

# **BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE**

**MARCH 2017**



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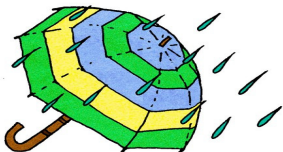
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March 2017

## IN THIS EDITION

- Parishes Letter Rev Carole Poolman
- Rehabilitation of Shepherds!
- Prayer Diary
- Around the parishes
- Plus all the usual features

### **Revd Philip Bettinson**

Our former curate, who has been working as a Pioneer Priest from St Giles Church Wrexham has been appointed to the living at Rhosllanerchrugog & Penycae in the Offa Mission Area. He will be installed by Bishop Gregory at St. David's Church Rhosllanerchrugog at 7pm on Monday 3rd April. We wish Phil and Megan every happiness in their new ministry.

#### **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](mailto:brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com)

## THE PARISHES LETTER...Rev Carole Poolman

To All in the Bro Famau Group of Churches.

Firstly, I'd like to say a huge "thank you" to all of you for your warm welcome as I've stepped in to take responsibility for your parishes during the vacancy. It is always a pleasure to visit any of the Bro Famau Churches and I am impressed by how willingly you are coping in a time of extreme change. I am aware that, of all the Churches in the Mission Area, you are facing the greatest change. As we know The Rev'd Daniel Stroud has been appointed (subject to visa) to the Mold Mission Area Team, his arrival will bring us back to full strength, a team of 4 Clergy to minister throughout our Mission Area. Rev'd Dan will be "rooted" in Bro Famau. However, we still don't have a date for his arrival or his induction so things may feel a little uncertain. We will let you all know as soon as we have any news with regard to this.

In the meantime, there are lots of other changes to think through. You will be aware of the fact that, the 10 Parishes (12 churches) in the Mold Mission Area became one parish in January, this change in our structure means that our "Vestry Meetings" will be a little different this year!

From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 the Mission Area Conference (The old Deanery Conference) has taken on the powers of the old P.C.C., this means our Annual Meetings must be adapted accordingly. During the next couple of months, you will see that in each of our churches, arrangements will be made for a "Congregational Meeting". This will replace the local "Vestry" meeting, although it will still do many of the same things.

At the Congregational Meeting, each church will nominate up to 2 Mission Area Conference Representatives, and (in order to ensure that we are always properly represented at the Mission Area Conference) at least one Substitute Mission Area Rep. We will also nominate up to 2 Church Wardens, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Lay Chairperson, our Church Council members, and our Sides-people. We will look at our Accounts and say whether we are happy with them.

Then, those decisions will be sent to Dr Emily Clarke-Jones (Mission Area Development Officer) who will ensure that our nominations go

forward to the Mission Area Vestry Meeting which will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Pontblyddyn. At that Vestry Meeting nominations for local positions will be discussed and ratified.

At the Mission Area Vestry Meeting we will also hear who has been appointed as the Mission Area Leaders’ “Mission Area Warden” and we will elect a Peoples’ “Mission Area Warden”. Any one, on any of the church Electoral Rolls, will be able to nominate some-one for the role of Mission Area Warden. This will be a very different role from that of a Church Warden and so an explanation of the role will be made available soon. If, throughout the whole Mission Area, more than one person is nominated for that role, an election will take place.

Please note that **no-one should be nominated for any role without their signed permission**. If anyone has questions about this, or wishes to speak to me for any reason, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. My contact details are on the back of this magazine

In the midst of all of this change it is good to remember the words of Jesus, speaking to his disciples just before his death, he said “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not let them be afraid”. Change can be unsettling, but we are God’s Church, God’s people, and as long as we listen to him and follow his guidance; his strength, courage and peace will never be far away.

Yours in Christ.  
Rev Carole Poolman  
Mold Mission Area Leader

**Congregational Meetings**

Llanferres	Saturday 18th March	10.00 am
Cilcain	Wednesday 22nd March	7.30 pm
Gwernaffield	Wednesday 29th March	7.00 pm
Nannerch	Tuesday 4th April	7.00 pm
Rhydymwyn	Tuesday 25th April	2.00 pm

# **WORSHIP in MARCH 2017**

## **Wednesday 1st March**

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

10.30 Holy Communion

with Imposition of Ashes

19.00 Holy Communion

## **Sunday 5th March**

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

## **1st Sunday of Lent**

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Holy Communion (Healing Service)

9.30 Morning Worship

9.30 Holy Communion

9.30 Morning Worship

## **Wednesday 8th March**

## **Mission Area Eucharist 19.30 Northop**

## **Sunday 12th March**

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

## **2nd Sunday of Lent**

8.00 Holy Communion

11.00 Morning Worship

18.00 Evening Prayer

9.30 Morning Worship

9.30 Family Service

9.30 Holy Communion

## **Sunday 19th March**

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

## **3rd Sunday of Lent**

11.00 Morning Worship

11.00 Holy Communion

## **16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall**

9.30 Holy Communion

9.30 Morning Worship

9.30 Morning Worship

**Sunday 26th March**

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Rhydymwyn

Mid week Services

**4th Sunday of Lent  
Mothering Sunday**

11.00 Holy Communion

9.30 Family Praise (in Church Hall)

18.00 Evening Worship

9.30 Morning Worship

9.30 Morning Worship

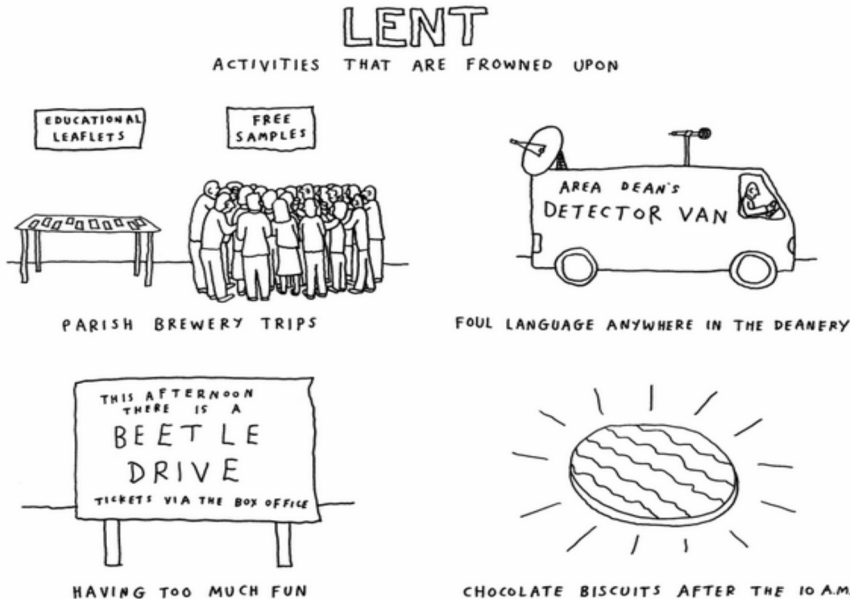
9.30 Morning Worship

**Tuesdays** at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

9.30 a.m.

**Wednesdays** at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain

10.30 a.m.



CartoonChurch.com

## **REHABILITATION OF SHEPHERDS**

At this time of the year the shepherds in our community are anticipating their busiest time, when the new lambs are born and they very often have to stay up all night to see things go well. I have always had great admiration for their work, partly because I am glad that they are doing it rather than me. I like to see young lambs skipping about the fields, but it must give even more satisfaction to welcome them newly-born into the world.

Shepherds have not always been held in such high regard as they are now. In the Bible, respect for them fluctuates a lot. One of the earliest was Moses, who looked after his father-in-law's flock ( Exodus 3:1.) Later there was David ( 1 Samuel 17:15 ) These two were high in status, especially later on in their lives, but let us note that when they tended sheep it was under pressure of circumstances, Moses because he was a fugitive, and David because he was the youngest son of Jesse.

Later on still Amos, who was called by God to be a prophet, was a poor man who had another job as well as shepherd ( Amos 7:14.) When he prophesied to the king's court he was told by Amaziah the priest to go and earn his bread somewhere else- in effect ' We don't want your sort here.'

By the time of Jesus, shepherds were not only poor, but reviled. The Mishnah, a Jewish book of interpretation of the law, said you were not obliged to help a shepherd out if he fell into a pit, and advised buying anything from a shepherd because it was probably stolen. Shepherds were not allowed to give evidence in a Jewish court because their word was not trusted. Perhaps it was because they were seen as shiftless, rootless individuals.

These were the lowest of the low who were invited to be the first to welcome the baby Jesus into the world, perhaps symbolic of their role in welcoming lambs, but certainly as representatives of the poor.

God had been compared to a shepherd in psalm 23, and this is said to have been met with amazement by rabbis. Jesus took up this

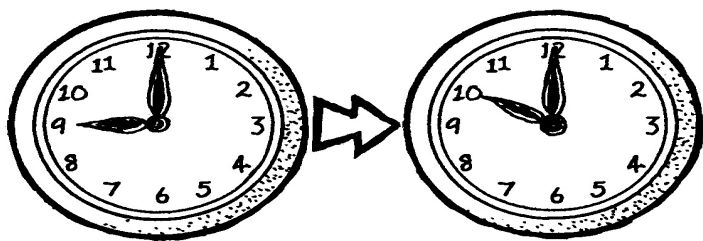


theme and called himself a shepherd. I have often wondered when I have been preparing sermons, whether the comparison of his people with sheep in Jesus’ preaching is going to be accepted kindly by those I am preaching to, because they know a lot about the waywardness of sheep. Comparing himself to a shepherd must have taken his audience by surprise and even astonished them.

Jesus turned many previously-held concepts on their head in the course of his ministry, and this was one of them. The Good Shepherd is a term forever associated with Jesus and by extension those who follow him and take responsibility for his flock.

The shepherd’s crook has been turned into the symbol of a bishop, albeit in an ornate form and the concept has been extended to others who have care of people; many years ago I was present when the US president of a large chemical company presented a silver crosier ( note the elevation of language! ) to his UK counterpart. Thus the lowly, feckless shepherd has been transformed into a caring, responsible person who can be relied upon. This is another miracle brought about by Jesus, our Lord and Master and Shepherd of his sheep.

John Foxlee



Clocks go forward  
26th March

ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Decm. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Na-hor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, En-lighthened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arit. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funeral

on 10th February the late Arthur Ernest English of  
"Isfryn", Cilcain in St Mary's Cilcain and cremation at St Asaph

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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ADVISING ON DEBT

One of our mission area objectives is to help Flintshire Debt Advice Service by supplying volunteers to give advice for a few hours a week in their premises in Wrexham Street, Mold.

People in debt suffer misery, and it often leads to problems such as going without proper food and housing, getting deeper into debt by injudicious borrowing and damaged personal relationships.

If there is a will to do it, it can be put right by a little sensible advice and intervention; debtors must commit to a full confidential disclosure of their circumstances. Volunteers are fully trained and working within a Christian environment, investigate the individual's debts, income and expenditure, negotiate with the creditors, and draw up a plan to eliminate the debt. A very high proportion of those who enter such plans are successful.

Volunteers need to have sympathy for people in these circumstances, have time to offer for the work and training, manage simple finance, and be emotionally stable since clients are often upset, especially in early interviews.

If you want to explore the possibility of being a volunteer, please contact John Foxlee, [johnfoxlee@outlook.com](mailto:johnfoxlee@outlook.com) or telephone 01352 810677.

**PROPOSED SERVICES FOR  
HOLY WEEK and EASTER 2017**

**Monday 10th April , Tuesday 11th April & Wednesday 12th April**

**at each church**

**Compline (Night Prayer, preceded by short meditation and quiet reflection)**

**Cilcain at 19.00**

**Gwernaffield at 19.30**

**Llanferres at 20.30**

**Nannerch at 19.00**

**Rhydymwyn at 19.00**

**Maundy Thursday 13th April**

The Annual Chrism Eucharist and Renewal of Ministerial Vows  
at the Cathedral at 11.00 am

St Mary's Mold including washing of feet 7.00 pm

**Good Friday 14th April**

Llanferres 10.30

Devotional Service, all welcome

Cilcain 12.00—1.00

“Stations of the Cross “

Gwernaffield 2.00—3.00

Devotional Service, all welcome

**Easter Eve 15th April**

Cilcain

**Mission Area “Service of Light”**

8.00 pm

**EASTER DAY**

**Sunday 16th April**

Rhydymwyn joined by Cilcain

11.00 Joint Holy Communion

Gwernaffield

11.00 Easter Day Holy Communion

Llanferres

9.30 Easter Day Holy Communion

Nannerch

9.30 Easter Day Holy Communion



*Interested in learning a little more  
about the Christian Faith?*

*Contemplating your own vocation?*

*Join us on the:  
**Exploring Faith Foundation Course:**  
**Living and Learning***

*Mold Mission Area are hoping to run the course, which will comprise  
two blocks of six sessions, in the near future.*

*The venue and timings of the sessions will, where possible,  
be tailored to suit the needs of participants.*

*If you interested and would like more information please email your name,  
address, and a contact number to: [rich\\_hainsworth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rich_hainsworth@yahoo.co.uk)*

**MOLD MISSION AREA  
YOUTH CREW**

**Christian, Ready, Equipped, Willing**

An opportunity for young people, aged 10-17,  
to come together and meet new friends.

**Meetings are held at  
Christ Church, Pontblyddyn CH7 4HG**

We will be making Mothering Sunday Gifts at our next  
Youth CREW meeting which will be held on  
**Wednesday 22 March, 7pm-9pm**

Everyone welcome

For further details, please contact  
Mel Morgan 01978 762709 or  
Sue Sawyer 01352 741921



## MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes *'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*.

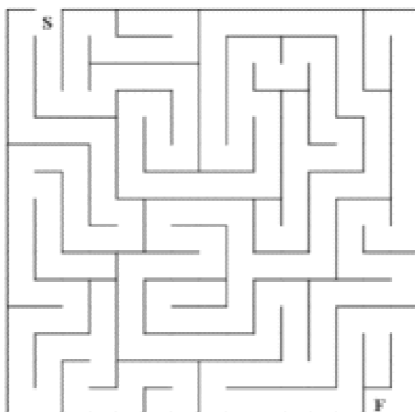
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

## SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



**What did the north wind say to the east wind?**  
Let's play draughts



**How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?**  
It is a breeze.

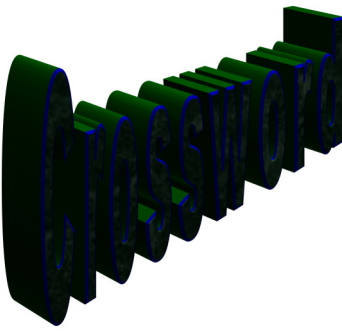
**What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?**  
Thunderwear!

## **PRAYER DIARY for March 2017**

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

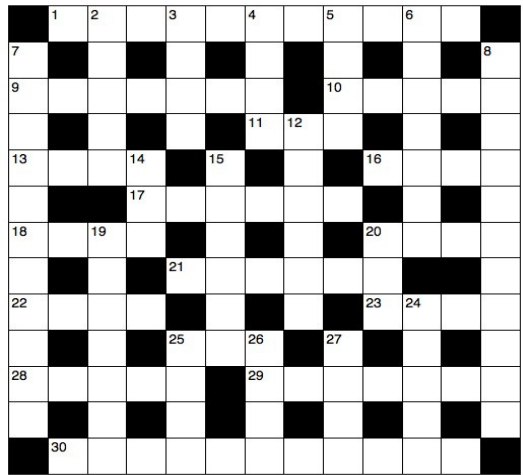
- 1 **Ash Wednesday**
- 2 St Mary's Cilcain, Church Committee this evening
- 3 Women's World Day of Prayer
- 4 Lent and Prayer meetings that are taking place during Lent
- 5 Services in all our churches on the First Sunday of Lent
- 6 Newly-born lambs and their mothers
- 7 Sts. Perpetua, Felicity and Companions martyrs 3rd century
- 8 Mission Area Eucharist in Northop church this evening
- 9 Those who work in public houses in our bro Famau
- 10 Farmers and other land workers in our bro Famau
- 11 Musical Evening at Holy Trinity Gwernaffield
- 12 St Gregory the Great AD 604
- 13 People who work from home
- 14 Midweek Communion at Holy Trinity Gwernaffield this morning
- 15 Bus drivers, both on service routes and school buses

- 16 Those who clean our Churches
- 17 St Patrick, Bishop and Patron Saint of Ireland 5th century
- 18 St Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem AD 386
- 19 Messy Church in Gwernaffield church hall
- 20 Those who are sick and people looking after them
- 21 Nannerch & Rhydymwyn Mothers' Union Lady Day Service at St John's Rhydymwyn
- 22 People who rely on food banks
- 23 Mothers' Union Diocesan Spring Council in Wrexham
- 24 Oscar Romero, Bishop & martyr 1980, Mission Area Executive at Christchurch Pontblyddyn
- 25 Walkers on our footpaths and hills
- 26 **Mothering Sunday** - Mary, the mother of Jesus, and our own mothers
- 27 Introducing the Psalms at St Giles Wrexham this evening
- 28 Gwernaffield Mothers' Union meeting this evening
- 29 Midweek Communion at St Mary's Cilcain this morning
- 30 Medical workers in our bro Famau
- 31 Rhydymwyn Kids Club



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

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

### Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



# A turning point?

Find out more about the Christian faith

pilgrim

A COURSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

## PILGRIM LENT COURSE

Wendy Shillito is offering the Pilgrim Lent Course devised by the Church of England which aims to allow people to explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived each day.

There will be six weekly sessions during Lent with further courses later in the year. The sessions will last an hour and will approach our beliefs through baptismal vows.

Refreshments ( with cake! ) will also be involved.

The sessions will be at Dragon House ( home of Wendy and Nigel Shillito ) on the Moel Famau Mountain Road on Wednesday afternoons and the Resources Room in Holy Trinity church Gwernaffield on Thursday evenings.

If you are interested, please contact  
Wendy at [shillitofamily@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shillitofamily@yahoo.co.uk) / 01352 810394  
or John Foxlee at [johnfoxlee@outlook.com](mailto:johnfoxlee@outlook.com) /01352 810677

# AROUND THE PARISHES

## CILCAIN

### **Beetle Drive**

The Beetle Drive held in the Village Hall recently, raised approximately £75.00. There was much chatter & laughter throughout the evening and we enjoyed a lovely supper of Hot Dogs, Tea & Cake. Thank you to all who cooked, baked & helped in any way to make this such a wonderful evening.

### **The Women's World Day of Prayer**

The Ladies of St Marys Cilcain are joining the ladies at Capel Gad to celebrate The Women's World Day Of Prayer, on Friday March 3rd. The Service this year is prepared by the Women of the Philippines. The Service starts at 7.00 pm and all are welcome.

### **Community Cafe**

The Church are hosting The Saturday Cafe in the Village Hall on March the 11th, from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm. Come along and join us for a cup of tea, coffee & home made cakes & catch up with Friends.

### **Best Wishes**

Our acting Mission Area Secretary, Anne Prior-Egerton has broken her ankle & hip in two falls and after 14 days in hospital is now home. we send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## GWERNAFFIELD

### **Mothers' Union**

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.

### **Church Notelets**

We have two set of church notelets available to purchase, each with six cards, at a cost of £3.00 per pack. All proceeds will help raise funds for our church.

### **Musical Evening – BACK ON!!!**

The Musical Evening is now back on and will be held at Holy Trinity at 7.30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. The James Lambert Singers will be there, along with other local artistes and it is promising to be a delightful musical event. Tickets are available from Carole Bowen (Tel – 01352 740550) and are £7.00

### **Soup and Scrabble**

Thank you for all who helped with and attended our recent Scrabble Evening. It was a very warm, social occasion and we raised £100.00 for Church funds. The scrabble players have requested another scrabble evening, so watch this space!

## **RHYDYMWYN**

### **Reordering**

The Big Lottery application has now been sent in and we wait with baited breath. We ask for the prayers of the group that we will be successful.

### **Kids Club**

Kids Club is going strong and a music night on Friday revealed some budding rock stars, with drums and guitar demonstrated by members of a local band.

### **Mission Area Youth Crew**

The Mission Area Youth Crew meets every month, at present in Christ Church Pontblyddyn, but hopes to provide transport so that it can move venues on a rota basis. The CREW ( Christian Ready Equipped and Willing) has adopted SHARE as their charity for this year and have already raised £100 at a fundraising event. They are now planning to host a traditional Afternoon Tea for SHARE (Supporting Homeless and Refugees Everywhere). For further details of meetings and membership phone Sue 741921.

## **LLANFERRES**

### **Pilgrim Lent Course**

Anyone who wants to attend these 6 sessions that are to be held weekly on a Wednesday afternoon or Thursday evening can contact Wendy Shillito or John Foxlee. Further details relating to this can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

### **Churchyard bins**

There are still inappropriate items such as plant pots, wreaths, flower sachet wrappings etc. being put in the recycling bins in the graveyard, particularly in the cremated remains area. There are two general rubbish bins very close by near the church door. Please can the correct bins be used or can rubbish be taken home to be disposed of. Thank you.

### **Flintshire Foodbank**

There continues to be a donation box at the back of church for the Flintshire Foodbank. The Foodbank relies on donations from the public to help those in crisis. Items currently needed include tinned vegetables (except beans), packet rice, soap, female hygiene items, toothpaste, tinned puddings, custard, biscuits and cat/dog food. Thank you to all who have donated.

## **NANNERCH**

### **Croeso Pawb**

The Parables Told by Jesus' was the theme for Croeso Pawb on Friday 10th February, starting at Ysgol Nannerch. One group of children had the story of 'The Good Samaritan' followed by activities associated with 'Love Your Neighbour'. Another group listened to the story of 'The Lost Sheep' followed by craft activities using the theme of shepherds, sheep, wolves and lost sheep. Then along to church where the older children performed a spoken radio play. Their theme was 'The Prodigal Son'. The children have such a good Christian knowledge, the foundations of which are firmly laid in school. Refreshments were enjoyed afterwards by the children and parents alike.

Our theme after half term will be Palm Sunday and Easter.

These sessions depend upon the commitment of members of Nannerch Mothers' Union. Thank you to all the volunteers. Huge thanks also go to Janet and David Wright for the enormous amount of time and energy they put into the preparation and production of the Croeso Pawb sessions. This important link with the school is vital to the life of our church.

### **Nannerch and Rhydymwyn Mothers' Union**

Next meeting is our Lady Day Service which will be held in Rhydymwyn at 2.00 pm on the 21st March 2017.

The Diocesan Spring Council will be held on Thursday 23rd March 2017 9.30 am - 1.30 pm in Wrexham.

### **Thank You**

Many thanks to all the volunteers who clean the church, donate and arrange flowers, prepare and serve refreshments. Also to those who regularly give to our Food Bank box. Special thanks to Dorothy Williams our organist for her dedicated service.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

The magazine contact email address is now  
*[brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com](mailto:brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com)*

This magazine can be viewed online at  
*<http://stmaryscilcain.btck.co.uk/ParishesMagazine>*

## 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.*

### **Wednesday 1st March – ASH WEDNESDAY**

We do not have lectionary sheets for this day, but it is an important day of devotion, and these are the readings from the Church in Wales lectionary.

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17** A terrible ruin has come to the land of Israel and Joel prophesies that the day of the Lord is near. He brings the people to repentance as we are brought to repentance on this day.

Or,

**Isaiah 58: 1-12** In the glorious language of the prophet he declares the anger of the Lord against the people but prescribes a remedy to restore favour.

**2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10** Paul appeals to the troublesome Corinthians to accept the Lord's grace, and tells them how much he has suffered for them

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21** Jesus tells us not to practice our piety in public so that others will admire it, but in private, so that our precious spirituality is stored in heaven.

Or,

**John 8: 1-11** The story of the woman taken in adultery, who was brought to Jesus to test him, but he refused to condemn her. Although recognising her sin, he forgave her, offering new life.

### **Sunday 5th March - First Sunday of Lent**

**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7** Our readings at the beginning of Lent are all concerned with doing right or wrong, and knowing the difference. In the ancient tale of how evil came into the world, the first human beings in the Garden of Eden succumbed to temptation.

**Romans 5:12-19** Paul's words are complicated, as he draws new meaning from the old story of Adam. Humanity has been innately sinful since the beginning of time, but through one man, Jesus, we are now not condemned for our sins. God's gift of righteousness offers us the possibility of a new and free life.

**Matthew 4:1-11** In the first garden of the world, Eve could not resist the temptation to please herself and not God. When Jesus faced the temptation to bring in his kingdom by using the levers of worldly power, he was strong to resist. He chose God's ways, not man's.

**Sunday 12th March - Second Sunday of Lent**

**Genesis 12:1-4a** Last Sunday we heard the sad tale of humankind's first disobedience. This reading is a happier circumstance, with consequences just as far-reaching. God's demand to Abraham is to start anew, new-born as Jesus later told Nicodemus. Because Abraham is totally obedient, God's purpose can begin in his chosen people.

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** Paul uses Abraham as an example of complete faith. It is not through obedience to law that God accepted and used him, and it is not our good deeds that justify us. By the sheer grace of God we too are inheritors of God's promises.

**John 3:1-7** Jesus seems to demand the impossible - that we be born again. But he means that faith in his redeeming love brings us spiritual re-birth, into a new kind of living.

Or,

**Matthew 17:1-9** The Lord's closest friends see him transfigured on a mountain-top, in disclosure of his true identity. In the presence of Moses and Elijah a cloud of glory comes upon him and the voice of the holy one is heard.

**Sunday 19th March - Third Sunday of Lent**

**Exodus 17:1-7** Lent may mean abstinence, but even in a desert we need water. This reading tells how the Israelites were given water in their desert pilgrimage when they looked to God to meet their need.

**Romans 5:1-11** Paul's letter to the Roman Christians is much concerned with conduct. This passage is the foundation for it: our life is now our response to the extraordinary thing God has done for us through Christ, flooding us with hope, grace, Holy Spirit and love. He calls us to exult.

**John 4:5-42** God miraculously provided water for the Israelites on their desert journey. Now we hear of Jesus as living water. Among the Samaritan people whom the Jews hated, he convinces them that he himself is the Messiah, the fulfilment of all their needs.

## **Sunday 26th March - Mothering Sunday**

**Exodus 2:1-10** The mother of Moses worked a deception to preserve her son's life at a time when the Egyptians were trying to control the population of Israelites by killing their baby boys.

Or,

**1 Samuel 1:20-28** Samuel, that great Old Testament figure, was born to a mother who for years had been unable to bear a son. In gratitude for God's gift she took him to the Lord's house to give him back to God.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** Paul writes of the consoling strength of God, the one we can all turn to in trouble, and how this grace we receive enables us to sustain one another.

Or,

**Colossians 3:12-17** Paul writes of the compassionate gifts, forgiveness and love. These, given and received always in the name of Jesus, are a vocation for us all.

**Luke 2:33-35** Jesus is the son of a human mother, like us. Although his earthly parents fade into the background as the nature of his life is hinted at in the gospels, he never forgets the love and teaching he received at home.

Or,

**John 19:25-27** Mary, the mother of Jesus, is there to witness his ugly death. Every mother's heart can suffer with her. In his last agony Jesus' love for his mother ensures she is not left alone.

**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.

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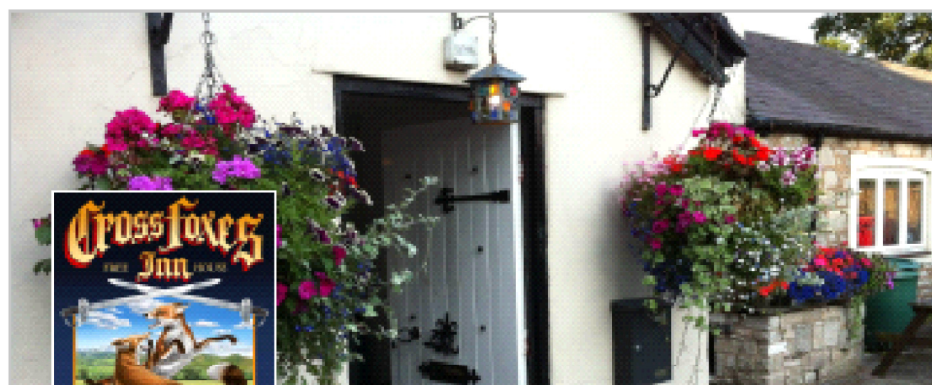
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