

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Welcome to our March/April magazine .

Thank you to our contributors who ensure that there are plenty of interesting items to stimulate, inspire and guide other readers. Please keep sending in your thoughts, stories and photographs.

Thank you for your continuing support. We hope that you are keeping well and safe.

God Bless.

Claire



**GROUNDFORCE DAY**

**THURSDAY 14TH MARCH**  
**STARTING AT 10.00AM**

**WEATHER PERMITTING**

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR OR TWO TO HELP  
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## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE

### Moving Forward

January and February has been a whirlwind with the pre-contract meeting on Friday 12th January to set the date in stone for the commencement of the refurbishment work. We had two weeks to organise a concert with Julius Nglass and Open Day, plan the final service to be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> and the challenge of emptying the church for the builders to come in on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Thankfully, a great team effort meant that it was all done in time.



The final service in the church was one of Thanksgiving and Blessing to remind us of the Lord's faithfulness in the past, the call to be a pilgrim people, obediently following Christ and to live a life of service. This is succinctly expressed in the lyrics of the beautiful song by Robert Gillard:

*We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow trav'lers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.*

Our Lenten journey, Holy Week and Easter will be different this year, worshipping outside of the church building, but it reinforces that we are a pilgrim people and not reliant on a building. During this season of Lent, reflect and prepare for the celebrations of Easter. Find time to pray, support a charity, attend the Lenten Lunches, serve as you are able, and fast as the Lord directs.

It has been so encouraging to gather for worship on Wednesday, initially at the Town Hall but moving to Ss Julius, Aaron & David RC Church, and Charles Williams CinW primary school on Sundays. Let us celebrate those well established and strong links made through Caerleon and Ponthir Churches Together and the school during this time when we cannot use our building for worship.



I care deeply for you as your priest and during this season of upheaval and change, be assured that

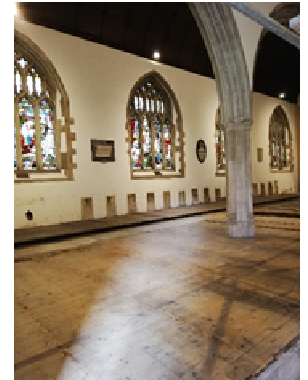
## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE —continued

you are loved. I also encourage you to care for one another so that our family remains together and protected.

St Paul writes, '... love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.' Romans 12:1-12

The final hymn for the last service in the church was, 'Lord of All Hopefulness' by Timothy Dudley-Smith. The last verse a timely reminder of God's faithfulness and the importance of putting the past behind and looking to the future.

*Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us, self on the cross and Christ upon the throne, past put behind us, for the future take us, Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*



### Every Pictures Tells A Story

I have included a photograph of the church before the start of the work and what has been achieved within ten working days. What an incredible difference!

Following the mammoth task of boarding up the chancel and Lady Chapel, removing the pews and heating pipes, the vast nave is revealed. The church looks bigger and lighter already, revealing the new flexible space to be used for worship and community events. This speaks of new opportunities and I am excited at what is to come.

*'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.'*  
Proverbs 16:3

With Love in Christ,  
Rev'd Sue





# Come and Celebrate Mothering Sunday



Thank God  
for Mums!

## Sunday 10th March

**10.30am Family Service**  
at Charles Williams CinW Primary School

Complete with posies, and refreshments.



## SERVICES FROM PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER

<b>24th March</b> 10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Sung Eucharist with blessing of the palms at Charles Williams CinW Primary
<b>26th March</b> 11.00am	<b>Holy Tuesday</b> Chrism Mass at Newport Cathedral
<b>27th March</b> 10.30am	<b>Holy Wednesday</b> Eucharist at Ss Julius, Aaron & David RC Church
<b>31st March</b> 10.30am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Sung Eucharist at Charles Williams CinW Primary

Services for the Triduum will be held in the Beechwood Ministry Area with congregants encouraged to attend the other churches.



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## PREPARING FOR THE REFURBISHMENT

Following the "Grab A Pew" plan, the pews were removed in readiness for the refurbishment which commenced on Monday 12th February.

The first pew to be removed was been bought by a couple who will be married at St Cadoc's later this year.



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## NEWS FROM THE HIGHVELD

In her latest mail, Fran has been pleased to say that the number of children in Sunday School is rising which is very encouraging. Following Covid, it has taken some time for people to feel confident in returning to church, though numbers attending services have also improved greatly.

The Soup Kitchen run from the grounds of All Souls is open and the number of people collecting at the gate each lunchtime is increasing. Approximately sixty people were queuing regularly for food, when we were there in November.

The choir has lost several members recently but fortunately an experienced chorister has joined, along with Fr John's wife (who is also a retired priest). Fran says that she is an excellent alto and in her words 'they are like hens' teeth, and she is making a huge difference to the harmony'. I believe this is a universal problem, as I'm sure I've heard that we have the same problem at Caerleon.

Following the visit to the Diocese of the Highveld by Bishop Cherry last November and, whilst there, having viewed the many projects overseen by the Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility, this year the Bishop's Lent Appeal is to support the invaluable and exceedingly necessary work of HABSR. During Lent the Bishop's weekly mail will contain articles which focus on these projects from the viewpoint of those who accompanied her.

During the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> February the diocese hosted an ordinand from our link diocese. His name is Teboho Molefe and he was in Canterbury with a group of ordinands from across the world and asked if he could follow this with a visit to the Monmouth Diocese. He had a very full week, being taken to various events by Bishop Cherry and other people with connections to the link.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Julio and I took him to Raven House Trust, where we spent a very interesting morning. Teboho was surprised to see the selection of items which are included in the food boxes distributed from Raven House Trust, quite unlike the basic provisions given out from Food Banks in the Highveld. Thanks to Bruce Johnson for organising this visit.

Following lunch, when we were joined by Rev'd Sue, the afternoon was spent looking at the historic sites in Caerleon and the outside of our beautiful church - and a peek at the inside through the open doors, before visiting All Souls, Brynglas

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## NEWS FROM THE HIGHVELD

and meeting the link contacts from the four parishes which have links in their Ministry Area.

It is these personal face to face visits that keep the Link alive and I am only too sorry that, on this occasion, we were unable to get this delightful man to meet our parishioners. Once the church is completed and the hall is once again available we will be able to offer any further visitors a real Caerleon welcome.

As Rev'd Sue has said, if you have any donations towards the Bishop's Appeal, Chris, Julio and I will be happy to receive them. In years past we used to forego one meal a week during the lead up to Easter and give a donation in lieu to the Bishop's Appeal. Plans are in hand to hold a Murder Mystery after Easter, with the money raised to go to the Lent Appeal. More news of this once a date is in place.

With best wishes,  
Carolyn Benavides



## RSCM LOYAL SERVICE AWARDS

On January 14th at St Cadoc's Caerleon the Rev'd Sue Pratten presented Timothy Ford and Graham Davies with Royal School of Church Music certificates for their dedicated service to St Cadoc's choir; Tim for 50 years and Graham for 42 years.



Congratulations to you both and a big thank you for your loyalty and service to St Cadoc's church over so many years.

Veronica Jenkins

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**CLOSED 29 May. 21&28 August. 30 Oct. 25 Dec**



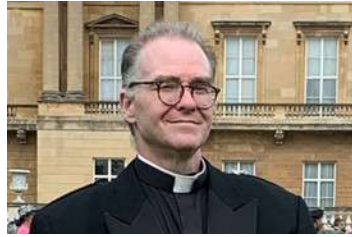


## A STATEMENT FROM FR WILLIAM INGLE-GILLIS

25th February 2024

Dear Friends,

It is with decidedly mixed feelings that I must announce that my time in Beechwood Ministry Area is drawing to a close. After considerable prayer, along with deep reflection and much conversation, I have decided to accept a post in the Heart of Monmouthshire Ministry Area to work together with Sally.



The Bishop has asked that my final service in the Beechwood Ministry Area should be on Easter Sunday Morning, and that my licensing in Usk be on the 30th of April. This has not been an easy decision for me. Back in December, I proposed to the MAC what I hope will still be a solid way forward for the MA to start moving from the "process" phase into the real meat of the vision and mission phase that's so needed. I had hoped to see that programme through at least to its natural turning point, and indeed suggested this as my ideal way forward to the Bishop.

I hope that in some shape or form, it may yet serve you well. However, it's also true that, throughout the entirety of Sally's ordained life, her ministry has been compromised by having to live where I have served. She and I have worked hard over the years to make that work well. But, as she takes up her own new role, I can't help but think that the right and decent thing now is to allow Sally her own freedom to thrive in her own space — something she's never had before — and I believe that she will do that with her considerable and inimitable style.

As much as I have come to love the people of Beechwood, it now feels right that I should be giving my wife the kind of full support and backing that will let her shine. I didn't quite expect it to happen on such a rapid time frame. But I hope you all will understand why I feel the move is necessary at this stage. I am thankful for the long, hard hours so many people have put into making the Ministry Area and the individual churches work so well, and for the support I've been given.

We don't always say "thank you" often enough or well enough in the church, and I don't want to conclude anything without having given you my thanks fully: for your love, support, and work, I owe you all a debt of gratitude and love.

God bless us, William

## ST CADOC'S OPEN AFTERNOON

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February saw our Open Afternoon at St Cadoc's and what a treat we had!

Julius Nglass our Choirmaster, and classically trained tenor, accompanied at the piano by Peter Wileman, professional opera singer and teacher; gave us a veritable cornucopia of music in an hour long programme.



They opened with the solemn beauty of *The Lord's Prayer* by Malotte, written in 1935, followed by Cesar Franck's *Panis Angelicus* and Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*. This set closed with *Ombrai Mai Fu* by Handel.

Ringing the changes Julius then sang *Bless This House*, *Edelweiss* and *Climb Every Mountain*.



Then the singer turned pianist and showcased his virtuosity with Handel's *The Harmonious Blacksmith*.

Back to the singing, there followed a group of love songs. *Caro Mio Ben*, from the classical repertoire, led to *Mona Lisa* by Jay Livingstone and Ray Evans, *If I Love You* from *Carousel* by Rodgers and Hammerstein and *Because* by Guy d'Hardelot, made famous by the great Mario Lanza. Julius dedicated today's performance of this song to his wife, Chioma.

Julius then took his seat at the organ to give us Fela Sowande's *Joshua Fit De Battle Of Jericho*; after which he launched into Handel's *The Hallelujah Chorus*, which unrehearsed, and conducted by Peter, turned into a flash mob performance thoroughly enjoyed by everyone!

## ST CADOC'S OPEN AFTERNOON

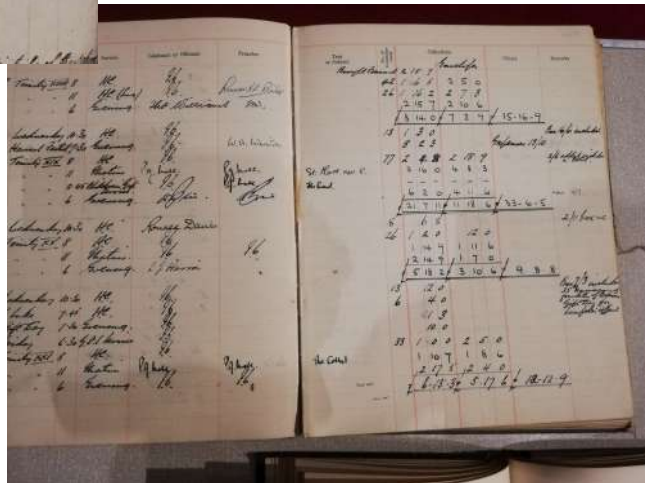
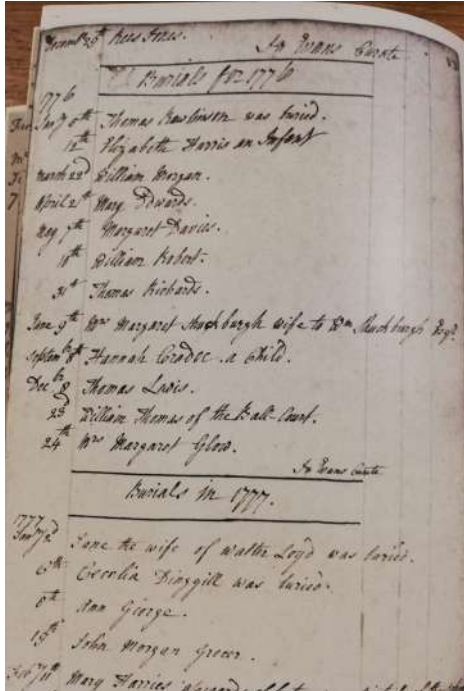
The concert concluded with *Time To Say Goodbye* by Lucio Quarantotto and Francesco Sartori, as Julius said, reminding us of the beauty both in beginnings and endings.

What a feast!

Chris Purkiss



The parish registers (going back centuries), altar frontals and even old parish magazines were on display. And as usual delicious cakes were served and children received goody bags. A celebratory afternoon Day at St Cadoc's before the church was closed for a major refurbishment.



## DO YOU REMEMBER? WHEN, WHO & WHY?

If you're the nostalgic type you probably love to dip into old photo albums and take a look through boxes in the loft filled with memorabilia and objects you just can't bear to part with.

Today we're taking you on a trip down memory lane with three throwback photos of faces from St Cadoc's church in the past.

If you recognise a friend, family member or even yourself, the year and the occasion, let Sue Batey know—[sbatey.stcadocs@gmail.com](mailto:sbatey.stcadocs@gmail.com)—just for fun, no prizes!







## BISHOP CHERRY'S LENT APPEAL

Join Bishop Cherry as she introduces our diocesan Lent Appeal 2024. This year's appeal will support projects in our link diocese in the Highveld, South Africa. Bishop Cherry visited the Highveld last autumn, with several others from St Cadoc's and from across the diocese, and during the forthcoming weeks of Lent, members of the group will be highlighting some of the projects they visited and some of the work that the Highveld Board of Social Responsibility is engaged in.



Here is the YouTube link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w86C0YoGkQ>

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# ECO CHURCH

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## MARCH

Celebrate Spring! Make sure you're giving yourself quality time enjoying creation: smelling the blossom, tapping catkins, copying bird song, finding a footprint or identifying spring flowers with the PI@ntNet app. Nature can boost our happiness so take time to observe nature in your gardens, on your balconies, and in your local green spaces.



## APRIL

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there's a local Ramblers group.







We are delighted to announce that St Cadoc's has been awarded the A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate, part of the journey to be an Eco Church. A big thank you to Huw Lewis and his team for their dedication and hard work.



## REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD GEEZER ABOUT GOD AND HOW WE RELATE TO HIM

### 7. Discipleship

Our daily news is quite scary right now. One of our military generals tells us we are at our 1937 moment relative to World War III. In his campaigning, Trump is threatening to encourage Russia to invade Europe, if he is elected to power. The risk of broader conflict in the Middle East seems to be escalating every day.

After two thousand years, with Christianity as the dominant religion in the world, how is it that the followers of Jesus have so little positive influence? How is it possible that there are some, calling themselves Christian, who see a nuclear war as the welcome Armageddon, because they believe they are saved by their belief in the reality of Jesus' existence, and all those they hate will be destroyed and damned forever, by Jesus' second coming?

What does it really mean to be a follower, a disciple, of Jesus? Does membership of a Christian denomination automatically define me as a disciple? Is it enough to simply believe in Jesus?

A disciple is a learner, someone following and learning from a specific master. Following, in this context is about striving to learn all the master teaches and then putting that learning into practice, by emulating the master's way of life.

Is it possible to succinctly summarise all of Jesus' teaching? Jesus did that for us when responded to the scribe's challenge to declare the greatest commandment: *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."* Matt 28:37-40

The last sentence in Jesus' response tells us, in no uncertain terms, that loving God and loving our neighbour is a full and complete summary of everything the Bible teaches us. By linking love of God with love of neighbour, Jesus also makes it clear that it is not possible to love God without loving your neighbour. John understood this:

## REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD GEEZER ABOUT GOD AND HOW WE RELATE TO HIM

*"We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."* 1 John 4:20-21

John speaks of loving our brother, someone who is close and known to us. Jesus went a lot further in the parable of the Good Samaritan, when he made it clear that even strangers from a different tribe, qualify as our neighbour. And he stretched that definition of who we should love even further:

*"But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit [is] that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful."* Luke 6:26-36.

Being a disciple of Jesus is obviously far more demanding than simply believing in Jesus and going to church on Sunday. If we accept that by his life, death and resurrection, Jesus defined love as unconditional self-giving for the good of all affected, he made clear just how demanding it is, when he gave us his definition of a disciple:

*"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

A disciple of Jesus is defined by the extent to which their unconditional love for another, is recognised by all those around them.



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# Murder Mystery & Dinner



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Friday  
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7 p.m.

at the  
Charles Williams  
Church in Wales School Caerleon

Tickets £15

Contact *Carolynne* 01633423242 or *Chris* 01633422051

*Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served or BYOB*

## REFLECTIONS OF AN OLD GEEZER ABOUT GOD AND HOW WE RELATE TO HIM

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Imagine what the world would look like today, if over the last 2000 years we had consistently taken Jesus' new commandment on board.

Change happens one person at a time. If I am no more than a mustard seed in the way I live my life, could that perhaps influence others? If it did, using our individual gifts collectively and cohesively together, could we in turn influence yet more others to belong, as the active Body of Christ, to make the world a better place than it is right now?

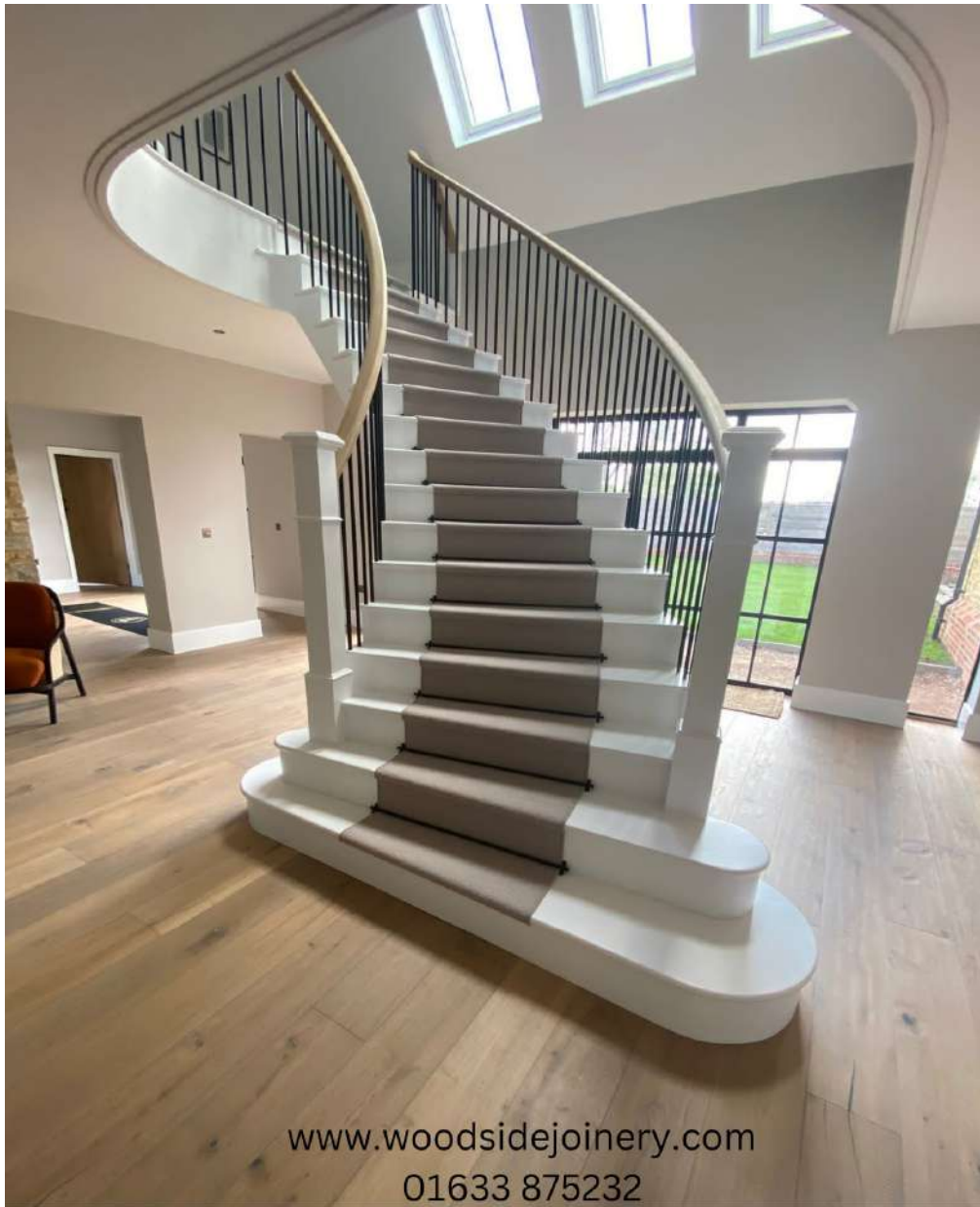
Love is more than a belief. Love is action. I don't know about you, but I find that very challenging and not a little scary. To be honest, I find the whole Gospel quite scary, but the thought of learning how to become love, so I willingly choose to accept God's gift of oneness with him, is more than a little exciting. I don't think he's looking for perfection. I think he just wants us to try our best. As we become ever more used to it, like everything, I'm sure it will become easier.

Will the new space of our changing church building perhaps become a beacon of love, a place from which we, as the Body of Christ, actively reach out together and become easily recognised by our love for our neighbour, as disciples of Jesus? Will it be a place from which our influence might make just a small contribution towards the whole world becoming more caring, more inclusive, more tolerant, more peaceful, more loving?

It will take active planning, organising and effort to make it happen, and it's not something we can expect Rev'd Sue to do alone. It's up to all of us - and always through Jesus, with him and in him.

God bless.

Des Robertson



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## CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP

When you have some spare time, just pop around the churchyard and see if anything that needs doing which you feel you can do.



- Pick a nice sunny day so that the experience is ENJOYABLE
- Perhaps bring a small bottle of Prosecco (to be consumed afterward of course!)
- Maybe bring a pair of secateurs, clippers or a trowel or whatever you need, but *don't forget a bottle of water*. There will be a couple of small wheel barrows left outside the machines garage by the rectory and a brush and a rake.

Whatever you decide to do, make it ENJOYABLE, with no stress and no need to go to your gym class!

Huw Lewis

"a gentle suggestion and if you have any questions, please let me know  
07847834135"

## FROM THE REGISTERS

January / February 2024

**HOLY BAPTISM—***We welcome into the life and fellowship of the Church*

20th Jan Nieve Poppy Brown

**HOLY MATRIMONY / RENEWAL OF VOWS** - None

**FUNERAL—** *We offer our deepest sympathy to the relatives*

2nd Jan Julie Anne Adams, St Cadoc's

18th Jan Sylvia Rogers, Tovey's private chapel

6th Feb Maureen Pearl Preece, Gwent Crematorium

9th Feb Stuart Bailey (Memorial Service), St Cadoc's

21st Feb Dorothy Tolcher, Gwent Crematorium



## REMINISCING ...

I was looking through some old photo albums recently and came across some prints of the days when we produced the Parish Magazine by hand.

Douglas spent many hours on the temperamental printer to produce copies in time for the monthly Friday meet-up.



Tables would be placed end-to-end in one long line with pages in order on each side. We walked along each side (some more quickly than others!) gathering the sheets in order. Two of the men added the cover and using long-arm staplers produced the finished product. It was several months before someone suggested putting the covers on the table with the sheets and this quickened up the process. The finished copies were placed in bundles of ten and Douglas bundled the correct number of copies for each distributor. One lady always arrived early and it was a race to see if could have hers ready.

At Christmas time we had a leisurely lunch together in Mr Ben's Bistro. This in contrast to the rush of putting the magazine "to bed".



## REMINISCING ...

I DO enjoy reminiscing and remember with fondness those who are reaping the rewards of their time on earth in a better world than this one. But there were many laughs and happy times.



For example when Rosemarie arrived to tell us that she was engaged to Trefor. Work stopped as we gathered round to admire the ring.

I sometimes wonder how young people will sort out all the photos on their 'phones and miss the pleasure that I enjoy? From each spool of 24 prints I chose just three or four for my album.

Grace Packer

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The advertisement features a background with a diamond-shaped grid pattern. On the left side, there is an illustration of a lawnmower, and on the right side, there is an illustration of a chainsaw. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts.

# WHO'S WHO

**Vicar:** Rev'd Sue Pratten The Vicarage, Caerleon  
01633 421485 vicar.stcadocs@gmail.com

Please contact Rev'd Sue about baptisms, marriages, funerals and pastoral visiting. For information about other parish matters or church services, please contact the churchwardens.

## Churchwardens

St Cadoc's: Sue Batey 01633 430259  
Tim Ford 0771 168 3454

## Safeguarding Coordinator

Graham Davies 01633 485074

## Health and Safety Officer

Tim Ford 0771 168 3454

## Beechwood MA

Fr William Ingle-Gillis 0772 250 0805



Tel: 01633 376077

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