# BRO FAMAU GROUP OF CHURCHES MAGAZINE May 2017



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## May 2017

## IN THIS EDITION

- Paríshes Letter
- Mission Area Structure
- Messy Church on Facebook
- Prayer Díary
- Around the parishes
- Plus all the usual features

#### Parish Organisation

People are asking lots of questions about the changes that have taken place recently, with our Mission Area becoming one large parish and church committees replacing what were Parochial Church Councils. It would be surprising if this were not so, because this is the biggest change in hundreds of years! If you have a question, it is likely that many others are thinking the same. Please forward questions via your church magazine representative, to brofamauchurches.magazine@outlook.com or by telephone to 01352 810677. We will obtain an answer from the best source possible.

#### **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

Are you yourself? Do you behave as you want to, or as others expect you to?

Several years ago, a clergy friend and I were talking about our churches. He had moved during the previous year, and I asked how it was going. He said he'd been aware in the first few months of tensions within the church but wasn't sure why. Then one day the Wardens came to him and told him, very politely, that he was not living up to their expectations and people were unhappy. As they sat and talked the Wardens told him about all the things that people found difficult, all the things that he did differently from their last priest. At the end of the conversation my friend said to them "Right, as I understand it, you don't want me at all, you want someone completely different. I'm sorry but I can't be anybody other than myself". The Wardens went away, and they must have talked about what he'd said with others, because from that day onwards things began to get easier. The problems didn't disappear straight away but gradually they learned to live with one another.

We all have expectations of each other and sometimes accepting one another for what we are, rather than expecting people to be what they are not, can be really difficult. We probably all know that feeling when, having asked some-one to do something, or accepted an offer of help, we find ourselves thinking "But I don't do it like that!". However, we all have all kinds of gifts to offer, when we accept our differences and embrace them, life not only becomes easier for everyone involved, it also becomes far richer.

The Rev'd Daniel Stroud, will not be like The Rev'd Canon Adrian Copping. He will do things differently, he is younger, with a wife who is a priest and a young child (and a dog!). His Family Life will demand things of him, that Adrian's didn't, but he will also bring aspects of his Family Life to the role that Adrian couldn't. His Training and Experience of Church is different, his Churchmanship may also be different. So, as we all welcome him into the Mold Mission Area and the Bro Famau Group, we are going to have to be very careful that we don't expect him to be a younger American Adrian. As he uses his gifts and talents and goes about things in a totally new, and perhaps challenging way, I sincerely hope that we can all accept and value him as he is.

Trying to fulfil the expectations of others is a thankless task and it isn't only something that happens between clergy and laity. We all expect things, and we don't always get what we expect. How we deal with that is important. Jesus calls us to love one another as he loves us. He doesn't ask us to change first and then offer to love us, he accepts us as we are, and sometimes through loving him and being loved by him, we grow and change. But our willingness to change is not a condition of his love.

It is, perhaps, inevitable that our churches and our people will change as the Mission Area matures. We will get used to working together in ways that we have never even thought of before. However enabling one another to grow is very different from imposing our expectations on others.

May God give us the grace to give everyone within our church families, and our human families, the freedom to be themselves.

Yours in Christ. *Rev Carole Poolman* Mold Mission Area Leader

## WORSHIP in MAY 2017

Sunday 14th May

Cilcain

Gwernaffield

Llanferres

Nannerch

Cilcain \*\*

Llanferres

Nannerch Rhydymwyn

Gwernaffield

Rhydymwyn

Sunday 7th May	Fourth Sunday of Easter	
Cilcain	11.00 Morning Worship	
Gwernaffield	11.00 Morning Worship	
	18.00 Holy Communion (Healing Service)	
Llanferres	9.30 Morning Worship	
Nannerch	9.30 Holy Communion	
Rhydymwyn	9.30 Morning Worship	

**Fifth Sunday of Easter** 8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Morning Worship 16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall 18.00 Evening Prayer 9.30 Morning Worship 9.30 Family Service 9.30 Holy Communion

## Sunday 21st May Sixth Sunday of Easter 10.30 Capel Gad Service 11.00 Holy Communion 16.00 MESSY CHURCH in the Church Hall 9.30 Holy Communion 9.30 Morning Worship 9.30 Morning Worship

Thursday 25th May	Ascension Day
Group Mission Area Eucharist	19.30 St Mary's Mold
Sunday 28th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Cilcain	11.00 Holy Communion
Gwernaffield	9.30 Family Praise (in Church Hall)
	18.00 Evening Worship
Llanferres	9.30 Morning Worship
Nannerch	9.30 Family Service
Rhydymwyn	10.30 Family Service

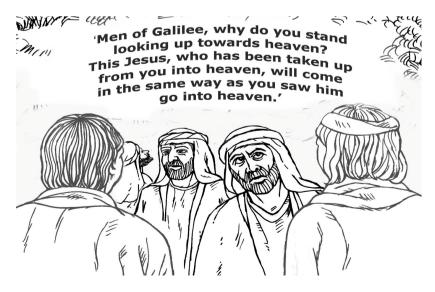
Mid week Services

Tuesdays at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield

9.30 a.m.

Wednesdays at St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain

10.30 a.m.



## The Mission Area Structure

The establishment of mission areas within the diocese is now complete, and there is a very useful map on the back of the present *Teulu A saph* which has been done by Canon Ian Day. It shows that there are 21 mission areas in the diocese, some named after geographical characteristics, like our neighbouring *Estuary & Mountain*, some after districts like *Maelor*, and some like ours after a central town, *Mold*.

Mold Mission Area has been in development some three years, but because the present mission area structure was decided by the diocese last year we have only just achieved the arrangement that is now our established plan with the annual meetings of this year.

The twelve churches within our mission area constitute the parish of Mold Mission Area\*. The former PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) will still exist, but are renamed church committees. They will have most of the former tasks but be responsible in doing them to the Mission Area Conference (MAC) to which they will each send two delegates and appoint a reserve delegate. The MAC will be the new PCC.

An area of interest to most is finance, since a church works hard to build up what money it has. The stewardship of money will remain with the church committee with the proviso that if more than £5,000 is spent on a single project, it must be reported to the MAC; this does not mean it will not be spent, but it will be scrutinised. So for instance, when St. Mary's Cilcain found it necessary to spend £11,000 on treatment against death - watch beetle there would have been no question that it was necessary for preservation of the church. If a church that could not afford it applied to the MAC for such a project, there would be consideration of how they could be helped. Faculty applications will also be scrutinised by the Buildings Committee of the Mission Area.

The MAC is comprised of delegates from each church - 24 of them in our case; there are two MAC churchwardens who may act as the co-chairpersons of the meetings and take a supportive interest in each church. Other officers required are secretary and treasurer and MAC has the option to appoint others, such as safe-guarding and training officer: if the skills are not present in the group, people may be co-opted to fill these specialised roles. Dr Emily Clarke-Jones is our mission area development officer; she has a doctorate in Change Management and though not a voting member sits on MAC since she has an input to projects. Clergy (4 in our case) and lay ministers licensed by Bishop Gregory complete the group.

The MAC will meet four times a year, though it could be more often if necessary. To make daily progress on MAC decisions a smaller group is needed, and this is the Mission Area Executive (MAE). It comprises delegates from the MAC, the MAC wardens, clergy, lay ministers licensed by the Bishop, and Dr Emily Clarke-Jones.

In addition there is the Shared Ministry Team. This involves clergy and Readers, though probably also other lay ministers in time. The SMT occupies itself with matters of worship and in our mission area at least, is the successor to the clergy Chapter. Our Mission Area Leader is Revd. Carole Poolman, who is the chief clergy person, with main responsibility for communication with the diocese, and many of the decisions to be made within the mission area.

The new mission area structure is certainly more complex than the old one. It encompasses many worshippers - 540 if all the church electoral rolls are combined, a lot of buildings, and a large area - c. 50 sq miles or c.32,000 acres. Many MAC officers posts remain to be filled. At present we have churchwardens, secretary and treasurer, and others will be appointed by the MAC as time goes on. It might seem like inventing complication where none existed, so why do it?

One reason is that by doing things with more people together, we can engage in more imaginative forms of mission, both locally and further afield. We have already started to become involved in a project to provide homes for those without them, and in a debt-counselling service based in Mold. I hope we will have more input to the Mold Food Bank and to mission abroad. It came as a bit of a surprise to me at least, that in each area of local mission we are working alongside Christians from other church traditions, and this is very much to be welcomed

Outreach to children, young people, and other members of the community is desirable; the first two are being done by several initiatives (Youth Crew, Kids' Club and Messy Church, work in schools and family services) and we expect work in other areas to follow as necessary.

Among the population of the Mold Mission Area there are certain to be people who are expert in all sorts of applications who may be willing to share their expertise with other churches. A skills audit will be done as soon as it can be arranged, but if you feel you have particular gifts, why not offer them to MAC through your church delegates?

There are many things that might be done with the flexibility our new arrangements give us, and these will be guided by the Holy Spirit. Everyone in the area of our twelve churches is a potential partner in this work - not excluding those not at present in church membership, who may be drawn in when they see an effective mission. It is up to us to make it work as a true reflection of the kingdom of God in our new parish of Mold Mission Area.

#### John Foxlee

\*The 12 churches of Mold Mission Area are: St Mary the Virgin, Cilcain; Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield, St Berres, Llanferres; St Mary the Virgin, Mold; St Michael & All Angels, Nannerch; St Mary's, Nercwys; St James, New Brighton; St Eurgain & St Peter, Northop; St Mary's Northop Hall; Christ Church, Pontblyddyn; St John the Evangelist, Rhydymwyn; St Mary's Treuddyn.

## Messy Church on Facebook

This month the Easter themed Messy Church had a good turnout, given the change of date. We made biscuits into a tomb with grass and a stone, Easter egg bags, had a treasure hunt to make a donkey, Lego and Play-Doh activities and palm leaves - all looking at Jesus' journey to the cross. With a short worship, some new songs and we shared a lovely meal with home-made hot cross buns and cakes. The next Messy Church will be back on the 3rd Sunday of the month, which is 21st May at 4pm in Gwernaffield village hall. We now have a Facebook page called Messy Church Brofamau

## Gwernaffield Church 82 Club Reunion

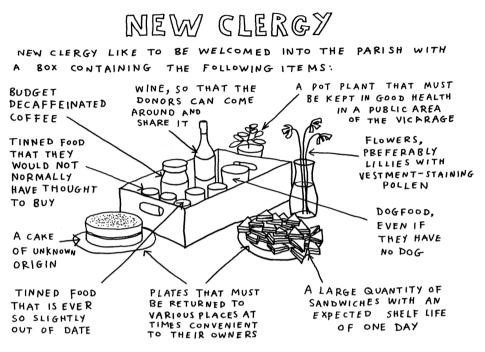
2017 is the 35th anniversary of the founding of the 82 Club and the 30th anniversary of the first of three 82 Club canal holidays.

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

**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.



CartoonChurch.com

## **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 be 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@toutlook.com or telephone 01352 810677.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

#### Funerals

March 18th memorial service for the late Philip Ogden of Rhydymwyn, St John's Rhydymwyn

March 24th memorial service for the late Geoffrey Roberts, previously of Gwernaffield, at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield with burial of ashes in Gwernaffield Cemetery

April 5th the late Ann Jones of Valley Lodge Home, previously of Gwernaffield, service in Holy Trinity with burial in Gwernaffield Cemetery

April 7th the late Billy Beales of Llanferres, in St Berres' Church with burial in the churchyard

April 25th the late Stella Irene Cunnick of High Park, Gwernaffield, service at Pentrebychan Crematorium with burial of ashes in Gwernaffield Cemetery

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



**St DUNSTAN** 

Dunstan (909 - 988) was the most popular saint in England for nearly two centuries, being famous for many stories about defeating the devil.

A story tells how as a monk Dunstan nailed a horseshoe to the Devil's hoof when he was asked to re-shoe the Devil's horse. This caused such pain, and Dunstan only agreed to remove the shoe and release the Devil after he promised never to enter a place where a horseshoe is over the door.



They say that is why people still hang horse shoes over doorways.

St Dunstan is the patron saint of blacksmiths and bell ringers as well as goldsmiths and silversmiths. His Feast Day is 19 May, which is why the date year on the hallmarks on gold and silver runs from 19 to 18 May, not the calendar year.

## NOT JUST ON YOUR FEET....

The answers to these are all something you could wear on your fee, but the word also means...

- 1. A sure-footed pack animal
- 2. A thin sharp knife
- 3. A wobbly dessert
- 4. A poisonous snake
- 5. Isn't safe on ice
- 6. A gymnastic move
- 7. Equipment used to move water
- 8. An Irish accent
- 9. Part of a car used for storage
- 10.A sports coach



What do you call a shoe that looks like a banana? A slipper.

Who always goes to bed with his shoes on? A horse.



Answers: 1 Mule 2 Stiletto 3 Jelly 4 Moccasin 5 Slipper 6 Flip flop 7 Pump 8 Brogue 9 Boot 10 Trainer

## PRAYER DIARY for May 2017

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

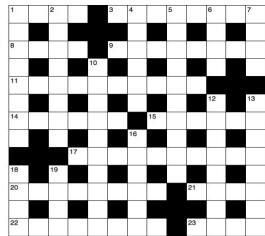
- 1 Saints Philip & James, Apostles; families enjoying the May Day Bank Holiday
- 2 Flintshire Foodbank, those who donate, volunteers and recipients
- 3 Group Council meeting at St Mary's Cilcain
- 4 Exploring Faith Foundation course meeting at Christ Church Pontblyddyn
- **5** Local councillors elected yesterday
- 6 Walkers, who come to enjoy our beautiful countryside
- 7 Healing Communion service at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield this evening
- 8 Flintshire Debt Advice, volunteers and clients
- **9** Holy Communion, midweek service at Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield this morning
- **10** Holy Communion, midweek service at St Mary's Cilcain this morning
- 11 Those who ride horses in our lanes and fields
- **12** IT workers in our Bro Famau
- **13** Festival of Prayer in the Cathedral
- **14** Holy Communion at St John's Rhydymwyn this morning
- 15 St. Matthias, Apostle

- **16** Collectors, those who give, and those who receive during this Christian Aid week
- 17 Mission Area Conference meeting at St James New Brighton
- **18** Cyclists on our bro Famau roads
- **19** Rhydymwyn Kids' Club at the Football Club
- 20 Care workers who visit people in their homes throughout our bro Famau
- 21 Messy Church in Gwernaffield church hall
- 22 Share, a local charity that assists refugees and homeless people
- 23 Mission Area Youth Crew preparing to meet tomorrow
- **24** Revds. Daniel & Lara, Charley and Mrs Stroud senior as they arrive with us
- 25 ASCENSION DAY mission area service at St. Mary's Mold
- 26 Retired priests who help to keep our services going
- 27 Cilcain Community café
- 28 Family service in Gwernaffield church hall this morning
- **29** People enjoying the Spring Bank Holiday
- **30** Gwernaffield Mothers' Union meeting this evening
- **31** Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth before Jesus and John were born



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 ( $\pounds 6.99$  BRF)



#### Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)

8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)

9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)

11 Anglican form of church government (10)

14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — '(Isaiah 40:31) (6)

15 Ministers of religion (6)

17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)

- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22)(4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man

who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)

23 '[Jesus] said to them, "— here and keep watch" (Mark 14:34) (4)

#### Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured
- by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)

5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)

- 6 'I am God, and there is none me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are —?' (Romans 10:15) (4)

10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy

1:15 (10)

- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors —

they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)

18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)

19 'According to your great compas-

- sion out my transgres-
- sions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

## **AROUND THE PARISHES**

#### CILCAIN Ysgol Y Foel

Ysgol Y Foel, held their Easter Service in Church on Thursday 6th of April. The Service included Easter Songs & Prayers and Mrs Amanda Griffiths presented Certificates to some of the Pupils who had received various awards. Amanda also took Assembly in the School Hall to continue the link started by Canon Adrian.

#### Easter Gardens

The Local Rainbows group led by Mrs Christine Langton came into Church to make Easter Gardens for the Church Window Sills. They were beautiful and a very big thank you to all who helped in any way.

#### **Holy Week**

We held Compline on Monday Tuesday & Wednesday evenings of Holy week, and on good Friday we did Stations of The Cross, 12 noon till 1.0 o clock. A very thought provoking service indeed..!!.

#### Wheelchair Access

At the last Church Committee it was decided to look at more permanent and positive access for those people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues.

#### Cilcain Community Café

Cilcain Church will be running the Community Café in the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June. All welcome

#### GWERNAFFIELD Mothers' Union

The speaker at the March meeting was Rev. Andy Miller who spoke about his early life and he told Members about his Youth work in Ipswich and Sheffield. The Speaker at the 25th April Meeting will be Rev Carol Poolman who will talk about Mission Areas. 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.

#### **Musical Evening**

A big thank you to all who helped and supported our recent concert, it really was a 'Musical Treat' and all our performers were wonderful. It was a

great evening and we raised a grand total of £347.00. Thank you to all who supported this great Musical Evening

#### **Coffee Morning**

Our recent Coffee morning raised a wonderful  $\pounds$ 141.00 and we would like to thank everybody who helped in some way. The next one will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> September and we will let you have further details nearer the time.

#### Scone and Scrabble Evening

After the success of our first Scrabble Evening, we are holding a further event on 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Church Hall. The evening starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £3.00 and will include refreshments – please contact Carole on 01352 740550

#### Strawberry Tea and Car Boot Sale

We will be holding another car boot sale and strawberry tea on  $1^{st}$  July in the Church hall and field. Tickets will be £3.50 for the strawberry tea and £5.00 for anybody wishing to book a car space. Please contact Carole for further details and tickets – 01352 740550

#### **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.

#### **Shirley Hughes**

It is with regret that we have to announce that Shirley Hughes, our Treasurer, has given notice of her intention to retire from the post at the end of April. Shirley has done sterling work over the past seven years and we thank her, most sincerely, for her hard work and dedication to Holy Trinity throughout that time

#### **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 19<sup>th</sup> May next. All are welcome.

#### **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 the **COVENANT** for Mold Mission Area and feedback any comments (in writing please) to the Churchwardens or Carol Bradley before Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May next. Copies can be found either on the noticeboard or in the Resource Room

#### LLANFERRES

#### **Church Congregational meeting**

The annual Congregational meeting (previously Vestry) was held on Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> and was preceded by a Church Committee meeting (previously the PCC). The churchwardens presented their report thanking various officers / volunteers for their work during the year and listing the work done to the church (upgraded lighting) and the repairs still to be done (bell tower / windows). The treasurer presented his accounts detailing a £1,500 deficit in the General Fund offset by a strong performance in the investment funds leading to essentially a break-even position. 2017 however, will be a difficult year with the necessary repairs as above. The church committee and officers were all prepared to stand for a further year and we are delighted to welcome our new member Hugo Watts. A copy of the new Mold Mission Area structure is to be displayed on the church noticeboards.

#### Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is 14th to 20th May. Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that seeks to tackle poverty around the world. There will be a donation tin at the back of church, in the Druid and in Loggerheads Garage for anyone who wants to make a donation to this worthwhile cause.

#### Gift Aid

Our church relies on donations for its upkeep and needs everyone's support. Through the HMRC Gift Aid Small Donations scheme (GASDS) we are able to claim gift aid relief, at 25% on all collection cash plate donations, up to £20 in value, per donation and also on all money given in church such as the donations to light a candle in memory of a loved one and in fixed collection boxes. This means that every £1 donated is worth £1.25 to the church.

#### Special thanks

As Daryl & Patrick Austin prepare to leave the village we would like to thank them for all their hard work and help over the years including but not exclusively; church warden / treasurer and group treasurer / grants secretary / log book and terrier guardian / reading rotas organiser / child protection officer / Explorers leader / magazine panel / Christian Aid organisation / Harvest Supper co-ordinator / general fundraising (including the much missed "Fun in the Garden" and other events) and many many other tasks!

#### Churchyard bins

Regrettably the situation has not improved, despite numerous appeals, with plastic wrappings in the recycling bins still and flowers in the general waste. Wreathes are a particular issue with no less than seven removed from one bin alone in less than a week. Notices will be placed on all bins in the next few weeks asking for a bit more discipline.

#### 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 and Croeso Pawb

Members of Nannerch Mothers' Union were in Ysgol Nannerch on Friday 31st March for this half term's Croeso Pawb session. Our theme was Easter. All the children have been reminded of the Easter Story and all our activities reflected this. An Easter garden was made in church, each child made a Palm cross, Years 5 and 6 children made individual Easter gardens, decorated a Holy Week time line and made nail crosses. The children in Years 3 and 4 made a large decorated cross, painted using rolled stones and made a lamb and a chick (as signs of new life). Nursery, reception and Years 1 and 2 decorated eggs , made salt dough crosses, donkey masks and multi coloured crosses. The afternoon finished with a short service led by one of our Worship Leaders in a full church followed by refreshments.

Many thanks to all who help and support these afternoons, a valuable link between our church and community.

Mothers' Union dates for May Monday May 8th - 2.00 pm - St Giles, Wrexham Songs of Praise Wednesday 17th May - 2.00 pm - St David's, Connahs Quay Deanery Service

#### **Congregational Meeting**

Our Congregational Meeting was held on the 4th April and the following people (listed on the next page) were appointed :

Wardens - Mrs Janet Wright and Mrs Cath Yeardley Mission Area Representatives - Mr David Wright and Mrs Lindsay Wilding

Secretary - Mr Ray Alcock Treasurer - Mr Kevin Weston

Existing members of the original PCC will form part of the new shape Church Committee.

#### RHYDYMWYN Craft Group

This is held on Thursday afternoons at 2pm, every fortnight. If you are interested in knitting, sewing or any craftwork then please come along. Phone Sue 741921 for further details.

#### Kids Club.

Held at Rhydymwyn Football Club on Friday evenings at 6pm, for ages 5-11. If you would like to attend please contact Zen on 741226

#### **Church Warden**

At the annual congregational meeting, Sue Sawyer announced that she was standing down as a church warden. Marion Watts has been elected to replace her and our thanks go to Sue for the many years of dedicated service as a church warden.

#### **Family Service**

On Mothering Sunday we held a very enjoyable and successful Family Service. The children that attended were asked to write a prayer for their mothers to hang on the Prayer Tree which is now at the back of the church.

We are now going to be having a Family Service , each month, on the 4th Sunday at 10.30am.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

## 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 7th May - 4th of Easter

**Genesis 7** This week, and for the next two Sundays, the story of Noah is told. In a wicked world, one person is found righteous, and Noah is the source of salvation for all creation through the cleansing waters that cover the earth.

Acts 2: 42-47 We have heard Peter's first recorded sermon, and its dramatic effect. Now we discover how these new Christians came to develop a new pattern of life and worship together.

**2 Peter 2: 19-25** We continue on these Easter Sundays to read a letter directed to Gentile Christians. For all those who are humiliated or persecuted for their faith, Jesus is the supreme example and pattern to be honoured and followed.

**John 10: 1-10** Jesus uses a familiar image from the Hebrew Scriptures of shepherds and sheep. He is himself the good shepherd; he calls us to follow him, and teaches that only through him is the way the sheep may safely be gathered.

#### Sunday 14th May - 5th of Easter

**Genesis 8: 1-19** Noah, his family, and two of every creature, have been saved by God from the destruction of the world. Now, as the flood subsides, it is the task of those whom God has saved to revive and renew the world.

Acts 7: 55-60 Stephen was the first Christian to follow his Master to execution. The Jewish leaders found the new teaching, that the crucified and resurrected Jesus is their true Messiah, was even more dangerous and in their eyes heretical than even Jesus' life had been.

**1 Peter 2: 2-10** This writer, after the encouragement we have heard from him since Easter, now directs us to think of Jesus as the foundation stone on which the church is built. Although the resurrection is a stumbling-block to many, we have been chosen by God to proclaim its truth.

John 14: 1-14 Jesus taught his disciples how completley he and his heavenly Father are united. We are to believe and trust his promise, that to know him is to know God, and he is our way to the place prepared for us.

#### Sunday 21st May - 6th of Easter

Genesis 8: 20 to 9: 17 This is how the story of Noah ends happily ever after. God makes a new covenant promise to the survivors, that never again will he destroy everything by such a flood.

Acts 17: 22-31 Paul's powerful preaching in the synagogues of Athens has made the local government take notice. His speech to the Council proclaims that all the Greek gods are mere shadows of the one true God who created all things in heaven and earth.

**1 Peter 3: 13-22** We have been hearing since Easter day this writer's encouragement to Christian people. whom he now instructs to be always calm and courteous. If we suffer for our way of life, remember Christ did too, and through his suffering he has brought us, with all the past saints, into his eternal salvation.

**John 14: 15-21** Jesus promises his disciples that although the time must come for him to leave them, the Holy Spirit will be their comforter, and all those who keep faith with him will see him again.

#### Thursday 25th May - Ascension Day

There are no lectionary sheets for this day, but it is an important day of Christian worship, and the following readings are from the Church in Wales calendar.

Acts 1: 1-11 Luke's account of the divine plan of salvation is in two parts. He ended the earthly life of Jesus, as we will hear in the gospel, with the Ascension. Part two is the life of Christ in the Church, and it begins as the gospel ended, with the Lord leaving the earth for his home in heaven.

**Ephesians 1: 15-23** The writer of this letter to the churches gives thanks, in one long sentence of praise in the Greek, for the glory of the risen and ascended Christ - asended to heaven and therefore empowering his people everywhere. This is the faith of the Church.

Luke 24: 44-53 Luke ends his life of Jesus with a last blessing, and the commission to go into every nation as witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection

#### <u>Sunday 28th May - 7th of Easter</u>

**Ezekiel 36: 24-28** We will hear in the gospel our Lord's prayer for those he must leave behind in this world. Ezekiel reflects the same tender care of God for his people. His images speak to Christians at Pentecost: cleansing in pure water, the giving of a new heart and an outpouring of the Spirit.

Acts 1: 6-14 After the disciples knew Jesus had departed from them for the last time, they continued with their prayer together as they waited for the new Spirit he had promised.

**1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11** Since Easter day we have read from this letter every Sunday. It has said much about Christian life under persecution, and now ends with a rousing call to steadfastness with the promise of eternal glory.

**John 17: 1-11** On the night he was betrayed Jesus prayed not so much for himself but for those who would take up his work after his earthly life was over. His glory is now revealed in the world by those he calls his own.



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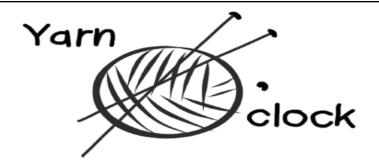
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