



# Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area Magazine



September 2022

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# Parish Magazine

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area comprises the Parishes of: St Bridget's, St Brides; St Michael and All Angels, Ewenny; St Giles, Gileston; St Cattwg's Llanmaes; St Michael and All Angels, Llanmihangel; St Illtud's, Llantwit Major; Holy Trinity, Marcross; St Mary's, Monknash; St Donat's, St Donats; St Tathan, St Athan; All Saints, Southerndown; St James, Wick.

This magazine serves them all.

**Contributions to be in by 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month please**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Index.                     | 11. Puzzle Page.               |
| 2. From the Editor.           | 12. Inflation and inspiration. |
| 3. Alive.                     | 13. Inflation and Inspiration. |
| 4. From Father Edwin.         | 14. The Dark Chair.            |
| 5. Fr Edwin. John Webber. MU. | 15. Oberammergau.              |
| 6. Cantorion Illtud.          | 16. 100 Club. Registers.       |
| 7. Cantorion Illtud.          | 17. St Swithun Mun.            |
| 8. The National Eisteddfod.   | 18. Saint of the Month.        |
| 9. Vestments.                 | 19. Directory.                 |
| 10. Humour.                   | 20. Services.                  |

## This Month's Cover

We now approach the time of year when the harvest is due. Most of the hay has been gathered and we now await the grain crops. This has been a strange summer with record temperatures in August following on from low rainfall in July. How good the harvest will be is yet to be seen but we will thank God again for what we do get. We asked for God's Blessing on our community and its sustenance on Rogation Sunday and we will give him thanks when it comes to Harvest Festival.

## Clawr y Mis hwn

Rydyn ni nawr yn agosáu at yr adeg o'r flwyddyn y mae disgwyl y cynhaeaf. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r gwair wedi'i gasglu ac rydym yn awr yn aros am y cynydau grawn. Mae hwn wedi bod yn haf rhyfedd gyda'r tymheredd uchaf erioed ym mis Awst yn dilyn glawiad isel ym mis Gorffennaf. Mae pa mor dda fydd y cynhaeaf i'w weld eto ond fe ddiolchwn i Dduw eto am yr hyn a gawn. Gofynnwm am Fendith Duw ar ein cymuned a'i chynhaliath ar Sul y Grwydro a rhown ddiolch iddo pan ddaw i Wyl y Cynhaeaf.

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*We are all mature, until someone pulls out the bubble wrap.*

## From the Editor

How many of you, reading this will regard the September 2022 edition of this magazine as having any special significance? Well, it has for me! Simply, it is because Sue Brooks, the previous editor, produced her last edition in April 2012, and I took over. During the next 4 months, only brief versions appeared until the September, when a full 24-page copy appeared. So, this is the Tin Anniversary of my editorship of the magazine, and we will do some 'nostalgic'.

To begin with we have had changes to the cover. We started off being called the "Parish News" with a cover like No 1. Over the years, there have been other changes of name and also of design until we wind up looking like No 6.

Many other aspects of the content have evolved into what we now have.



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The most significant change in the Benefice has been the complete renovation of the Galilee Chapel which is now a major attraction to all visitors and warranted a special version of the magazine. We had the final performance from Cantorion Illtud (see page 6) and, of course the Covid 19 pandemic. We were unable to print the magazine and led to the increased use of the internet.

The other main changes which we will all have noticed, are in the clergy. Melanie Prince left us 2013, Huw Butler, 2016, Rachel Simpson, 2016 and Anthony Beer, 2016. We were pleased to welcome Edwin Counsell in 2016 and Craig Vaughan in 2017. Jude Peters was with us from 2017 to 2020, Rhian Prime from 2017 to 2021 and Marc-Ashton Walford 2018 until 2021. Finally, we have been joined by Emma Street in 2021 and Jenny Tiebas in 2022.

It was in September 2018 that the Benefice increased in size from the 9 churches as previously to the 12 with the addition of St Bridget's, St Brides St Michael and All Angels, Ewenny and All Saints, Southerndown.

We have the usual number of Births, Marriages and Death, but I will mention just two notables in Jim Morgan and Bob Smith.

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*If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.*

# Alive!

We watched an excellent film on television recently, entitled 'Alive'. It told the story of a flight across the Andes by an aircraft carrying a Uruguayan rugby team and their friends and family back in October 1972. They were travelling to Chile to play a match there. Coming out of the clouds, they met some turbulence, the inexperienced co-pilot misjudged the height and the plane crashed. The wings were torn off and cut the tail section adrift, killing several passengers. The remaining portion of the fuselage slid down a [glacier](#) at an estimated 220 mph and descended about 2,000 feet before crashing into ice and snow. All the crew died and several passengers succumbed to their injuries. This all took place 11,000 feet up in the Andes on the border between Chile and Argentina.

The remaining passengers managed to find a radio keep in touch with the rescue efforts. These were called off after six days as the white bodied aircraft was impossible to see against the snow. The survivors then realised that they were on their own and attempted to eke out the meagre amount of chocolate and other bits of food which they had with them. They rigged up sheets of metal from the fuselage on which they were able to melt snow for drinking water, but they soon ran out of food.

At this stage, we were introduced to the term, 'anthropophagy'. I don't remember having heard this word before and just in case you haven't as well, it means 'the eating of human flesh' or 'cannibalism'. The remaining passengers had to resort to carving slices from the bodies of the dead and eating them in order to remain alive! Several of the passengers had said that if they themselves died, the survivors should eat them.

The weather improved as Spring arrived and two of the survivors set off towards Chile to seek help. They hiked for ten days climbing a 15,000-foot peak, without any gear and eventually found help. Rescuers came to the crash site by helicopter to airlift the 16 who remained alive after their 72-day ordeal. The news of their astonishing survival made world-wide headlines which led to condemnation by many of their anthropophagy.

What do you think? But before you answer, imagine yourself in the same situation with the only chance of coming out alive being that of eating human flesh. Are you sure that you wouldn't? There are many other situations where it would be easy to criticise without being in possession of all the facts or any concept of the difficult position of the person being criticised, we must be careful.

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*Money can't buy happiness, but it makes misery easier to live with.*



## From Father Edwin



Dear Friends,

The weeks of high Summer are often marked by journeys. These might be visits to family or friends during the slightly quieter weeks of the school holidays, or it might involve more organised trips away, either in the UK or further afield. People have been able to get away properly this Summer, perhaps for the first time in a couple of years, and times of rest and recuperation are vital for all of us.

The Heritage Coast attracts a lot of tourists and many of them are walking or cycling, but one group has made a particular impact on our local communities. A group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton have been walking The St Thomas Way as an ecumenical pilgrimage, from Swansea to Brighton. Part of the 165-mile route took them through our Ministry Area, with 2 nights spent sleeping on Church Hall floors and a chance to visit a number of our churches along the way.

The purpose of a pilgrimage is different to a conventional journey that goes from one place to another. It's also very different to the challenge of a long walk or run and it's certainly not a race to see who finishes first. A pilgrimage is a sacred journey, undertaken for a spiritual purpose, and it often involves a search for meaning and purpose for those taking part. In this way, it is much like the search for meaning and purpose in life.

It was great to meet the pilgrim group over the couple of days they journeyed along the Heritage Coast; they were from a wide variety of places and backgrounds, with some of them travelling from as far away as Scandinavia and South Africa to take part in the pilgrim journey. Their pilgrimage was also a reminder to me that the impact of a pilgrimage extends even beyond the people on the journey. We had local people turning out at our churches to welcome our new friends, and to make sure that they had drink stops and sustenance along the way. In turn, many of the pilgrims joined the church services taking place in local churches and experienced the spiritual peace of our fabulous churches. Many of our parishioners have been following the pilgrims' journey on their website, and holding them in prayers as they travel.

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*If you have a hammer everything looks like a nail.*

By the time you read this, the pilgrims will have arrived in Hereford with thankful hearts... and sore feet! Their pilgrimage will have affected each one of them with the experiences of holy places and the conversations of faith that took place along the way; and the pilgrims will also have left their mark in the many places they travelled through, such as the Heritage Coast.



*The pilgrim cross worn by our visitors travelling the St Thomas Way*

In the journey of our busy lives, I wonder if we ever consider the difference we make if life becomes a pilgrimage? When our lives stop becoming a race to see who can get to the next destination in first place, we can search instead for meaning and purpose, and the peace that this brings to us and to others, in God's name.

With every Blessing

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edwin Curwood".

## **Celebrating 50 years as a Priest**

The Reverend John Webber will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination as a priest this month. To celebrate this great landmark, John will be presiding at the Eucharist at St Illtud's Church in Llantwit Major on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 12.15pm. There will be a warm welcome for anyone wishing to join him for this occasion, and also to join the Soup Lunch which will be held afterwards, as usual.

## **Mothers' Union**

Father Edwin's sermon this morning set me thinking about the work of the Mothers' Union and how much that work is about allowing space for God to work, about building communities, about what the people are like, about including individuals and raising them up to be God's people.

Many in the community regard MU as a rather old-fashioned organisation but I'd encourage you to take a closer look. A good place to begin is the MU website at 'What we do' Mothers' Union ([mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org)) which has links about where we work and what we do. To quote the Archbishop of Canterbury :-

**"Mother's Union are the heart and love of the Church"**

Sue Beetlestone, Llantwit Major Branch Leader.

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*When you fall, I will be there to catch you. With love, the floor.*

# Cantorion Illtud sings for the last time

From an article published in Croeso in 2013

In the late autumn of 1981 about a dozen adults from Saint Illtud's Church Choir, Llantwit Major, volunteered to entertain the Men's Society at the forthcoming Christmas party. It would have been hard to say no to Ian Knight, organiser and choirmaster at the time. After a few practises, with Keith Young and Lyn Brown, they had enough for an entertainment.

After the entertainment, one of the group, Beryl Harvey, sister of Monica Lewis, both of whom were excellent contraltos, originally from Penzance, and therefore called the Pirates, thought that the whole adventure had been very enjoyable and suggested they should meet purely for the fun of singing together. That was the birth of Cantorion Illtud; but it was much later that the name was acquired.

Soon the group had a modest repertoire and decided to present an evening's entertainment, Victorian style, for the church funds. With the help of friends who were asked to provide individual party pieces between the musical items, who could forget Rev. David Jenkins in his Gas and Gaiters outfit? The title given for the event was 'Sweet and Low' and that, in 1982, was the first venture into public entertainment.

Since the first venture other church members joined the group and augmented the church choir to sing at Easter and Christmas services, weddings, civic services and other official occasions, including the annual Rotarian President's service. The group was also asked to give concerts for Senior Citizens and perform at charity events in many places locally.

In the early 90's, the group had developed quite an extensive repertoire and in 1993 and 1995 as part of the Town Twinning programme, they visited Llantwit Major's twin town in Brittany, Le Pouliguen, to sing at a concert with their church choir 'Les Embruns' who had made the return visit to Llantwit in 1994. These events proved to be very successful musically and socially.

In the year 2000 Cantorion, and friends, embarked on a pilgrimage to Brittany where St Illtud had supposedly come from, to celebrate the passing of 1500 years, or thereabouts, since the foundation of his church at Llantwit Major. Visits were paid to churches closely associated with Illtud, or with his students educated at Llantwit Major. These included Dol, St Malo, Plouerdut, Locildut, Coadut, and Llanilut. and Llanildut. Here Cantorion sang a concert in the local church, also dedicated to St Illtud and were entertained afterwards to a grand supper. At St Pol de Leon, the local priest invited Cantorion to sing the Ascension Day Mass at the cathedral and were entertained to cheese and wine in the Presbytery afterwards.



Cantorion Illtud also made two visits to Grenoble after a visitor from there heard a concert given at the biannual flower festival which regularly raised much money for the church funds. This also involved a return visit by a choir from Grenoble, some of whom stayed at St Donat's Castle, much to their excitement.

Cantorion Illtud also sang at Choral Eucharist and Evensong at Llandaff cathedral when Archdeacon Philip Morris was the resident preacher. Philip sang with Cantorion for more than 20 years and the group believed it was the only choir with its own Archdeacon and that Philip was the only Archdeacon with his own choir, which he often invited to provide the music for services he was taking.

Unfortunately, after 30 years, age began to take its toll. For some, notes were getting harder to sing, some members were lost to the heavenly choir, the group's loss and the heavenly choir's gain, some members moved away, and some took on greater family commitments. So, it was decided that the flower festival concert of 2012 would be their last public concert. As usual the church was packed for the August bank holiday concert with a programme of spirituals, choral classics and songs from the shows. The guest artiste was a local girl and international opera singer, also starring at Glyndebourne, Charlotte Ellit, who had attended Sunday school here.

Little did the group know or suspect that they would last so long, raised so much money for charities, and the church and have so much fun in doing so.

Chris Young

*Keith Young, conductor of Cantorion Illtud and church choirmaster, and Lyn Brown, accompanist for Cantorion Illtud and church organist, were honoured for their services to music by receiving the Archbishop of Wales' Certificate of Merit in Church Music at St David's Cathedral in May 2012.*

## **New Library**

You are invited to take part in a celebration event that unpacks New Library's, "The Kingdom of Heaven" collection of books on Sunday September 4th after the morning service at St Illtud's. All are welcome. Bring a picnic!

The New Library, which will use the Old Gatehouse to house the books. and St Illtud's Church are working together in partnership to celebrate the long tradition of welcome, hospitality and scholarship in Llantwit Major. Richard Parry, director of the cultural charity Coleridge Cymru that is developing the New Library for the partnership said,

*"We're delighted to be working in partnership with St Illtud's Church to celebrating the town's remarkable heritage, welcome and offer.*

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*Before a man speaks, it is always safe to assume that he is a fool. After he speaks, it is seldom necessary to assume it.*

## The National Eisteddfod

Edward Williams. Iolo Morganwg, 1747-1826, the originator of the National Eisteddfod, had close links with Llantwit Major. His mother, Ann Mathews, was brought up in Boverton Place, the Tudor mansion now in ruins. She was well educated and would have told Iolo of the history and legends of the Vale.

By training, Iolo was a stone mason. On a pillar in the East Church is a memorial to one of the local gentry, Anthony Jones. Its carving shows Iolo's remarkable skill.

In 1789, Iolo was working in the churchyard at St. Illtud's, when he decided to explore a legend of a buried stone linked to a young man, known as "Will the giant." He found the stone and for many years it stood by the porch, until it was eventually taken into the West Church. This was the Samson Pillar, possibly the oldest inscribed standing stone in Wales. By the churchyard path, near the entrance to the Galilee Chapel, stands a stone marking the grave of Margaret, Iolo's daughter.

## Yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol

Edward Williams. Roedd gan Iolo Morganwg, 1747-1826, sefydlu yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, gysylltiadau agos â Llanilltud Fawr. Cafodd ei fam, Ann Mathews, ei magu yn Boverton Place, y plasty Tuduraidd sydd bellach yn adfeilion. Roedd hi wedi cael addysg dda a byddai wedi dweud wrth Iolo am hanes a chwedlau'r Fro.

Erbyn hyfforddi, saer maen oedd Iolo. Ar biler yn Eglwys y Dwyrain mae cofeb i un o'r uchelwyr lleol, Anthony Jones. Mae ei gerfiad yn dangos sgil rhyfeddol Iolo.

Ym 1789, roedd Iolo yn gweithio ym mynwent eglwys Illtud Sant, pan benderfynodd archwilio chwedl am garreg gladdedig yn gysylltiedig â'i ddyn ifanc, a elwid yn "Will the cawr." Daeth o hyd i'r garreg ac am flynyddoedd bu'n sefyll wrth ymyl y porth, nes ei chludo i'r Eglwys Orllewinol ymhen amser. Hon oedd Piler Samson, y maen hir arysgrif hynaf yng Nghymru o bosibl. Ar lwybr y fynwent, ger y fynedfa i Gapel Galilea, saif carreg yn nodi bedd Margaret, merch Iolo.

Translated by Siân Tesni

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*A myth is far truer than a history for a history only gives a story of the shadows, whereas a myth gives a story of the substances that cast the shadows.*

## Vestments.

There are several vestments which might be worn in various churches in the Anglican Church which includes the Church in Wales. The most often used are the Cassock and Surplice or Cotta; the Alb, the Chasuble and, the Stole. Some of these vestments are regarded as rather 'High Church' and not used by the more evangelical orders.

This is what they look like:



Cassock



Surplice



Surplice



Alb



Chasuble



Stole



Stole



Stole

The Cassock and Surplice with Hood and Black Scarf, used to be the common attire for Morning and Evening Prayer. These days, clergy often wear a Cassock, Cotta and Stole or even an Alb and a Stole. A reader taking these services will usually wear a Cassock and Surplice with blue scarf over it to signify his or her office.

Nowadays the Alb is a common investment for the Holy Eucharist used by most clergy and worn with the Stole around the neck and under the Chasuble. The colours of these vary according to the season of the Church Year. The Chasuble is worn over the Alb and is symbolic of the seamless robe worn by Jesus before his crucifixion. The Stole is worn by the clergy when officiating at baptisms, weddings, and usually at burials although some clergy still use the traditional black scarf

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*I have learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you too soon. And all the less important ones just never go away.*

# Humour

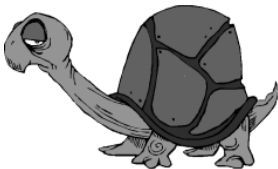
A boy in the top junior school class was wearing a pedometer which was noticed by the teacher who asked him, "Why are you wearing that Gareth? I know you do plenty of exercise, but do you need to count the steps?" Came the reply, "I'm doing it for my mum, Miss. Dad thinks she's getting out a lot more than she does."

Patrick was new to the construction gang and, when they stopped for lunch, like everyone else he got out a box with sandwiches in it. "Oh heck!" he said, "Peanut butter again!" The next day, at lunchtime, the same thing happened. "Oh heck, peanut butter again!" When the same remark came on the third day, the foreman said to him, "If you don't like peanut butter, why don't you ask you wife to give you something else?" Patrick replied, "I'm not married, I make them myself."

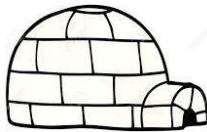
There was tension in the office, and it became apparent that Bert wasn't very popular. I decided to get all the staff together and talk it through to find out why. I put a flip chart at the front and asked the group to write down key words to describe their feelings towards Bert. Nothing startling came up until Melanie came forward and wrote 'NITPICKER' on the board. Bert responded at once, "There should be a hyphen between nit and picker."

The importance of punctuation has been exemplified by the sentence "The Panda came in to the pub and eats, shoots and leaves." In this vein, some students were asked to punctuate the sentence "Woman without her man is nothing." The men wrote, "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The women wrote, "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

A man was helped into the MRI scanner by an attractive young nurse. When the scan had finished, it was a different, older nurse in attendance. The man looked puzzled and said, "Crikey! However long was I in there?"



Thank goodness it's been raining. I can just retire into my shell.



No! YOU go down to the supermarket!



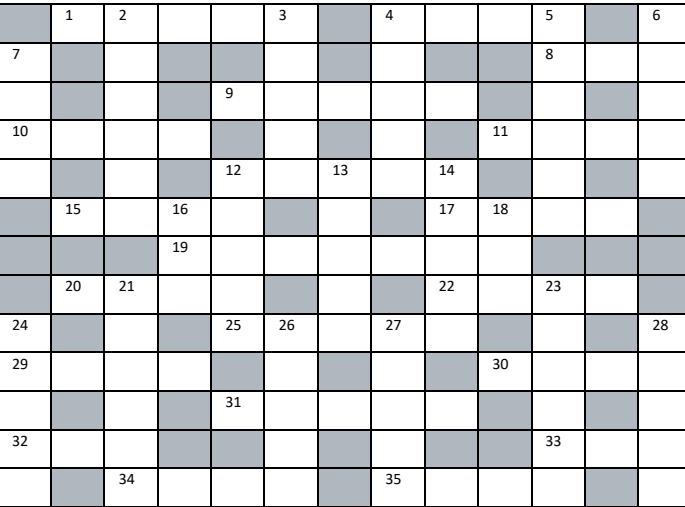
No! I don't want either of you as Prime Minister.

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*Subtlety is the art of saying what you think and getting out of the way before it is understood.*

# Puzzle Page

## Crossword No 119



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Across</p> <p>1 Pawns</p> <p>4 Story</p> <p>8 Tax</p> <p>9 Shake</p> <p>10 Ruler</p> <p>11 Disparage</p> <p>12 Existing</p> <p>15 Nap</p> <p>17 Extent</p> <p>19 Fabric</p> <p>20 Fruit</p> <p>22 Imposing</p> <p>25 Tendency</p> <p>29 Fleet</p> <p>30 Half open</p> <p>31 Summon up</p> <p>32 Tree</p> <p>33 Quarrel</p> <p>34 Shout</p> <p>35 Tax</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>2 Book size</p> <p>3 Impudence</p> <p>4 Symbol</p> <p>5 Develop</p> <p>6 Gale</p> <p>7 Satisfy</p> <p>12 Cap</p> <p>13 Silly</p> <p>14 Stared</p> <p>16 Menagerie</p> <p>18 Knock</p> <p>21 Uniform</p> <p>23 Hurt</p> <p>24 Inhale</p> <p>26 Competitor</p> <p>27 Bare</p> <p>28 Scowl</p> |
|---|--|

Across: 1 Hocks, 4 Tale, 8 Vat, 9 Quake, 10 Tsar, 11 Slur, 12 Bing, 15 Doze, 17 Area, 17 Organza, 20 Sloe, 22 Epic, 25 Trend, 29 Navy, 30 Ajar, 21 Evolve, 32 Fir, 33 Row, 34 Yell, 35 Duty.  
 Down: 2 Octavo, 3 Sauce, 4 Token, 5 Evolve, 6 Storm, 7 Sate, 12 Beret, 13 Inane, 14 Gazed, 16 Zoo, 18 Rap, 21 Livery, 23 Injury, 24 Sniff, 26 Rival, 27 Naked, 28 Frown.

### Word Ladder

Go from one word to the next by changing only one letter.

PRICE	COST
PRISE	LEVER
GRISE	PIG
	FAÇADE
	DECEIT
	BLAME
	UNION
	ERECT
	MADE
	DUVET
QUIET	SILENCE

- 1 The Hacic Bridge and Ataturk Bridge both cross the Golden Horn in which Turkish city?
- 2 Which sour tasting liquid is known in Italian as aceto?
- 3 Where did the USSR land the robotic Rover Lunokhod in November 1970?
- 4 The National Science and media museum is located in which West Yorkshire city?
- 5 Who succeeded Henry the first as king of England?

### Answers

1 Istanbul, 2 Vonegar, 3 The Moon, 4 Bradford, 5 Stephen.

Price, Prise, Grise, Guise, Guile, Guilt, Guild. Build, Built, Quilt, Quiet.

*It is not going to do any good to go and land on Mars if we are stupid.*

## ***Inflation and Inspiration***

*Inflation is the devil's inspiration; it puffs out with a false sense of well-being till the burst comes, whether it is as personal pride and greed, or in a society geared mainly to consuming as many goods as possible. Whatever the causes of the present inflation, we are going to need inspiration to make wise decisions and disciplined actions to meet its effects and overcome its dangers to the person and the nation.*

These were the words of the Vicar, not in 2022, but in the November 1974 Parish Magazine, explaining that “inflation” and “inspiration” have a similar basic meaning, to blow in or breathe in air. He added, *I do not know how one can have a “Social Contract” without genuine concern for others and constraint for oneself.*

### **St. Illtud's Tide**

It is interesting to see the Vicar trying to revive the observance of our Llantwit Major Patronal Festival, the feast of St. Illtud, by inviting parents to come with their children to the Sunday Parish Eucharist, for which the Sunday School had prepared an exhibition of drawings and collages of the church. On St. Illtud's day, Wednesday, 6th November, the Archdeacon of Margam would preach at the 7 pm Sung Eucharist, and on the Thursday the Young Wives were organising a Parish Social at the Town Hall.

He wrote: *Years ago, we had a series of these and they were very popular; we need occasions like this to get to know each other in this rapidly changing community.* There was no immediate report in subsequent issues, but in November 1975 he wrote that *those who came last year will want to come again.*

### **An Episcopal Curate**

The big news story, which was also reported in the press and on the television, was when the Vicar was told that his next curate was a Bishop. As he himself wrote: *When our Bishop asked me whether I would be agreeable to having a bishop as an assistant curate I was a bit shaken, but having met the Right Rev. John Poole-Hughes and spoken with him my hesitations evaporated. He is a man of charm and natural humility, and of course his experience is great. Llanilltud Fawr is honoured by his coming. No doubt some may be puzzled by such an appointment, but the reasons are plain and sound. After serving about 18 years in East Africa, 12 of these as Bishop of S.W. Tanganyika, he served the Church in Wales, being only in his early 50s.*

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*The way to enjoy your summer in England is to have it framed and glazed in a comfortable room.*

*He will be of great help to our own Bishop, but I am assured that his main work will be here in this parish. His special experience will be of great help too at Atlantic College, where we have an unusual pastoral situation, and we have always wanted and prayed for such help.*

The Vicar added that it was a pity that he couldn't bring home the Land Rover for which the children of the Church in Wales, including our own Sunday School, had saved Green Shield Stamps, but it was being put to good use. He concluded that Bishop Poole-Hughes was unmarried, and wouldn't be coming until January.

### **A final farewell from the Revd. Richard Evans**

In a letter published in the November Magazine the Curate explained the difference that St. Saviour's would be: *from Llantwit Major, where one is blessed with the coast and countryside and generally speaking a reasonably high standard of living. St. Saviour's on the other hand is a large city parish in an industrialised part of Cardiff. Life will be rather different there and will no doubt provide many new experiences and problems.* He then added: *I owe you a very great debt of gratitude and love for your kindness, support and understanding.*

### **A sad cut**

In writing about Remembrance Sunday, the Vicar commented: *it would be an act of impiety if through neglect we just did not bother to remember those we knew as bright young men in 1940 or even 1914, not to recall the glories of war, but the loss and the sacrifice.*

The Vicar noted that the Remembrance Service at the Town Cross would be different this year. *Owing to Ministry of Defence economies, it seems that we shall not be having the parade party from R.A.F. St. Athan this year. It seems a sad economy. However, there will be a Remembrance Service and two minutes silence, followed by the service in church.*

In **St. Donat's Notes** thanks were given to Mr. Richard March for the great work he did in keeping their heating system in order, with the comment that it was an old one needing constant attention.

David G. Brunning.

---

*It is important that people know what you stand for. It is equally important that they know what you won't stand for.*

## The Dark Chair

In early August, it is difficult to avoid the Eisteddfod on BBC Wales, but in the current period of armed conflict one particular Eisteddfod is worth recalling. In 1917 it was held at Birkenhead, just outside Wales. As a literary event, the most prestigious prizes were given for poetry, a crown for a group of poems and a chair for a single poem in a complicated metric pattern.

Traditionally the winner of the chair was announced on the Thursday, but on this day, there was a delay for the audience to be addressed by a distinguished visitor and orator, David Lloyd George, on the subject of "The Small Nations." Finally, the winning bard – Hedd Wy- was asked to stand and reveal himself- - but there was no response. The winning bard, Hedd Wyn, Ellis Evans, a young farmer from Trawsfynydd, had been killed on the first day of Passchendaele, six weeks earlier.

The chair was always made locally by a master-craftsman, in this case a Flemish refugee who had settled in Birkenhead. Silently the chair was draped in black, and in time it was carried by horse-drawn cart to his home in Trawsfynydd. The grave of Ellis Evans/Hedd Wyn can be visited at Artillery Wood Cemetery near Oeringe in Belgium. In the stone, below his army designation, is inscribed "PRIFARDD HEDD WYN"

Viv Kelly



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# Oberammergau

After a two year wait, we went on our pilgrimage to Oberammergau in August. What an amazing experience, a once in a lifetime overwhelming passion play of Jesus' last days. We were in Bavaria for just over 24 hours and it covered the most important time of Passiontide and Good Friday. We were not allowed to take photographs but I managed one of the open-air theatre before the performance started.

There were seven thousand people from all over the World there, and the first sitting was 2pm to 5pm. We then had our evening meal in the hotel and went back for the second act - 8pm to 11pm. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. The inhabitants of the village are all amateurs but take you into the story in the most intimate way. The Good Friday journey and the Crucifixion scenes were never to be forgotten. With the choir, orchestra and chorus, main characters and crowd scenes there were sometimes 1,200 people on stage.

The Passion Play is performed every ten years to celebrate being saved from the plague in the 15th century and only people born in the village can take part. It is still on until October this year and then not until 2030 so go if you get the chance. A never to be forgotten time of your life. The rest of the holiday was good too!

Dianne Gullett



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*We do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.*

# ST ILLTUD'S CHURCH LLANTWIT MAJOR 100 CLUB

Dear 100 Club Members

A huge 'thank you' to you all for your support and contributions to the 100 Club during the past year. The church has benefited greatly from the much-needed funds.

The new 100 Club year starts in September and we would be delighted if you would continue to support the 100 Club during the year ahead.

If you pay by standing order you need do nothing, but if you pay by annual cheque, your subscription is now due. Please send your cheque to the Parish Office, payable to St Illtud's Church Llantwit Major.

Once again many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely



*Canon Edwin Counsell*

## From the registers

### Baptisms

- 31st July. Henry Edward Hanks
- 07th Aug. Sebastian James Alexander Payne
- 07th Aug. Tobias Joseph Benjamin Payne
- 07th Aug. Alexander Huw Payne
- 07th Aug. Olivia Harriet Kinsey
- 07th Aug. Matilda Elizabeth Kinsey

### Marriages

- 30th July. James Kevin Rees & Sophie Marie Beynon
- 30th July. Lee Ross Bateman & Abby Lauren Alexander
- 06th Aug. Justin Marc Pritchard & Sharon June Bowen
- 13th Aug. Robert Charles Maxwell Strachan & Chloe Sinead Hearne
- 19th Aug. Louis Arthur Benjamin Tate & Rebecca Martha Harris

### Burials

- 04th Aug. Brian James Frieze, aged 92 years, Rhoose
- 04th Aug. David Price, aged 80 years, Llantwit Major
- 05th Aug. Gerald Plummer Thomas, aged 92 years, Cowbridge
- 12th Aug. Eiryl Pritchard, aged 75 years, Wick
- 25th Aug. Barbara Davies, aged 68 years, Llantwit Major

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*There are moments when everything goes well, but don't be frightened.*

## St Swithun - Mun

It's so hot, it's so dry.

It makes me think of a school worship service I'd led before the end of the Summer Term, where I'd told the pupils all about St Swithun and how, according to his posthumous miracle, whatever the forecast is on 15<sup>th</sup> July, it'll be the same weather for 40 days and 40 nights ..... St Swithun wasn't a reliable forecaster though, as when I was telling this to the children, it was raining!!!!

I work in a rural area, and I can't help but think of the implications of this drought on the farmers ..... the lack of water's an enormous threat to the growing of a good winter feed for all of the livestock ..... such a worrying time for our rural community.

And is there going to be any more water rationing I wonder? It reminds me of the hosepipe banning in 1976 .....and what about the water rationing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, where an entire family had to share just 5 inches of bathwater, per family, per week! Frightening.

For me, as a Christian priest, water has SO many meanings. But perhaps the greatest meaning is when Jesus refers to Himself as the Living Water. In the Bible, Jesus says "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink". I come across SO many people in the world today who are thirsty, they have a spiritual thirst....., perhaps they've lost a loved one, perhaps they're crying out for an escape of the addictions of today's society, perhaps they've received some bad news and can't make sense of it ..... perhaps their lives are wonderful, and they know that there's a being, greater than this world, that they wish to thank .....

For Christians, Jesus is an answer to our spiritual dehydration. He tells us that anyone who thirsts for righteousness is truly blessed. This is the uniqueness of Jesus, He gives us the living water.....

But I can't help going back to good ol' St Swithun. Apparently, there's a scientific basis to the weather pattern behind his miracle, where the jet stream settles into a pattern of constant weather from mid-July to late August. It's as if it's one of those occasions when science, faith and human instinct all agree – but come on St Swithun-mun, we've got 14 days of this drought left, we need some rain!!!!

Emma Street

*This is the transcript of a talk given by our own Rev Emma Street on BBC Wales on "Wednesday Word" on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. The talk was well received, and it is reproduced without any further comment.*

Ed

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*In theory, theory and practice are of the same, but in practice they are different.*

# Saint of the Month

## 1<sup>st</sup> September: St Giles of Provence (8<sup>th</sup> century)

There are many churches dedicated to St Giles, including St Giles' Church, Wrexham, one of the finest in Wales; St Giles, Oxford, which has given its name to a fair which is always held there in the first week in September; and St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, the mother church of the Church of Scotland. One of the churches in our Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area – Gileston – is dedicated to St Giles. Or is it? More on that later.



We know very little about St Giles, except that he founded a monastery in Provence, now called Saint-Gilles, which was on the pilgrimage route, Camino,

to Compostela, and to the Holy land. He is said to have particularly cared for the wounded and those crippled by disease and is known as one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers'. Giles is the patron saint for disabled people, lepers, beggars, and blacksmiths. Since lepers were not allowed into towns and cities, churches were built on the outskirts and dedicated to St Giles, some 160 in England alone.

However, St Giles' Church, Gileston, takes its name not from St Giles, but from the Giles family who are first recorded as Lords of the Manor in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and built the present church in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, calling it the Church of St Giles. But the parish was originally called Llanfabon-y-Fro, the Church – or more correctly – the community of St Mabon in the Vale. There is also a Llanfabon in the Rhymney Valley, the principal community of St Mabon, who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and is said to have been the brother of Teilo, the second bishop of south-east Wales.

However, there is another St Mabon, the daughter of Brychan, the prince of Brycheiniog (Breconshire). She travelled from Breconshire to take part in the evangelisation of Cornwall, settling in what is now the village of St Mabyn on the edge of Bodmin Moor in Cornwall. Her route from Brecon would have taken her to the port of Aberthaw, perhaps stopping at what is now Gileston, where she gathered together people in the area to tell them about the Christian faith and starting a church, which may have been served by priests from Llanilltud Fawr. Speculation may be, but certainly it would seem there was an ancient church at Gileston long before the Giles family arrived.

**Philip Morris**

---

*For every action there is an equal and opposite criticism.*

# Benefice Directory

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Contributions to be received by 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

<b>SEPTEMBER 2022 Final</b>	<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
St Illtud's 8.00am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	
St James', Wick 8.00am	Online	Online	Online	Online	
St Tathan 9.00am	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	
St Illtud's 9.30am	Online & in person	Online & in person	Online & in person	Online & in person	
Ewenny Priory 9.30am	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	
St Giles, Gileston 9.30am	Eucharist		Morning Prayer		
St Michaels, Llanmihangel 9.30am	Eucharist		Harvest Service @ 5.00pm		
St Cattwg's, Llanmaes 11.00am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	
St Bridget's 11.00am	Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Eucharist	Eucharist	
St James', Wick 11.00am	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	Eucharist	
St Donat 11.15am	Prayer & Praise	Eucharist	Prayer & Praise	Meet, Greet & Eat	
Holy Trinity, Marcross	<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.30am</b> Friday Fellowship				
St Mary's, Monknash			<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 9.30am</b> Friday Fellowship		
St James', Wick 11.00am	<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup></b> Morning Prayer on Zoom	<b>Thurs 8<sup>th</sup></b> Morning Prayer on Zoom	<b>Thurs 15<sup>th</sup></b> Morning Prayer on Zoom	<b>Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Morning Prayer on Zoom	<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup></b> Morning Prayer on Zoom
St Illtud's 10am		<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup></b> Morning Prayer
St Illtud's 12.15pm	<b>Fri 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Eucharist & Soup lunch	<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist & Soup lunch	<b>Fri 16<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist & Soup lunch	<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Eucharist & Soup lunch	<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist & Soup lunch
St Tathan 11am		<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist
All Saint's, Southerndown 3pm		<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 14<sup>th</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b> Eucharist	<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup></b> Evening Prayer
St Illtud's 7.00pm					<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup></b> Healing Service



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