



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our May/June issue. A big thank you to all our contributors for providing plenty of interesting content to inspire and guide our readers. Keep sending in your thoughts, stories, and photographs!

Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope you're all staying safe and well.

**Please note that St Cadoc's Local Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 2nd June at 12.00pm at Charles Williams CinW Primary School.**

Best wishes, Claire



All proceeds to go to the  
St Cadoc's Church  
Refurbishment Appeal



COME AND JOIN US  
AT CHARLES WILLIAMS CinW PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Tea and Cakes

SAT 25th May 2024 and SAT 15th June 2024

## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE



### A Pilgrim People

The BBC 'Pilgrimage', followed a group of celebrities on a journey of a lifetime. With different faiths and beliefs, the challenge was to see how stepping in ancient footsteps on a spiritual journey in North Wales would broaden their minds, hearts,

inspire and re-awaken a hunger for the divine.

They walked the 220km Pilgrim's Way, with the route beginning near St Winefride's Well and ending at Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island), on the tip of Llyn Peninsula. Fabled as the 'Island of 20,000 saints', Ynys Enlli was a popular destination for early Celtic Christian monks, who believed it to be the end of the world.

It was fascinating to observe the interaction of the pilgrims, the vulnerabilities and wounds which bubbled to the surface for healing and restoration to begin. There was a moment in the programme when the pilgrims were introduced and invited to be still in a 'thin place'. For the Celtic saints, who were deeply connected to the natural world, this is where heaven touches earth. It is an undeniable connection to the sacred.

Bethel, Mount Sinai, the Tabernacle and Tent of Meeting were thin places in scripture. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, St Antony's Cave, St Peter's in Rome, Canterbury Cathedral, Santiago de Compostela, Lourdes, and other famous pilgrimage sites are examples from Christian history.

Iona in Scotland or Lindisfarne (Holy Island) in Northumberland are known to be such places, but there are many

ancient places, hidden and waiting to be discovered. Places where the air is still 'thin' and God can be easily found. These places where Christians worshipped and prayed, in previous centuries, are often known as 'spiritual portals' or 'wells'.

There are 'thin places' where I have found prayer effortless and encountered the

## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE —continued

Lord in ways that have been profound and even life changing: St David's, Ty Mawr Convent, 'Ffald Y Brenin' and Llannerchwen retreat centre.

We all need to nurture our spiritual lives and I encourage you to consider visiting some of these wonderful 'thin places' especially as summer approaches, and hopefully the weather improves! Perhaps even consider going on a personal 'retreat'. Lee Abbey, which lies on the North Devon Coast, is a wonderful Christian retreat, holiday and conference centre. The website (<https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/>) will give you a flavour of the centre and the range of retreats offered during the year.

### Are we not pilgrim people?

The celebrity pilgrims are not unique, for we are all on a journey of a lifetime. With the closure of the church we are most definitely moving from the old to the new. In all the upheaval of the refurbishment, and the demands of worshipping in a different setting it is important to find the time to be still renewed and strengthened as God's people. What will help you grow in faith and how will you create space for the Lord to speak and you to listen?



I invite you to reflect on the scriptures below as a starting point.

*Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."*

Jeremiah 6 v16

*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

Psalms 42 v2

*"For God alone my soul waits in silence."*

Psalms 62 v1



With Love in Christ,  
Rev'd Sue

Churches Together  
Caerleon & Ponthir

invite you to a celebration of

# PENTECOST

Sunday 19th May  
Ponthir Baptist Church  
Speaker  
Nigel Burge  
4p.m.  
Followed by a  
Bring and Share Tea  
Good Food, Good Fellowship,  
Good News!

Sunday 2nd June 2024 at 4.00pm

**Choral Evensong at Newport Cathedral.**

**All are welcome!**

The choir of St Cadoc's Caerleon will join the Cathedral Choir

Refreshments will be served after the service



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*Please note that once sponsored, the chair will remain the property of St Cadoc's church. Sponsorship of a chair does not entitle the sponsor to any special seating rights. The chairs are designed so that they may be moved and stacked where necessary. While the chairs are expected to last for many years and every effort will be made to avoid damage, there is no guarantee that any chair will be in the church indefinitely.*

## NEWS FROM THE HIGHVELD

As you are aware, following our visit to the Diocese of the Highveld in November 2023, Bishop Cherry has chosen our link diocese as her Lent Appeal recipient this year. The problems we saw whilst there are not dissimilar to some of the ones we see here but the number of people experiencing lack of work, lack of food and of basic sanitary items, to mention just a few, is colossal, and when we say they have nothing, that is exactly what we mean!

Chris and I, with essential help from Chris Edwards, who is writing it, and also the amazing members of the Action Committee, held a Murder Mystery event on Friday 26th April in aid of the Lent Appeal. The evening was very successful and raised £965, which will be added to money we raised previously from the Christmas Greeting Tree, personal donations and the Christmas Tree Festival Raffle and be sent as St Cadoc's contribution to the appeal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to the funds we have raised.

One of the essentials that is constantly required in the Highveld and which we delivered to a school when we made our visit last November was that of sanitary items. In February, Julio and I made a visit to Raven House Trust with a visiting ordinand from our link diocese. During this visit, we learnt that there was a supply of sanitary items available but the cost to transport it to the Highveld made it unviable to get them where they were desperately needed.

However, God moves in a mysterious way and, following a conversation with Bruce Johnson and an email from him to a contact he has in Johannesburg, four large boxes of sanitary items have set off in a container on their journey to St Dunstan's Cathedral, Benoni, and the office of the Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility (HABSR). The Safe Parks, which ensured some security for children at the end of the school day have, for the most part, not reopened following covid, due to a lack of money to train helpers and to provide resources and meals to run them. This has resulted in greater social problems, with girls being abused, as there are no responsible adults to protect them when they get home from school. There has also been an increase in young people resorting to crime to gain some money to help their families.

Our parish of All Souls is playing its part in helping those in need. Three times a week they feed the 60 or more people who gather at the gate of the church. The parishioners have reinstated a tithe to Buyani House, their outreach centre, to enable them to reach out to people in need. They quote that 9,333 meals were served in 2023. Buyani House has joined a project which offers training courses for the unemployed and is setting aside money for this purpose. Monthly parcels of non-perishable food are sent out to 45 families with children at Katlehong School and at the

# NEWS FROM THE HIGHVELD

end of 2023 they contributed cakes and gifts to the Christmas party for the children.

Don King, one of their parishioners who we have met on several visits, continues to develop food gardens to help youngsters to learn a trade and to provide food for the community. Fran and the parishioners of All Souls send their very best wishes to all at St Cadoc's.

Carolyn Benavides



*Guess who  
was the  
murderer?*

# THE PARISH TRIP 2024



This year's Parish trip is scheduled for Winchester on August 31st, leaving the village at 8:30 am. The package, priced at £35 per person, covers the round trip via coach, admission to the cathedral along with a guided tour, and a delightful serving of scone, tea, or coffee at the refectory before attending Evensong.

To secure your spot, Julio and Carolyn are currently collecting a deposit of £10 per person. For clarity, kindly enclose the notes or a cheque payable to St Cadoc's Church Caerleon in an envelope labelled with your name.



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**FROM THE PAST FEW MONTHS**

A joyful occasion as St Cadoc's choir were welcomed at Newport Cathedral for Evensong on Sunday 3rd March.



Easter Celebration at Caerleon Nursing Home on 25th March 2024 with parishioners from St Cadoc's. Many thanks to Jason for the invite and hospitality!



## WHERE WE ARE WORSHIPPING...

### ...on Sunday morning

First Sunday service in Charles Williams CinW Primary since St Cadoc's was closed for the refurbishment! Thank you to Miss Penn, governors and Andy, the caretaker, for your welcome and support.



### ...on Wednesday mornings

Ss Julius, Aaron & David RC Church, Caerleon have offered their church for the midweek service during the refurbishment of St Cadoc's. A beautiful church and a testimony to how well the churches work together in our community.



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

Did you spot people from the last photos? Members of the Tuesday morning group Spring 1989! Dedication of the new Young Families banner with Curate Rev Alan Chiplin, Elaine Hills, Jean Rowlands and Mavis Wallace. Caerleon's Act of Witness Procession 21/05/89.

Here a few more to think about. Where are the large group and what were our two ladies watching? Who is the Mothers' Union leader?

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!



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## PROGRESS UPDATES ON THE REFURBISHMENT

**12th February 2024** was the official handover of St Cadoc's church to Davlan Construction Limited to start the refurbishment of St Cadoc's.



**22nd February 2024**

A few photos to show how the building work is progressing at St Cadoc's. After only nine days the beauty and elegance of the pillars have been revealed, with light pouring into the spacious nave.

## PROGRESS UPDATES ON THE REFURBISHMENT

**14th March 2024**

'Severn Environment Services' have been hard at work removing the asbestos. As the photographs show, this is dangerous work and we are grateful for Dafydd and his team, who did an amazing job!



**23rd March 2024**

We welcomed Martyn, secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, to see how the refurbishment is progressing. Nick and his team from Davlan Construction are doing an amazing job. The floor has been lifted, ready to prepare the ground for the installation of the underfloor heating. A few interesting features have been uncovered and will be checked out by the archaeologists. The extent of the rot has now been exposed...



#### 4th April 2024

Martin and Alice, from Heneb - The Trust for Welsh Archaeology (Dyfed Archeology) have been hard at work systematically recording the items of archaeological interest found in the church.



#### 26th April 2024

Good progress is being made as the ground is prepared for the drains and electrical ducts.



# ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

## MAY

**Say no to the mow.** Mowing your lawn less and letting parts grow long saves you time and helps give nature a home. If you want to make an even bigger impact on wildlife, wait to mow your lawn or a section of it until August to support even more animals. Contribute to citizen science and get to know what (and who!) lives in your church's green space – sign up to take part in Churches Count on Nature (8–16 June 2024) at [caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/](https://caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/).

Together we can protect and restore creation



## JUNE

**Join #30DaysWild.** One of A Rocha UK's firm beliefs is that we are more likely to nurture and defend God's creation if we spend time enjoying it. The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge is a great opportunity to engage with nature as an individual, household, or with your church community throughout June. Find some wild ideas at [wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild](https://wildlifetrusts.org/30-days-wild)



On behalf of **Bishop Cherry** we invite you to:

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## RINGING RETURNS TO ST CADOC'S

The bells of St Cadoc's can be heard again in Caerleon after being silent for 5 weeks due to the refurbishment. The tower was out of action during the asbestos removal phase of the project. Our ringers however continued to practise on a Wednesday night visiting Bassaleg and Tredunnock towers. With the tower virtually unaffected by the remainder of the refurbishment ringing will continue both on Wednesday evenings and before service on Sunday mornings. Reminding the community that although the church may be temporarily closed church life is continuing as normal.

We are always looking to welcome new ringers if you're interested in learning to ring please email [phil.sergeant1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sergeant1@gmail.com) to arrange a taster session.

Phil



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

### 8. Learning to Forgive

Isn't God's forgiveness wonderful? Saying "sorry" wipes the slate clean and I'm free to start all over again. Or am I?

As a child I was taught that acknowledging my sins and asking for God's forgiveness was all that was necessary, because God is so merciful. Of course, like all good children, I always did as I was told and said sorry. Growing up, I started thinking for myself and naturally began to question. In my rebelliousness, questioning authority was more about justifying my own chosen view of the world. Inevitably, my personal justifications brought their own challenges, especially when I was drawn to read the Gospel.

*"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."*

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus immediately clarified what this means and left no wriggle room for interpretation.

*"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."*

Matt 6:14-15

Why does God not simply accept my apology at face value? Why does he make it so difficult? Jesus is saying that if I want total forgiveness, I must forgive totally. That's a big ask! Forgiveness is not easy when we have been hurt, especially when there is obviously no sincere repentance.

Forgiveness is clearly a big deal for Jesus. He has a lot to say about it throughout the Gospel. He also demonstrated God's standard of forgiveness on numerous occasions. He practiced what he preached, in no uncertain terms, not least by his sacrifice for us, on the cross.

*"If your brother...repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,' you should forgive him."*

Luke 17:3-4

It is hard to not bear a grudge when those who have offended will not own the hurt they have caused me, even when failing to forgive does more harm to me than the person I resent. I lie awake at night churning the hurt over and over in my head. In my worst moments I dream of ways to make them pay, but it does not help. It just destroys

my mental health. On the Alpha course they make the point that bearing a grudge is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. How true!

*My response to this tough teaching is much the same as Jesus' apostles: "And the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.'"*

Luke 17:5

After Jesus rose again and appeared to his apostles, he granted their request:  
*"Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain, are retained."*

John 20:22-23

I had to think about what he meant by "whose sins you retain, are retained." Despite the gift of the Holy Spirit helping us to forgive unconditionally, we still have our free will. If we refuse to forgive, we retain not just our grudges, but also our sinfulness.

Unless we forgive, God cannot allow us to become one with him. Forgiveness is directly linked to judgment - our judgment of others and indeed, our own final judgment. If the Gospel is true, our Father's approach to judgment will be no different to Jesus. God will not decide my fate for all eternity. I will. It is up to me to accept God's offer to be one with him for all eternity, or not.

While God loves me unconditionally, oneness with him is conditional upon me being willing to align all I am and all I do, completely with him. I must forgive totally and unconditionally, just as he does. If I am not willing to embrace his Way, his Truth and his Life, I will be at odds with him and, as Jesus made abundantly clear, a house divided cannot stand. God obviously cannot allow that.

Being willing to stop doing things my way and return like the prodigal son, ready to unconditionally accept God's way, means God will come running out to welcome me with a ring and a splendid new coat. However, he will also come running out to welcome all those I have not forgiven, as well as those I may believe are not worthy to be embraced by him. If I choose to allow his behaviour to offend my self-righteousness, like the faithful son, I too will refuse to attend his banquet, no matter how much he begs me to join him.

I still have a long way go in learning to forgive, so I can become love, to become one with God. Fortunately, all is not lost. The Holy Spirit reminds me every day to pray: "Just for today, Lord, just for today!"

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

March/April 2024

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

3rd March Grace Elizabeth Ivy Tarling, St Cadoc's

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

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

6th March Marilyn Lesley Custard, Peake's Private Chapel

11th March Llewellyn Morgan Davies, St Cadoc's

19th March Paul Geoffrey Parker, St Cadoc's

20th March Margaret Joyce Ratcliffe, St Cadoc's



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# 2024 CHAPLAINCY CONFERENCE

The Haven, Swansea University  
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### DISCUSSION & INSIGHT



**Celebrating Diversity and Commonality: what makes us Chaplains and Faith Teams?**



**Chaplaincy: The art of legitimate compromise**



**Challenging Worldviews: The Sacred, the Secular, Space and Discourse in Multifaith Chaplaincies**

**Rev. Dr Sally Nash**  
Practical Theologian  
She researches and teaches paediatric chaplaincy, and is one of the Directors of the Centre for Paediatric Spiritual Care. She teaches at St Padarn's Institute, Cardiff.



**Rev. Dr Paul Nash**  
Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Lead  
The Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Lead at Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital, Paul is also the convener of the Paediatric Chaplaincy Network for GB&I.



**Dr Mansur Ali**  
Senior Islamic Lecturer  
Dr Mansur Ali is Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies at Cardiff University. Co-Author of Understanding Muslim Chaplaincy



**Prof. Martin Stringer**  
Ex-PVC at Swansea University  
A member of the Council of Birmingham Newman University, and author of "Faith, Diversity and Higher Education: The Swansea Papers, or Towards the Faith Based University" in press.



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# WHO'S WHO

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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**

Sue Batey      01633 430259  
Tim Ford      0771 168 3454

**Safeguarding Coordinator**

Graham Davies      01633 485074

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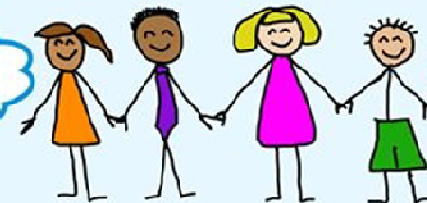
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