



## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

*Welcome to our May and June magazine!*

Thanks so much to all our contributors—especially the new voices—for sharing such interesting and inspiring content. You help keep things fresh and meaningful for everyone reading along.

We'd love to keep hearing from you, so please keep sending in your stories, thoughts, and photos.

Thanks again for all your support. Hope you're staying safe and well. Take care and God bless

*Claire*



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



COME AND JOIN US  
AT CHARLES WILLIAMS CinW SCHOOL

## Tea and Cakes

SAT 17th MAY 2025 2pm to 4pm

## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE

### ST CADOC'S CHURCH

### A HOUSE OF PRAYER



*"Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. Blessed is the one who does this—the person who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it, and who keeps their hands from doing any evil... These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."*

Isaiah 56:1–2, 7

As the refurbishment of St Cadoc's nears completion and we return to worship in the building, my prayer is that it will truly become a *House of Prayer*.

The new facilities and flexible worship and community space call us into uncharted paths, and we are yet to discover where they will lead. Christ must be at the centre of all that we say and do, and as God's people, we must remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. No doubt there will be a few surprises along the way.

Prayer enables us to know God's will—both personally and as a church. And it is in that knowing that we are called to respond. Much prayer has already been poured into the refurbishment of St Cadoc's, but we are now entering a new phase.

Jesus referenced Isaiah 56:7 when He said, *"It is written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer...'"*

This verse speaks of people going to God's house, where their burnt offerings and sacrifices would be accepted, paving the way for them to commune with a holy God. Prayer connected them to God and ushered them into His presence. And with His presence came peace, joy, protection, power, and healing.

The primary focus of a *House of Prayer* should be God's presence and power. The building itself—and all that is done within it—should honour and glorify Him.

## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE —continued

We are the temple of God, in which His Spirit dwells. Whether individually or together, we can come boldly before His throne:

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Hebrews 4:16

Where just two or three gather in Jesus' name, He is with us:

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Matthew 18:20

We can *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17) because of His constant presence. The whole of our lives should therefore honour and glorify God, reflecting His holiness.

The Church—*ekklesia* in the original Greek—is the gathered people who have put their trust in Jesus and His atoning sacrifice. While we often call the place we meet "the church," biblically speaking, the people are the Church. Nevertheless, since Jesus referred to a *house of prayer* as a literal, physical place, we must consider what that means for the building in which we meet—especially now, as we return to worship in the refurbished St Cadoc's.

When Jesus referred to a *house of prayer* in Matthew 21:13, He was speaking of the Jewish temple—a physical space. Today, we, the Church, are being built into a spiritual house:

*"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*

1 Peter 2:5

God, through His Spirit, dwells within us.

As the writer to the Hebrews declares:

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Hebrews 4:16

And James exhorts us:

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

James 5:16

## WORDS FROM REVEREND SUE —continued

When we pray, we come before God's throne and stand in His presence, where we find power, peace, protection, and fullness of joy. A *House of Prayer* is a place of ministry and healing. Prayer taps into the goodness and power of our Almighty God.

Since we are the temple of God, what we do matters. The building where we meet—and all our activity within it—should be focused on God and on being in His presence. As we return to our church building, let us truly demonstrate the goodness and power of God's presence and invest in people and their needs.

My prayers continue to be with you—especially as we return to worship at St Cadoc's Church.

**"...Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."**

Ephesians 6:18

With Love in Christ,  
*Rev'd Sue*



**MAKE MY HEART  
A HOUSE OF PRAYER**

*by Charles Wesley*

**St. Cadoc's Church Caerleon**  
**Recital Programme**

**Christine Purkiss Soprano**  
**and**  
**Cherry Vann Piano**  
**present**  
**Opera Pops and other favourites**

**Saturday 21st June 2025** **1 p.m.**



**Followed by**  
**Tea and Cakes**  
**Come and see our newly refurbished church**  
**All welcome**





You are invited to join us for our  
**FAMILY EUCHARIST  
SERVICE**

**10.30am Sunday 18th May 2025**  
at St Cadoc's Church

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**St Cadoc's  
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For more information email Claire at  
[office.stcadocs@gmail.com](mailto:office.stcadocs@gmail.com)



## St Cadoc's Church & Beechwood Ministry Area Important Announcements

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### Annual Vestry Meetings

#### St Cadoc's AVM

Sunday, 1st June 2025

12:00pm (after morning worship)

*Nomination papers available from Sunday, 4th May*

#### Beechwood Ministry Area AVM

Thursday, 18th June 2025

6:30pm

*Venue to be confirmed*

*Everyone welcome*

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### Reopening of St Cadoc's for Worship

With joy, we announce the **reopening of St Cadoc's** after its long-awaited refurbishment

#### First Sunday Eucharist

Sunday, 11th May 2025

10:30am

*Celebrated in our beautifully restored church during the Easter season*

#### A Special Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication

To be led by **Bishop Cherry**

*Date to be announced soon*

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### A Grateful Heart

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Davlan Construction**, the **architect**, and the **project management team**.

Their commitment and care have brought new life to our sacred space.

*St Cadoc's stands ready to welcome future generations in worship and community.*

## ECO CHURCH—CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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Just a quick note about how we're managing our churchyard with nature in mind.

By working together with other churches, we have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the UK's goal of protecting 30% of land for nature by 2030.

I've started putting together a plan to help us move toward this target, and I'll soon be inviting a few volunteers to help bring it to life.

But this isn't just about the churchyard—each of us can make a difference in our own gardens too.

ARocha, the Christian environmental charity, has set its own goal called *Target 25*, focusing on 25 at-risk species and habitats across the UK. These include some familiar friends like hedgehogs, house martins, butterflies, bees, common toads, and many others.

To learn more and see how you can help, please visit

<https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25/>

We've already taken some steps in our churchyard—adding bird boxes, a hedgehog hibernation chamber, and a bug hotel—to create a welcoming space for wildlife. It's a small start, but it matters.

Huw Lewis



## The Refurbishment Journey of St Cadoc's Church

Before the work commenced



Under construction



**St Cadoc's is  
preparing for its next  
exciting chapter.**

**Thank you to Davlan  
Construction and all  
who supported this  
transformation.**



## Saint Artwork Appeal



Does a church you know feature artwork of these following Saints?

Saint Ignatius of Loyola  
Saint Benedict  
Saint Maximilian Kolbe  
Saint Michael and All Angels  
Saint Bonhoeffer  
Saint Julian of Norwich

We are looking for good quality images of any artwork you may have depicting any of these Saints. If you do, or if you have any questions, please email:

[masupport.monmouth@cinw.org.uk](mailto:masupport.monmouth@cinw.org.uk)

Thank you in advance!

## CHAIR SPONSORSHIP FOR ST CADOC'S



- The cost of one chair is £155
- The names of donors with a personal message or dedication will be recorded electronically and viewed on the website in due course.  
eg **Pauline foster In memory of my grandfather, William Richard Foster**
- Minimum towards the chairs is £50 for a personal donation and £155 for a business sponsorship
- We accept payment by bank transfer, <https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/st-cadocs-church-refurbishment-appeal/checkout.justgiving.com/53lh55wm54> and QR code and cheques payable to St Cadoc's Church PCC. Please indicate clearly on the back of the cheque, 'Chair Sponsorship'.
- To make a donation via JustGiving please use the button above or follow the QR code link. If you're a tax payer please consider adding gift aid to your donation as this increases the amount by 25%. Once you have made the donation please email [phil.sergeant1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sergeant1@gmail.com) providing your details and any personal message or dedication you would like recorded in the online register of sponsors.



## CHAIR DONORS UPDATE

The list of the latest donors and their dedications below are also listed on [St Cadoc's website](https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/chair-sponsors/)—<https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/chair-sponsors/>.



Jonathan Howell To St Cadoc's church from the Howell family

Avarina Pratten In memory of my beloved sister, Dilys King

A heart felt "thank you" to all our  
kind and generous sponsors.

## ChurchesTogether MEMORY CAFE

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## **"A HEARTFELT 'THANK YOU' TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS"**

We extend our gratitude to all the local businesses that have generously supported us as Business Chair Sponsors. Their kindness not only helps us strengthen our community but also supports our mission to build a worship and community space fit for the future—a church that serves both spiritual and local needs.

We value the special ties we share with our local business community, working together to create a stronger, more vibrant neighbourhood. In return, we encourage everyone in our congregation to shop local and support the businesses that so generously support us.

If you own or are connected to a local business—or know someone who is—and would like to get involved, please email **Phil Sergeant** at [phil.sergeant1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sergeant1@gmail.com) for more details.

As a thank-you, all business sponsors will receive a complimentary advert in this magazine and a public acknowledgment on our social media platforms."

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# ST CADOC'S CHURCH BELLRINGERS

## DID YOU HEAR THE BELLS RINGING?

On **Saturday, 29th March**, you may have heard the bells of **St Cadoc's Church** ringing for a couple of hours in the afternoon. This was due to an **in-house training session**, where we were learning a specific ringing method — in this case: **Grandsire Doubles**.

Just like playing a piece of music uses the same notes arranged in different sequences, bellringing involves learning specific sequences by heart. Unlike musicians, bellringers can't rely on having the score in front of them — everything must be memorised!

At our regular Wednesday evening practices, we're often short of experienced ringers to support those who are improving. That's why we held this dedicated practice session — to help our **Tower Captain, Phil Sergeant**, along with **Karen Jones** and **Sandra Hitchen**, gain confidence in the method. I also invited some experienced ringers to assist so we could ensure we had enough (you need five experienced ringers when ringing six bells) to allow one learner to focus at a time.

The afternoon was productive — though we still need plenty more practice before we will be able to ring Grandsire Doubles with a completely local Caerleon band...

*Jenny Mole*

*From Stephen Taylor – Caerleon Ringer*

## HOW I BECAME A RINGER AT CAERLEON

I began bellringing while at university in 1973, encouraged by **Paul Williams**, a well-known ringer at **St Woolos Cathedral** at the time.

After university, I joined several ringing tours with the St Woolos ringers, covering areas to the north and west of Newport. This included visits to **Caerleon**, **Llangybi**, and **Usk** in 1976, and towers in **West Wales** the following year.

In 1980, I organised a trip from **Yeovil**, where I was then living, to the area east of Newport, including **Mathern**, **Magor**, **Nash**, and **Penhow**.

Years later, after retiring, I moved to London and became Paul's lodger. When he returned to Newport, I moved back with him and rejoined the **Cathedral ringers**.

After Paul's death in 2020, I relocated to a flat in **St Julians**. Due to limited bus access, I could no longer easily reach St Woolos, and was recommended to join the **Caerleon ringers**.

I now attend Wednesday night practices and other events — though sadly not Sunday mornings, as that conflicts with my own church attendance.

*Stephen Taylor*



## JOIN THE CAERLEON BELLRINGERS!

The **Caerleon Bellringers** continue to serve the community every **Sunday morning**, and we're always on the lookout for new recruits! Whether you're a **complete beginner** or have **prior experience**, we'd love to welcome you.

## Interested?

Contact **Phil Sergeant** by phone 07866 445705 or email [phil.sergeant1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.sergeant1@gmail.com)  
Come and discover this **timeless tradition** and become part of a **vibrant, welcoming community**!





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**St Cadoc's Church  
Refurbishment Appeal**  
"Building a worship & community  
space fit for the future"



## "THE 100 CLUB"

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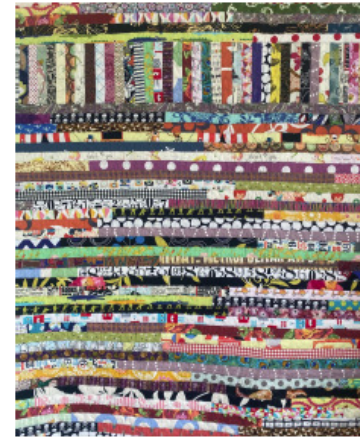
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Contact.....

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## CALLING ALL ARTISTS Join in Caerleon Open Studios 2025

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th  
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Following last year's successful Open Studios in Caerleon we want this year's event to be even bigger and better. Painting, photography, ceramics, textiles, sculpture, whatever your medium we want to see it.

If you would like to show your work in Caerleon, in your studio, home, community or business venue during the weekend of the Big Free Festival contact Denise for more information at [deniseellenbrennan@icloud.com](mailto:deniseellenbrennan@icloud.com)





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

### 13. How we respond to God's invitation

Over the last four years I have shared reflections which were the result of a lifetime striving to find a consistent truth about God and how we relate to him. I subscribe to the teaching every Christian should seek truth and then share the truth they think they have found. This journey has satisfied me that God is indeed love, he is not out to punish us, and he will do anything to help us to accept his offer of oneness with him.

The critical issue we must face is that oneness with God is a free choice on our part.

God is love, and love makes no demands of others, only of yourself. Being love, God cannot demand that we become one with him. Because God is fair and just, he wants us to make a fully informed choice to accept his offer, or not.

For this reason, we have been placed on Earth, where we can experience both love and the absence of love. This means bad things can happen to good people, because all of God's creation is interconnected. Nothing we do happens in isolation. Everything we do affects God's creation around us. The good we do, affects others. The bad we do, affects others.

Of course, this would be unbearably cruel if life on Earth was all we can expect, but it is not. Life here is just preparation for the big decision we must all make. Will we choose to be one with God, or not?

Choosing to be one with God means total acceptance of God's way. To be one with God, we must choose to be love as God is love. The only way is love. We cannot expect to be able to do our own thing, if it does not enable and support love. As Jesus said, a house divided cannot stand.

If we choose a life of selfishness here on Earth, the choice to be love will be something very fearful, especially when we realise that the true definition of love, given to us by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is unconditional self-giving for the good of all affected.

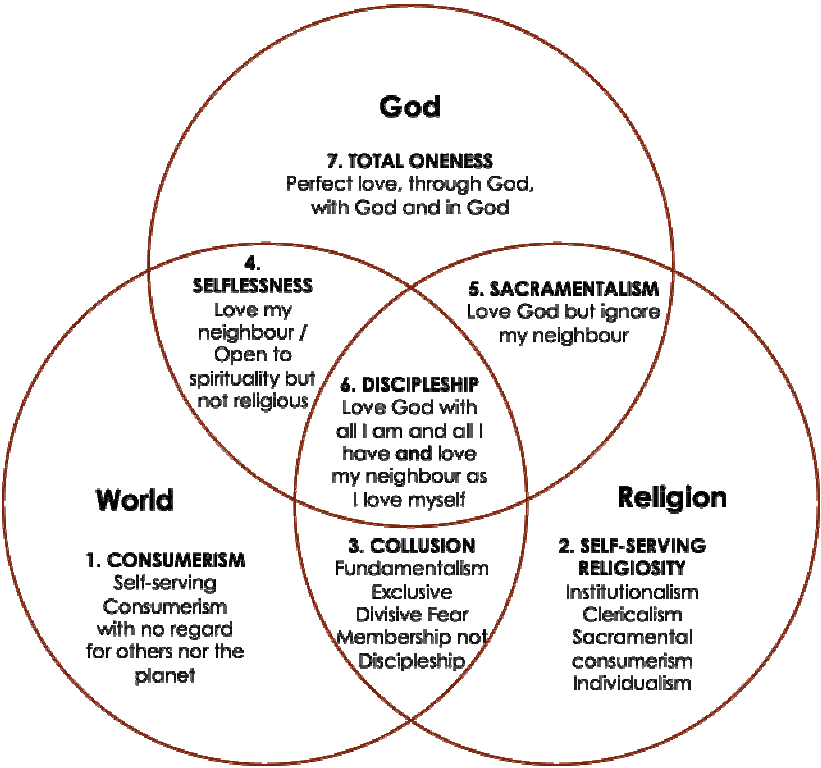
If we have not lost our fear of unconditional love for others (even our enemies!), it's not going to be easy to accept God's offer of oneness.

We can only overcome our fear of love by risking love – sharing what we have, listening to the needs of others, not just helping them but going further and helping them to help themselves, so that they in turn can help others. In that way we discover that there is no greater power than love.

Despite Jesus paying the ransom, in fear we continue to hold God to ransom. We remain afraid of love. We fear not having enough. We fear others will take advantage of us. We consider saying sorry to be a sign of weakness. We bear grudges and fail to forgive and reconcile. We take advantage of others.

In pointing these fingers, I am deeply aware that three fingers are pointing at me. I too remain a work in progress.

Below is a Venn diagram which I hope will provide enough food for thought about



our wide, deep and complex human nature, to illustrate how humanity responds to God’s invitation to oneness.

The three intersecting circles represent God, Religion and the World. Each set shown illustrates different aspects of human behaviour. Please don’t try to pigeon-hole yourself or anyone else into any set. For my part, I can recognise my own behaviour to a lesser or greater extent, in every set.

Some thoughts to stimulate some thinking about each set in numerical sequence

are as follows.

1. Outside of God and Religion, the World we know can be very self-serving. There is more than enough evidence of selfish consumption. We buy stuff we don’t need with money we don’t have to impress people we don’t know and who probably care less. We take offence at the slightest provocation and cancel those whose views are different to ours. We destroy resources in our greed and threaten the existence of all life on this planet.
2. We don’t have to go far to find examples of self-serving Religion outside of God and the World, that substitutes the institution of religion for God. Religious authority often supersedes God’s authority. This of course, is idolatry. Evangelisation in this context is all about membership of the institution and has nothing to do with discipleship of Jesus. Institutionalism leads to clericalism where religious authority has been known to manipulate its members and abuse the vulnerable. The sacraments are offered for consumption by members in good standing only, rather than the outward sign of God’s grace for all his creation.
3. The World and Religion often collude to maximise wealth and power over the populace. We see it in the Middle East and in populist politics. Religious leaders claim that a self-serving, convicted felon has been appointed by God to be the saviour of the nation. Politicians have claimed God supports the right to bear arms, going so far as to suggest that if Jesus had a machine gun he would not have been crucified.
4. Those who care for their neighbour but don’t go to church are often dismissed as no more than a bunch of do-gooders. It is not uncommon for people who don’t go to church to feel some kind of spiritual connection. Many claim that they are spiritual but not religious. Those who criticise the “do-gooders” ignore that caring for others is the only measure Jesus gave us for his disciples: *“Love one another as I have loved you. It is by your love for One another that you will be recognised as my disciples.”* Most major Christian religions now acknowledge that someone who has never heard of Jesus, can still become one with God. Love for neighbour is the key. It’s not possible to love without God being present, because God is love. Those who criticise have



forgotten the old warning to missionaries: "Be careful how you tread for Christ is already there."

5. For many, Christianity means going to church on Sunday to have some time with God and receive the Eucharist. Of course, God is pleased to see us. While some might claim: "My faith is between God and me and has got nothing to do with anyone else!", many of us would like to get more involved but don't know where to start. We feel we don't know enough. It can feel impossible to try anything alone. Jesus' measure of discipleship goes beyond attendance at church on a Sunday. Unfortunately, traditional church is often stuck in old structures, habits and practices that may even inhibit our ability to be effective disciples.
6. Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God is at hand. God does not demand that we live under his reign. It's our free choice. We choose to live under the reign of God by:
  - a. Getting to know Jesus and developing a personal relationship with him, through the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Choosing to belong in Christ's Church among the people of God to be the Body of Christ as the Temple of the Holy Spirit
  - c. Play our role willingly, collaboratively and cohesively in the Body of Christ by learning, teaching and developing our gifts to
  - d. Share God's love with all those around us and all of his creation and
  - e. By our example, inspire those around us to also get to know Jesus become his disciples.
7. God's invitation to oneness becomes our greatest desire when we overcome our fear of unconditional love, by striving to live together under the reign of God, as disciples of Jesus, here and now.

God bless,

You are invited to join us for our  
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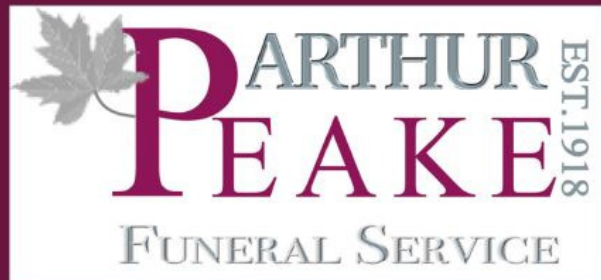
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## FROM THE REGISTERS

March / April 2025

**HOLY MATRIMONY / RENEWAL OF VOWS** - *We offer our congratulations to the following couples*

26th April Robert Lee Sullivan and Samantha-Marie Swift

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

17th April	Audrey Elizabeth Mary Macleur, Gwent Crematorium
23rd April	Edward Charles Anthony, Interment of Ashes, St Cadoc's
24th April	William Simpson, St Cadoc's
25th April	Brenda Louisa Waters, St Cadoc's

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All proceeds to go to the  
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COME AND JOIN US  
AT ST CADOC'S CHURCH

# Tea and Cakes

SAT 21st JUNE 2025 2pm to 4pm



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## 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

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 Ministry Area Licensed Clergy

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Rev'd Linda Batt (Team Vicar)

Rev'd Sue Pratten (Team Vicar)

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## Your choice of care in the comfort of your home



- Be respected
- Be valued
- Be happy

- Qualified Genuine Carers



## Putting people before profit for genuine care in our community

Reliability



Tailored

Company Registration Number: 7384262