glorified, his Spirit will be freely given to all believers.

Sunday 11th June - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40: 12-17, 27-31 The prophet reminds us that we cannot expect fully to understand the mystery which lies at the heart of God. The Israelite's faith was shaken by their enforced exile to Babylon, but here is assurance that at the heart of God is self-giving love; he does not grow faint or weary, and all who trust in him will find their strength renewed.

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Paul ends this letter with the full form of his customary blessing. These simple trinitarian words, of grace, love and communion have been familiar in every church in every century.

Matthew 28: 16-20 Matthew ends his gospel with the promise that Christ is always with us. The disciples are commissioned to carry Christ's own redeeming love, to make new disciples, and baptise them as the Church has done ever since, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Sunday 18th June - First after Trinity

Exodus 19: 2-8 The people of Israel, journeying towards their Promised Land, have reached Mount Sinai. Moses has just appointed men to share the task God gave him, as we will hear Jesus do. This passage is a summary of the commissioning from God of those Israelite elders.

Romans 5: 1-8 Paul has been explaining how it was Abraham's faith, not his actions, that set him right with God.

The Christian faith similarly brings us peace, hope, grace and joy in our union with Jesus. Amazingly, Jesus has died for the sake of sinful people.

Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8 [9-23] There are too many people demanding to hear Jesus, and to be healed by him. So he commissions twelve others to share this labour, to work in his name with authority and power, bringing in the kingdom.

Sunday 25th June - Second after Trinity

Jeremiah 20: 7-13 Jeremiah has been subjected to punishment for preaching what he felt compelled to say. So he complains to God who forced him into the situation, while still affirming his trust. Jesus will tell his chosen twelve that the disciples' task will not make them popular.

Romans 6: 1-11 Because Jesus came and died, Paul has written, our faith brings God's grace to us. We receive that grace first in our baptism, then by a life in which all sin is conquered - a new quality of life, in Christ and with him.

Matthew 10: 24-39 Jesus is speaking to the twelve he has chosen to work closely with him. Matthew here puts together here several rather contradictory sayings of Jesus about the difficulties of apostolic vocation, alongside its delights. So we hear both warning and encouragement for our own discipleship.

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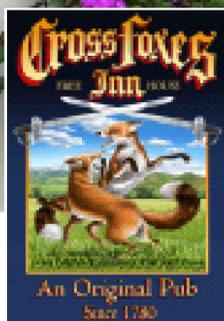
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