

February 2006

The Magazine
of
The Parish of Pentyrch
with
Capel Llanilltern



St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch
St David's Church, Groesfaen
St Elteyrn's Church, Capel Llanilltern

For 2006 the price of the magazine will remain at £5.00 for an annual subscription, and 60 pence for individual copies.
Subscriptions are now due.

Price 60 pence

THE PARISH OF PENTYRCH

VICAR

The Rev. John Binny, The Vicarage, Pentyrch. Tel: 029 20890318

SUNDAY SERVICES

St. Catwg's Church, Pentyrch

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (4th Sunday only)
9.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist (Except the first Sunday in the month)
6.00 p.m. Evensong (Holy Eucharist on 1st Sunday in the month)

St. David's Church Groesfaen

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (1st Sunday only)
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist (Except the first Sunday in the month)

St Ellteyrn's Church Capel Llanilltern

10.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Parish Hall Creigiau

10.30 a.m. First Sunday in every month Parish Family Communion

WEEKDAYS

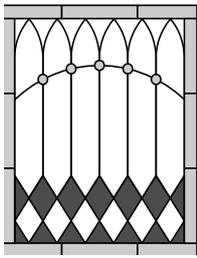
St. Catwg's Holy Eucharist Wednesday 10.00 a.m.
St. David's Holy Eucharist Tuesday 10.00 a.m.
Other services as announced

SUNDAY SCHOOL

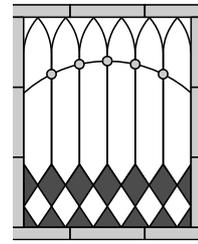
St. Catwg's 10.30 am every Sunday in Church (except the first Sunday in the month)

BAPTISM, HOLY MATRIMONY, BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Articles for the magazine can be E-mailed to: johnoughpentyrch@btinternet.com by the 10th of the month.



From the Vicarage Window



DEAR FRIENDS

I wonder how many of you made New Year Resolutions at the beginning of January and, if so, whether you have been able to keep them so far. I'm afraid I'm not in the habit of making new Year resolutions myself but I admire those who do and manage to keep them as the months unfold. In the New Testament even St Paul had good resolutions which he didn't manage to carry out. He writes in his letter to the Romans "I have often intended to come to you but have thus far been prevented" (Romans chapter 1 verse 13).

We all make resolutions – whether they are New Year or not, with many of us they may not last long and then what we have resolved to do or not can become a broken promise. Swift once said that promises are like pie-crusts, made to be broken! If perhaps New Year resolutions have not now been kept or are wobbling as you read this, perhaps I could share some hints I have read.

Resolutions "to do or not to do" are good, but they should be very carefully worded, otherwise when they are broken it could lead to people being put off or getting depressed. So, when making resolutions it may be best to avoid using the words "Never and Always". And there is a reason for this. People may say they are never going to do whatever it is (smoke a cigarette perhaps). They resolve always to be charitable when they meet with old so-and-so who is provoking. Then they do go and light up and that is one resolu-

tion gone, and when they meet so –and-so in his or her usual, irritating mood, they say what they think – and there is another resolution gone. So here is a resolution it is almost impossible to break. Whatever we resolve to do or not to do we simply say "I will try hard to" or perhaps "not to" whatever it is. Then one slip-up doesn't put paid to the whole idea. We can have another go, and another, and

Secondly we can say this – "By the grace of God". St Paul tells us that God will always give us enough grace and help and strength to cope with the situation or temptation, as long as we actually ask Him and as long as we do try to co-operate with Him. Thirdly we must not be vague: but be specific in our resolution, "I am going to do this or that and not do this or that" rather than talk about "trying to do better" or "showing more love" which may not last. And we must not expect too much of ourselves – just aim for what we feel we can cope with. And of course in all that we resolve to do, and at any time, we know that we are not alone. We know that we can always rely upon the help and strength of God's Holy Spirit as we seek to serve Him in our lives and do God's will as we also aim to serve others in 2006 and always.

"Oh God our Father help us never to forget how quickly time passes on its way, and so help us to use every moment of it to the full. Help us to remember that opportunities come and that often they never return, and so help

From the Vicarage window cont.

us to remember that without you we can do nothing, and so help us to walk each step with you, that in your presence life may be safe. This we ask for your love's sake."

AMEN

Every good wish in 2006 and always

John W Binny

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday 13th November, St David's, Groesfaen welcomed boys and girls from the Beavers, Cubs Scouts and Explorers to the Sung Eucharist led by the Vicar. Their flags were carried to the altar at the start of the service and returned at the end. At 11am everyone joined the Nation in a period of silence to remember those who have given their lives in warfare and during the service the young people with the leaders came to the altar to receive Holy Communion or for a blessing. On Remembrance Sunday afternoon the Vicar led a service at the War Memorial in Pentyrch arranged by the Pentyrch Community Council, which included the wreath-laying. A goodly number of people attended the service including members of Pentyrch Community Council and Pentyrch Brownies. Miss Doris Jermine co-ordinated the selling of poppies in Creigiau which raised £1090.73 and she wishes to thank the collectors for the hard work and the residents who supported them.

Miss Betty Nixon sold poppies once again in St Catwg's – the sum raised being £50.98. Congratulations to Doris and Betty for their efforts.



The last magazine, December/January, covered events during late October and early November. What follows are accounts of the events that missed the last deadline.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

On Advent Sunday, 27th November the Church's Year began in a very special way in the Parish of Pentyrch with the annual Advent Carol Service in St Catwg's Church. Worshippers were able to begin preparing meaningfully for the coming of Jesus led by readers from St Catwg's and St David's so thoughtfully sharing the Advent message. St. Catwg's Choir led the singing with music by J. S. Bach, Boris Ord and Sir John Stainer. The service was drawn together and arranged by St Catwg's organist and choirmaster, John Gough, who also produced the order of service for everyone to follow the worship. We are very grateful to John, the choir and readers for their hard work in making this splendid start to our preparations for Christmas.

Readings at the Eucharist for February

February 4th: Isaiah 40 21-31; Psalm 147 1-11; 1 Corinthians 9 16-23; Mark 1 29-39.

February 12th: 2 Kings 5 1-14, Psalm 30 Mark 1 40-45

February 19th: Proverbs 8 1, 22-31; Psalm 104; Colossians 1 15-20;; John 1 1-14

February 26th: 2 Kings 2 1-12; Psalm 4 3-6; 2 Corinthians 4 3-6; Mark 9 2-9

Oops! The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

CONFIRMATION

Months of preparation over and supported by the prayers of many, three adults and five young people from St Catwg's were ready to be confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday, 20th November 2005 in Llandaff Cathedral at the Llandaff



Deanery Confirmation Service, which also involved candidates from other parishes in the deanery, and which was conducted within the setting of the Eucharist, by the Right Reverend Dr David Yeoman, Assistant Bishop of Llandaff. The service was very warm and meaningful with a most thoughtful and encouraging address by the Bishop before he confirmed the candidates kneeling before him. The act of Confirmation was followed by anointing with oil by the Bishop. Having presented the newly confirmed to the very large congregation, including a number from our Churches, they greeted the candidates with applause before Bishop David and the clergy gathered round the altar under the "Epstein Majestas" for the next part of the service. After the Bishop had consecrated the bread and wine the newly confirmed received Holy Communion from him for the first time before the rest of the congregation did so.

The service ended with the Bishop's blessing and the newly confirmed with the families and friends adjourned to the Prebendal House alongside the Cathedral for refreshments, to greet each other, meet the Bishop and perhaps have a photograph taken with him. They also received a certificate and a devotional book from the Vicar on behalf of the parish signed by him and Bishop David. So ended a memorable evening for the newly confirmed, their families and those from our parish, who had kindly supported them by their presence at the service. Our thanks to all at the Cathedral who helped the candidates at the rehearsal and at the service itself and who made us all welcome and made the arrangements for the service. Thanks also to those who prepared and served the refreshments in the Prebendal House afterwards – familiar faces – Mesdames Margaret Pendlebury, Muriel Gough and Judith Binny and Messrs David Pendlebury and John Gough. (*We were brought up on a cuppa!*)

The following were confirmed:-

ABIGAIL CARA DAWSON
CHARLOTTE ERNESTINE KATE HAYWARD
PHYLLIS MARGARET JOHNSON
ALEXANDER TIMOTHY BENJAMIN OLIVER
GILLIAN LOUISE PETERS
REBECCA LOUISE PETERS
LOUISE WALROND
OLIVIA GRACE WALROND

Our thoughts, prayers and support are with them in their life as communicant members of the church.

(*After last year, Bishop David seemed a mightily relieved man! It was a lovely service!*
JG)

ASSISTANT BISHOP

The Right Reverend David Yeoman is to become full time Assistant Bishop of Llandaff and will, at a date to be announced discharge his duties as Archdeacon of Morgannwg.

DEANERY EUCHARIST

On St Andrew's Day 30th November, members of churches in our Llandaff Deanery including St Catwg's and St David's gathered in the Church of the Resurrection, Glanely for a Deanery Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Stewart Lisk, Area Dean at which the Preacher was the Rev. Chad Gandiya, former Principal of Bishop Tucker College, Uganda, now working for the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London, who spoke thoughtfully and meaningfully. The choir for the service included

choristers from St Catwg's, whom we thank for their participation. After the service a Bring and Share Supper was held in the Church Hall when members of different parishes in the deanery were able to meet each other as well as the Preacher. Though the attendance from the deanery was not large it was good to share the fellowship with each other in the Eucharist and less formally in the Hall later. Our thanks to the Area Dean and the Church of the Resurrection for hosting the Eucharist and warmly welcoming us all, giving us the opportunity of meeting people from other parishes.

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

On Sunday 4th December the annual Advent Fellowship Lunch was held in the Parish Church Hall, Creigiau with everyone attending contributing towards the food and drink. When everyone was seated the Vicar said Grace and all were able to share the food and drink brought in such plentiful quantities with friends and family. There was much chatter and laughter as the lunch progressed and to add to the enjoyment, a quiz sheet was circulated to participants, which included Christmas songs, music and carols for diners to find, taxing our brainpower. Whilst going through the answers our Master of Ceremonies and Judge, Andrew Dodd, challenged groups or individuals to sing the carol or song at issue which enabled many people to display, until then, hidden talents. (St Catwg's Choir always welcomes new members!) The quiz and its resolving were the source of great amusement and we thank Andrew for it and for presiding over the fierce competition amongst the participants! The raffle draw completed the proceedings and everyone returned home happy after this splendid occasion enjoyed by folk of all ages.

And so we arrive at CHRISTMAS !



PARISH FAMILY SERVICE

At the beginning of December preparations for Christmas were getting into full swing in many homes and so it was good to be reminded by members of St Catwg's Sunday School in a most original play of how Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Angels prepared for the coming of Jesus, focusing then on two mums trying to make sure that everything was ready for Christmas celebrations but really losing sight of the true meaning of the festival in our day – a danger for us all. The presentation in words and song was intertwined within the framework of



the Family Eucharist service and was greatly appreciated by the very large congregation well in excess of a hundred who attended the service. The young people who took part were a credit to themselves, the Sunday School and all who had prepared them. Their joy was shared by us all.

PENTYRCH VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE AT ST CATWG'S CHURCH

On Tuesday 13th December St Catwg's Church was full with extra chairs needed and some folk standing for the Annual Pentyrch Village Carol Service led by the Vicar. Lessons were read by representatives of the Rugby Club, Over 60's Club, History Society, Pentyrch Ladies, Women's Institute, the Primary School, Craig-y-Parc School, Horeb Chapel and St Catwg's Church. During the service the choir of the Primary School, directed by Miss Jane Williams, sang four songs and St Catwg's Church Choir sang Christmas music as well as leading the congregation in familiar carols. Following the Blessing everyone made their way home after a very joyful and meaningful evening, glad that so many people had taken time out from their busy preparations to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

THE PARISH SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

On Sunday, 18th December the Parish Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in St Catwg's with the Church Choir leading the congregation in familiar carols and hymns and members of the choir and congregation being responsible for sharing the readings during the service. Amongst the music sung by the choir was Cantique de Noel (O Holy Night) by Adolphe Adams (1803 – 1857) with Elizabeth Toye as soloist, sung in English and French. A special thank you to the St. Catwg's choir and to Elizabeth Toye, who the previous evening was the soloist at the Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society Carol Service in the Cathedral where, as in St Catwg's, her singing was much appreciated.

Members of the large congregation joined the choir for mince pies and liquid refreshment in the Church Room after the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY IN ST. CATWG'S

The first Eucharist of Christmas was held in a full St Catwg's Church on Christmas Eve, celebrated by Canon Jack Buttimore with the Vicar preaching. Many thanks to everyone who helped to ensure the special service went smoothly and that all who came were accommodated in Church for the 11.00pm service. More people were in Church on Christmas Morning for the sung Eucharist with carols, ensuring that Christmas in St Catwg's was happy and memorable.



And another one! On a Church Door: This is the gate of heaven. Enter ye all by this door. (This door is kept locked because of the draft. Please use the side door.)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN ST. DAVID'S THE CRIB SERVICE

A very large congregation packed into St David's nave and choir stalls, using up the extra chairs for a very happy and joyful service during which familiar carols were sung, with prayers and readings also included in the service. The Vicar blessed the crib and also gave an address illustrating the messages given to Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise men proclaiming the birth of Jesus. At the end of the service everyone in the congregation of all ages went home to make last minute preparations for the big day itself, having put those preparations into the right context to make this a truly happy Christmas.



CHRISTMAS DAY

More worshippers joined the Vicar at the 8.00a m Eucharist on Christmas Day with a large congregation sharing the 10.30a m Sung Eucharist and Carols with Canon Buttimore at 10.30a m to celebrate the Birth of the Christ Child. Our thanks to Elizabeth Toye for playing the organ on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and to everyone who helped to make the services a true celebration Christmas in St David's.

CAPEL LLANILLTERN CHURCH

A very good congregation assembled in Capel Llanilltern Church on Sunday 18th December for the service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion led by the Vicar. The lessons were read most thoughtfully by adults and youngsters and the carols sung heartily, accompanied by Miss Anne Thomas on the organ, to whom we are very grateful. Our thanks also to Mrs Denise Jenkins for arranging the readers. Following worship our fellowship continued more informally in the Church Hall with seasonal refreshments. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to this.

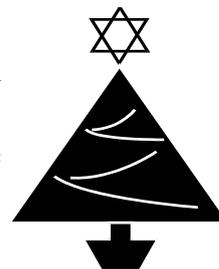
CHRISTMAS DAY

A larger than usual congregation assembled on Christmas Day Morning, for a joyous service of Holy Eucharist and Carols led by the Vicar.



We are extremely grateful to all who decorated and prepared our Churches over the Christmas period. All three looked splendid and we are most grateful to all who contributed to make

them so festive to welcome the many worshippers we were delighted to welcome. The cribs and Christmas trees in the churches were greatly appreciated whilst the tree with lights outside St David's added a festive touch to those passing by and many complimentary remarks were received.



Research by Opinion Research Bureau showed that 86% of British adults attended a place of worship last year.

In Llandaff Cathedral there was standing room only for some of the 800 who attended the carol service, while 1,200 received communion at Christmas, the highest for a decade. St David's Cathedral had a hundred more than the previous year, and the other Welsh Cathedrals reported increased attendances.

And even more about Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Before Christmas our Parish Christmas Cards were distributed to the homes of our benefice of Pentyrch with Capel Llanilltern. We are very grateful to Mr Norman Allen for kindly printing and donating the cards once again and to all who delivered them.

CANTORION CREIGIAU AT CHRISTMAS

On Sunday 18th December, Cantorion Creigiau gave a presentation of the Christmas story in the Parish Hall with each section of the choir being responsible for the different parts of the story in words and music in a variety of ways, plus the Vicar reading about Herod. Familiar carols sung with the very large audience were also included. This highly original way of sharing the events of the first Christmas brought out the talents of individuals and sections of the choir in different ways and made for a very enjoyable evening, which the Vicar closed with prayer. Many thanks to Cantorion Creigiau and their Musical Director Mair Roberts, who brought the whole evening together

Stars of the world stage perform at the Parish Hall

For a second time, Paul and Alwyn Gyton, brought their friends, Ann Morgan, Gareth Rees-Thomas, accompanist Simon Phillips, (proudly displaying his sprained wrist), and the world-famous bass Donald Maxwell, who regaled us with a stream of observations relating to his career, his family and the state of Scottish Rugby. So, not only did we have a man who has sung on many of the world's best opera stages, revelling in his MC role (and, indeed, singing to us with a sound that filled the hall), but we also had the vast experience of members of the Welsh National Opera Company entralling us with their realisations of carols to suit the Christmas season. I marvelled at the fact that this was happening in our small (comparatively) Parish Hall, and, indeed, that such busy people should put themselves out to support us, although judging by their reaction they enjoyed themselves too.

In the first half of the evening the quartet entertained us with arrangements of various carols, interspersed with comments and witticisms from Donald Maxwell, oh yes, and considerable cajoling from him for us to buy raffle tickets!

Flanders and Swan are obviously favourites with the group, and their choice of songs had the audience laughing. The audience were invited to join in the singing of a few Christmas hymns which just failed to reach the standards set by the stage ensemble!

The very enjoyable evening ended with thanks from the Vicar, accompanied by a Vicar-joke that had everyone groaning, and the quartet singing the very beautiful Celtic Blessing, by John Rutter. (The vicar is now dropping hints, such as "Wouldn't it be good if the choir learned it?") We shall see!

Everyone went home having been thoroughly and pleasantly entertained. A wonderful evening, presented by a very talented group. Many, many thanks to all and especially to Paul and Alwyn.

John Gough



*“Bye Bye everybody, I’m going home ‘til next year. I need a sleep!
All that flying over rooftops, and looking for feed for the reindeers. Then I have to put up with all those adults who say I’m a fraud! They all welcome their presents though! And all those people who now have central heating and no chimney! I have to be more inventive than I used to. I think I’ll ring the front door bell next year!”*

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The trial period for the new Church in Wales Holy Eucharist service is now under way in St Catwg’s and St David’s at all services until Pentecost 2006, as decided by the Parochial Church Council. As requested feedback has been received from both churches and noted. Further reaction would be appreciated as the weeks go by and it is important that this is passed on. We hope everyone will feel able to share in the worship and give their opinions, voice any concerns and ask questions. The comments and observations will be useful as the service and its use is reviewed. Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or members of the Parochial Church Council. After twenty-one years of the green Volume 1 Prayer Book some aspects of the service may need getting used to and hopefully we shall as the trial period unfolds. The similarities to the 1984 service will help in this. The Vicar is always ready to share your thoughts.

CONGRATULATIONS

Warmest Congratulations to Mr Geoff Moses on his being elected by the members of the Diocesan Conference to serve on the Representative Body of the Church in Wales which administers the business of the Church in Wales. He is already a member of the Diocesan Board of Finance. The election of Geoff is a reflection of the great esteem and regard in which Geoff is held in the diocese and of his gifts and talents which we, as a parish have known over the years, and which he has put at the disposal of God and His Church.

QUIZ NIGHT

Please note that the Quiz Night in aid of the Parish Hall Restoration Fund will be held on Saturday 11th February in the Church Hall and not as previously advertised. Please make this change of date as widely known as possible. The evening begins at 7.00 pm with the first question at 7.30 pm prompt with lots of fun for everyone. Tickets are available at £5.00 to include refreshments and may be obtained in or via Church or by telephoning 029 20892501. There will also be a raffle during the evening.

GIFT SUNDAY

You will be pleased to know that the Gift Sunday in St Catwg’s on 20th November raised £780.00. Many thanks to all who contributed to such a magnificent sum.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

‘Grafted into the Body of Christ’

St. Catwg’s Pentyrch

November 20

Lily May Smith



Holy Matrimony

‘That they may be one’

St. David’s, Groesfaen

December 29

Peter Walker Davies and Catherine Nicola Davies



Funerals

‘May they rest in peace’

November 21

Rosina Matilda Lawson

December 1

David George Hack

December 9

Douglas Jones

December 13

Mostyn John Young

December 16

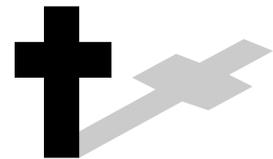
Roy Greenman
Dilys Maureen Lang

December 30

Mary Wallace Bird

January 5

Margaret Irene Watkins (at Michaelston-y-Fedw)



Remembering:

Mary Bird came to live in Creigiau after the death of her husband in Gloucester twelve years ago to be near her daughter and family to whom she was devoted. Mary worshipped regularly in St David’s and was involved in many parish activities. Later when unable to be in church, Mary received Holy Communion at home – such was the importance of the Sacrament, the Church and prayer in her life. Mary was very cheerful, enjoyed a good chat, was concerned for others before herself and commended her Faith and her Church in her life as she served her Lord. She showed courage and determination in her times of ill health and thankfulness for a full, active life and for good friends, who valued her friendship.

.....
: Remembering:

: Irene Watkins lived in Michaelston - y-Fedw near St Mellons where she was a faithful :
: and active member of the Church. The Church was important in Irene's life and it :
: was always good to welcome her to St. David's and St. Catwg's to share our worship. :
: Irene had a very deep Faith which shone in all she did and said and which sustained :
: her throughout the various stages of her long period of ill health and which inspired :
: so many, coupled with her cheerfulness and thankfulness to her Lord to whom she :
: was devoted, as she was to her family. At the end of a visit in Velindre or Holme :
: Towers, Irene would say, "We'll meet again" – as surely we will. As a teacher, Irene :
: influenced the lives of many who will be grateful for having known her.

: Doug Jones won much respect as a Primary School Head Teacher in Radyr and influ- :
: enced the lives of many who have reasons to be grateful for him. Doug's Church was :
: important to him as was his Faith and he attended Dewi Sant Church in Cardiff where :
: he was able to worship in the Welsh language and a retired priest from Dewi Sant in- :
: cluded Welsh in Doug's funeral service.

: We thank God for the lives of all the faithful departed and our sympathy and prayers :
: are for their loved ones.
:

Does Religion Cause Wars? A personal view

I saw a trailer for a new TV series suggesting that religion is 'the root of all evil'. In essence it was suggesting that religion was the cause of conflict. Now, I'm not going to criticise a TV programme that I haven't watched and I'm not going to suggest for a second that I speak with any authority. Instead, I would like to take the chance to share my personal views on this and other subjects relating to religion in the modern world.

So is religion the cause of wars? My answer is no. To take the most high profile conflict let's look at Al Qa'ida's activities and statements. Certainly the phraseology plays on religious difference. It has become the norm to see references to 'occupied Muslim lands' and 'Judeo-Christian crusaders'. However, when you cut beneath the surface, the real grievance is that there are American forces in lands where many of the citizens don't want them. The argument could just as easily be made by replacing the words 'Muslim lands' with 'Middle East' and 'Judeo-Christian crusaders' with 'Western forces'. Suddenly the conflict is no longer on religious lines, but rather on geographic boundary lines. Or, indeed, a conflict relating to wealth; rich nations based in an area where some of the population are very poor.

Those who want to divide the human race will always find a difference to exploit, whether it be one religion versus another religion, a nation against another nation, male against female, or any other issue that distinguishes one group from another. Differences can be moulded by clever orators to form the basis for a conflict. But a difference of faith doesn't cause a war, just as a difference in football club allegiance isn't the instigator when there is fighting between rival fans. It is used as a division - to create two opposing factions - by people who want to see a conflict. The instigators of the conflict are the people involved, rather than their differences.

Nick Webb

EPIPHANY PARTY ? !!

(Or “An Acceptable Deception!”)

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All over Christmas I had been announcing in each church an Epiphany Party to be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, 7th January with something for everyone, and when asked about it beforehand said it was a good idea and put it in the diary! Rachel and Christopher arrived home to help me celebrate my birthday and said they would be coming to the party and they, Judith and I set off for Creigiau armed with food and drink as everyone had been asked to do. I was pleased to see that folk from St. Catwg’s, St. David’s and Capel Llanilltern had come to celebrate Epiphany together at the party which got underway with games and dancing which caused great fun. All age groups were represented in the many party-goers present who took a break from the games and dancing to enjoy the food everyone had brought to share.

At this point the speeches came and I realised that rather than marking Epiphany the real reason for the party was to wish me “Happy Birthday” on a landmark anniversary for which I was given a badge to wear showing 09 – or was it upside down? I received cards and gifts in addition to those already at the Vicarage from within the parish as well as elsewhere, and four cakes and a streamer appeared. I did wonder how so many people knew (no National Anthem on the radio was there?) I also received corporate gifts of very special pens from Pentyrch and Capel Llanilltern parishes which were also greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to share my birthday not only with Judy, Rachel and Christopher, but also with all who came to the party. As I said in my speech in reply to the good wishes expressed, God has given me so many good friends in our parishes, for which I am truly thankful.

May I thank our Churchwardens and everyone who helped me celebrate my birthday in such a special way. Judy, Rachel, Christopher (who knew about the arrangements before Christmas) and I will remember it for a long time to come. My thanks also to all who were responsible for their contributions to the various aspects of such a splendid party, enjoyed by everyone present, and to everyone for cards, gifts and good wishes to me. However, please understand if, when asked to read a notice about a forthcoming event, I scrutinise it carefully!

John W Binny.

AREA DEAN

The Rev. Stewart Lisk, Area Dean of Llandaff has been appointed Vicar of Roath in Cardiff and will obviously be leaving the deanery – Congratulations, Stewart, and thank you for all you have done in the deanery. The Archdeacon of Llandaff will meet with the Clergy of our Deanery on February 16th at the Church of the Resurrection, Ely, to receive three names to submit to the Archbishop who will then select

Oh dear ...Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

HYMNS OLD AND NEW

As you may well have read in the October parish magazine, Pentyrch Parochial Church Council agreed that “Hymns Old and New – One Church, One Faith, One Lord” be purchased for use in St Catwg’s and St David’s. We are delighted to report that the books have, in fact been given to St Catwg’s and St David’s in memory of Mr Thomas Axford and Dr. Gladys Aitken respectively. Tom Axford, a faithful worshipper with his wife Thelma, and a chorister in St Catwg’s Pentyrch and latterly a house Communicant, had had a distinguished career in education in India and Bath. He had a sincere faith, deepened by daily prayer and Bible reading with Thelma: he commended and spread the Gospel at home and abroad in word and deed. Tom was also a great artist and many will have seen his paintings of the churches in our benefice.

It was very good to welcome Thelma and their daughter Linda and grand-daughter Charlotte who had come from Bath for the dedication of the books for St Catwg’s at the sung Eucharist in St Catwg’s church on 8th January, the Sunday following the anniversary of Tom’s death which took place on his and Thelma’s wedding anniversary. Grandson Tom unfortunately had had to return to Leeds University to prepare for examinations. We are most grateful to Tom’s family for this very kind and generous donation in memory of a great servant of the Church.

Dr. Gladys Aitken was a General Practitioner in our parish and worshipped so faithfully in St David’s with her husband Alan, who was a Church Warden, and over the years they both contributed so much to the Church in the Parish. Dr. Aitken read to develop her faith, which she commended by word and deed. Latterly she received Holy Communion at home. Such was Dr. Aitken’s devotion to her Church that in her will she left money to St. David’s in 1998, which she asked to be used for the Mission Work of St David’s church and/or contribute towards the musical part of the service. The Vicar has been in touch with Dr. Aitken’s daughter in West Sussex who is very pleased her late mother’s request is being carried out in this way. At the time of writing preparations are in hand to dedicate these books in St David’s. We are most grateful for Dr. Aitken’s generous gesture and for the help and co-operation of her family.

There are well over a hundred more hymns in “Hymns Old & New” than in the Ancient and Modern Revised, which will enable us to continue to sing hymns in use before as well as broaden our repertoire to further enhance our worship through music.

Thank you very much.

After a very long wait, caused by illness and the heavy workload of the installer, the sound amplification and induction loop system have been installed in St David’s Church and in St Catwg’s. Similarly, the repairs to the boundary wall in St Catwg’s (£11,000 worth) is at last underway. It is well over a year since the PCC addressed this issue (the wall), but a faculty had to be applied for, then it had to go to Cadw and then planning permission was needed. All these take time over which we have no control. We may be keen to move forward, but patience is written large in virtually everything connected to a church, and whatever we think, our heritage is being preserved. JG

CHURCH HALL WORSHIP

The Parish Family Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month in January fell on New Year's Day and, not surprisingly, not many were present. New Year's Day is, in the Church Calendar, the Feast of the Naming of Jesus and during his address the Vicar spoke about the importance of names and the meaning of the different names used for Jesus in the Bible. Many thanks to Mr Gordon Longmore who played the piano for the carols in the absence of the music group, to Andrew Davies for the on-screen presentation, and also to all who served refreshments and prepared and cleared the hall. We look forward at the time of writing to the Parish Christingle Service at 10.30am on Sunday 5th February and hope that, as in previous years there will be lots of people there of all ages to celebrate the Light of Christ in a tradition that goes back to a small church in Germany in 1747 in which we can share. The collection will be donated to the Diocese of Llandaff Board for Social Responsibility which works to support families with various kinds of needs, demonstrating the church's care and outreach. The Christingle service is not a Eucharist but there will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, as always on the first Sunday of the month in St David's at 8.00am and St Catwg's at 6.00pm. The Parish Family Eucharist returns on Sunday 4th March at 10.30am.



PARISH HALL UPDATE

With the recent work on the roof and building to make the hall watertight and weatherproof as well as the external painting all finished, the scaffolding has been removed to show the painted exterior looking quite resplendent and fresh with many favourable comments being received. Internally the stage and floor hall has been treated and railings are being fitted for disabled toilet facilities. We await in February the result of a very full and thorough professional application for a grant to the Welsh Assembly,

with many letters of support from local and national politicians and users of the hall from the community. Meanwhile we are delighted to report that we have received a grant of £1,000 from the Manifold Trust towards the repairs and renovations of the hall and we are most grateful for this and for all help received to boost funds. Members of the Management/Fundraising Committees meet regularly and the question of an access ramp for the disabled continues very much to be on the agenda. Many thanks to all the members of these Committees for all that they do.

GOOD NEWS COFFEE MORNING



The February Good News Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 18th February from 10.00am until 12.00 noon in the Church Hall, Creigiau. Come along for a cuppa in good company and a chance to win a prize in the raffle! Our thanks to all who cater for and organise the Coffee Mornings.

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LAPEL BADGES

The Vicar has a number of lapel badges for sale bearing the Diocesan coat of arms – a way perhaps of identifying ourselves with others in the diocese who attend an Anglican place of worship. Each badge costs £1.00 – first come first served. Please contact the Vicar.



This month, David Webb visits one of the senior Cathedrals in England:
DURHAM CATHEDRAL

In his book, *Notes from a Small Island*, Bill Bryson declares Durham to be the “best cathedral on planet Earth”. And I can understand any visitor being mesmerised by this vast fortress-like structure, dominating the steep-sided bank of the River Wear.

Across the wide space of Palace Green, our first impression is of a largely Norman church. We notice a decorated window in the end of the north transept, and others in the quire aisle and clerestory, but even in these areas, the blind arcading remains Norman. Only at the extreme east end do we detect signs of a later gothic extension.

Entering though the north-west porch, we note a large sanctuary knocker on the door. In the Middle Ages, a fugitive from the law could use this to attract the attention of watchmen in a chamber above. He was then admitted and given sanctuary for a maximum of thirty seven days before choosing between trial and voluntary exile. The knocker we now see is a replica - the original being preserved in the Cathedral's museum.

Just inside the door, we glance upwards to see a modern window of vivid red, green, blue and purple. Called “Daily Bread”, it depicts a table laid for thirteen – suggesting the Last Supper. The window was given by Marks and Spencer to commemorate the company's centenary in 1984.

Moving to the centre line of the nave,

we find the seventeenth century font. It is surmounted by a lofty free standing carved wooden canopy. This is contemporary with, but considerably more magnificent than, the font itself, which consists of a fairly simple white marble bowl.

Looking east, we are not surprised to see the heavy drum-shaped pillars typical of a Norman nave. Here, the surface of each is carved with a different design. In the usual fashion, these pillars support the triforium on large round arches, with the clerestory above. Unexpected, though, are intermediate pillars, which rise right up to the roof – ending in pointed arches. These represent the transition from Norman to gothic architecture, which may well have been first implemented at Durham to support a much heavier roof vault than could be borne by round arches.

Turning round, we move into the Galilee Chapel, to the west of the nave. This serves as the Lady Chapel, and also houses the tomb of The Venerable Bede. Norman, like the nave, the pillars here are much more slender, having less weight to support in the single storey structure, which was erected a few years after the main part of the building – indeed, behind the altar, we can still see the cathedral's original west doorway.

Moving back into the nave, we notice that the walls are largely devoid of memorials. Out of deference to St

Cuthbert, whose shrine is here, burials within the cathedral were generally discouraged. What we do find, though, against the south wall, is a heavily carved memorial to the miners of Durham. This was created in 1947, but used woodwork from the former quire screen, making it look very much older than it is.

At the crossing, the present screen is a gothic revival piece of polychromatic stone, installed by Gilbert Scott in the 1870s. It is open, so allows us to see the full length from font to high altar. In the short north transept, to our left, the architecture is still primarily Norman. But in the end wall is the large window which we noticed from outside. This appears to be a composite since the top sections are decorated, but the lower part has deep Norman arches. It seems that the original design was altered, after perhaps a hundred years, presumably to bring more light into this part of the building. The small Gregory Chapel is set aside for private prayer and reservation of the Sacrament.

The south transept also has a gothic window. Here, though, the tracery is a further century later, with vertical panes ushering in the perpendicular style. Below, and alongside the Durham Light Infantry Chapel, is a clock dating from around 1500. Its curiosity lies in there seeming to be only four “minute” divisions between each number on the face. The explanation is that the clock originally had just a single hand, and these marks were intended to represent the quarter-hours.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the south quire aisle is a 1995 window commemorating the millennium of the cathedral. Unusually for a modern window, its art is representational rather than abstract

– this being a stipulation of the donors. Individual panels reflect stages in the history of the cathedral and locality of Durham.

Turning left into the quire, we find ourselves alongside what John Binny tells me is the highest bishop’s throne in Christendom. Designed by a fourteenth century incumbent, whose own tomb lies below, it is reached by a flight of fifteen steps – more than the stairs in my house. So the Bishop of Durham clearly has an upstairs seat!

The high altar in the massive sanctuary is backed by an ornate gothic reredos with niches which once housed figures. Now long gone, they leave the screen open with a view through to the most easterly part of the building. Above and behind the reredos is a grand “rose” window.

Moving into the retro-quire, behind the high altar is the shrine of St Cuthbert. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, this was richly decorated with gold, silver and jewels. Now the Saint’s resting place is marked by a heavy but simple stone slab. Above is a modern banner commemorating St Oswald, King of Northumbria, whose head is buried in Cuthbert’s tomb.

Markings set into the floor show where the original curved east wall of the cathedral stood. Now, though, the area opens out into a late thirteenth century extension, created to accommodate pilgrims to Cuthbert’s shrine. Known as the Chapel of Nine Altars, the architecture here is quite distinct from the adapted Norman which we have seen thus far. The east windows are pure

Durham Cathedral

Early English lancets while those in the north and south walls reflect the decorated and perpendicular themes of the transept ends. Despite its name, the chapel now has only three altars. The principal one, dedicated to St Aidan, has a frontal commemorating all the Northern saints.

Outside, to the south is a fine set of

gothic cloisters, leading to a Chapter House and other former monastic buildings comprising part of the Durham World Heritage Site. Was Bill Bryson right? Well, this is certainly a very grand cathedral. But which, if any, ranks as “best” is a matter for the personal judgement of each individual visitor.

QUIZ EVENING - SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2006

Please note that the Quiz Evening will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 11 February 2006 - doors open at 7.00pm, and first question will be at 7.30pm.

The date has been changed from that originally suggested as otherwise it would have clashed with the England v Wales match at Twickenham - and it was felt that many people would wish to spend that evening either celebrating a famous victory, or (hopefully not) drowning their sorrows! So, the 11 February it is, and we hope to welcome as many as possible to share in the fun.



As in previous years, either make up your own table party of up to eight, or come along and join others, and make new friends.



There will be a welcoming glass of wine or fruit juice, and refreshments at half-time, but please feel free to bring along any other drinks that you might require.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets cost £5 each (in aid of the Hall Restoration Fund) and are available from Cynthia Dunn - Tel: 20 892501.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of Lent this Year falls on 1st March. There will be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes in St Catwg's at 10.00am and St David's at 7.00pm. We shall have the opportunity to thank God for the life of St David – St David's on Sunday 26th February at 10.30am at the Sung Eucharist and of course during the prayers on Ash Wednesday.

Here's another one ...The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Can you find the 25 hidden books of the Bible?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in a seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john-boat. Roy Dark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot ... that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names don't necessarily have a capital. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without numbers. Punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this passage.

You may have seen this before. We may even have printed it in the magazine previously. No matter. Have a go. There are no prizes, I'm sorry to say. This was given to me by Doreen Lee, who got it from the magazine of a church in Edinburgh. She also tells me that her copy of the magazine goes to a Methodist Church in the Heath, Cardiff. (After she has read it from cover to cover, of course!)

Yet another! Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

CREIGIAU COMPANIONS

2006 got off to a rousing start in January when the Creigiau Songsters treated members to an afternoon of music and comedy. Previously, the Christmas season was very much enjoyed. As well as a Carol Concert we met for a Christmas lunch in the Caesar's Arms. This proved to be a tasty event well served by the restaurant staff and brimming with the good will of the season. Our last meeting was a party with sherry and mince pies and we welcomed visitors from the Over Sixty Club of Pentyrch.

Members continue to support the Saturday coffee mornings and the Companions hosted a very successful stall at the Christmas Bazaar.

The weeks up to Easter, we hope, are promising. Dr. Kapp is to give us one of her fascinating talks, and there should be lively afternoons concerning favourite films and tunes. In March, Mr. Maisey, the well known gardener will advise us on container gardening.

Membership continues to grow and the group is ideal for newcomers to the area to get to know people. We meet on alternate Thursday afternoons at 2.15. Our meeting on the 16th. February is called 'Film Buffs' Delight' Join us if you can!

Bronwen Vizard

This month's magazine has 24 pages: it could have had 30! My thanks to all who sent in contributions. I anticipate that the contributions will be used next month. We are, indeed, truly fortunate in that not only do we have a vicar who believes in covering all events in writing, we have so many others who are prepared to put pen to paper. Keep writing!

John Gough

St Catwg's Church Choir's Visit To Bryncynon December 2005

On December 3rd 2005 several members of St Catwg Church Choir journeyed to The Bryncynon Community Centre in the Cynon Valley to take part in The Bryncynon Revival Strategy's Growing Together Centre's Christmas Fete.

The Bryncynon Revival Strategy is a charity and was founded some 15 years ago. Bryncynon had originally been an area of three mining villages, later it was linked with Abercynon and became part of that ward.

One village within Bryncynon: Matthewstown, better known as The Tynte, became very rundown and violent after the local coal mines closed some 30 years ago. Local villagers were very concerned about the future of their area and set up The Bryncynon Revival Strategy in the front room of one of their homes. With the help of government funding three miners' cottages were transformed into offices 10 years ago and The Bryncynon Revival Strategy and its community have never looked back.

The Mission Statement of The Strategy:

Our aim is for Bryncynon to be a self-sufficient and self-governing community where people of all ages work together to ensure that its people are caring, tolerant, healthy, skilled and forward looking.

The Bryncynon Revival Strategy has several 'arms' – Youth, Healthy Living, The Growing Together Centre, Community Development, Community Enterprise, Nibbles Cafe and Time Banking. The villages comprising Bryncynon appear as number 32 on

the Welsh Assembly Government's Multiple Deprivation scale list 2005.

The event that the choir members attended was to raise funds for The Growing Together Centre: the building is self funded through fund raising events. The Growing Together Centre was once a local clinic run by Health Visitors: the clinic closed and local community members acquired the building from the Health Authority. Three qualified workers oversee the Growing Together Centre; the centre offers a

Parents' and Toddlers' Group Monday to Friday mornings and a Nursery Club in the afternoons. The centre is also open on a Tuesday afternoon where members of the community can drop in and speak to a local health visitor. The centre can also be hired for birthday parties, as there is a ball and soft play area.

The Christmas Fete in December was a success. £185.00 was raised altogether. During the week running up to the event the Fun Fair providers and the Traditional Sweet stall unfortunately dropped out of the event. Parents of the toddlers using the centre and the centre's workers were delighted when the St Catwg's Choir showed their support and turned up on the day as arranged to sing Christmas carols.

I have received many words of thanks and appreciation from members of the Bryncynon community for the choir's efforts.

A big THANK YOU to the choir. From The Bryncynon Revival Strategy and The Growing Together Centre's parents, toddlers and workers.

Meriel Gough Rogers January 2006



THE 100 CLUB

More people continue to join the 100 Club raising money for the Parish Hall Restoration Fund as well as giving members a chance to win a cash prize. It costs £1.00 per month or £12.00 annually to join. Please contact Mrs Sheila Lloyd, 25 Parc-y-Bryn, Creigiau (Telephone 20890136) for further details.

Very special thanks this month to:

Many thanks to all who came along to the Advent lunch, those who donated prizes, all who prepared the hall, and cleared away afterwards. Special thanks to Andrew and Sue Dodd and Robin and Frances Simpson who worked so hard to co-ordinated the event.

We are very grateful to the choirs and the readers for their time and preparation for the Christmas services, and special thanks to the St Catwg's organist and choirmaster, Mr John Gough for all his hard work before and during the services and also for preparing the Orders of Service.

To the St Catwg's Sunday School, helpers and children, for guiding us through a very special Parish Service in December.

We are grateful to Harry Mason and Stewart Mackay for their work in erecting and lighting the tree outside St David's and to Andrew Dodd and Geoff and Norma Moses for placing and lighting the trees in St Catwg's and St David's respectively. As he did at St David's, Mr Eric Davies worked to restore some of the crib figures in St Catwg's and we are very grateful to him.

Special thanks to Mr & Mrs David and Margaret Pendlebury and Mrs Cynthia Dunn for co-ordinating the arrangements for the delivery of Christmas cards.

To all who worked so deviously to surprise the Vicar at his birthday party!
To David Pendlebury for so courageously repelling a very small number of undesirable guests at the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

To all those people who did so many things over the Christmas period, and who have not received a mention, many thanks!

You can't park there, or, what you can get up to when you retire!

This tale was taken from a newspaper (I know not which one) and passed to me by my sister. Of course, no one on our parish would act like this! JG

I frequently get asked what those of us over 50 do to make our lives interesting. The other day I went into town and popped into a shop. I was only there for five minutes. When I came out a traffic warden was writing out a parking ticket. I went up to him and said, "Come on, mate, how about giving us seniors a break?" He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. I called him a Nazi. He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres. So I compared him to something I'd stepped in and then wiped off on the verge. He finished the second ticket and started a third. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more I abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Personally, I didn't care; I had come into town by bus.

A Hindu Wedding

Last November I was fortunate in being able to attend the wedding of my niece, Lisa, to a handsome young Mauritian in his family home in Mauritius. I found the family, of Indian descent, delightful and the women, at least, were very devout Hindus and we had some interesting conversations on the subject of religion, although they obviously were very well informed about Christianity.

My sister, Lisa's mother, died in 1999, so in a way I was her representative. Her father, Tony, was there but no other relatives were able to attend so I was treated with great respect and had certain duties to perform during the ceremony. Fortunately Tony had had the presence of mind to find on the Internet and printout, a programme with explanations of a typical Vedic wedding ceremony in English. This we studied beforehand so we could follow what was going on.

"The Marriage is the biggest, most elaborate, magnificent, spectacular and impressive of all the life cycle rituals in a Hindu's life and may start six days before the actual wedding day" we read. However, because so many guests were coming from overseas – literally from all five continents, this one was curtailed to three days.

It started on the Friday at 9.30 in the morning with Tilak, which the bride is forbidden to attend and traditionally only the main male members of her family would be there, (but I and Lisa's two girl friends went to watch). It is held in the bridegroom home. The family had a huge marquee erected on to the back of their house. It was lined with white satin and decorated with tiny white fairy lights. A low stage was set up against the wall opposite the entrance, all decorated with peach satin and flowers. Around the corner a lower, smaller stage had been erected

for the bridegroom's ceremony and near this is where we sat to watch. Oddly, the bride's *brother* acts out this ceremony (perhaps because traditionally the father was perhaps too old or infirm to do it). As our bride has no brother her friend's husband stood in, (who although from Ireland, is also Hindu – with a lovely soft Irish accent!)

Of course this is all supervised by the priest, who sanctifies the area by sprinkling it with water and invokes Gawri-Ganesh – the gods of love and harmony – to give their blessings to the ceremony and participants. The priest chants sacred mantras and performs a sacred fire ceremony. The bridegroom and the bride's brother have a formal handshake before occupying their respective seats opposite each other. Then the so-called bride's brother is requested to wash the Groom's feet on a tray. It is a symbolic welcome of a very honoured guest, a rite rooted in the most ancient past. The two are then sanctified again with water and tilak is applied to the groom by the brother as a mark of acceptance and respect. (Tilak is sandal-wood paste placed as a spot on his forehead between the eyebrows). He places yellow rice, coloured with turmeric into the groom's cupped hands resting on his knees. Then he honours the bridegroom with gifts such as clothing, fruit, sweets, a garland, flowers and token money. They are first offered to the presiding deities before being offered each in turn to the bridegroom with mantras being chanted loudly by the priest.

That was the main Tilak ceremony and now the two fathers go through a little test of honour which also lightens the atmosphere and brings a smile to the

faces of those watching.

Both parties bring a little unhusked rice, dub grass, turmeric roots and offer them up. The rice is a symbol of fertility. The dub grass is a luxuriant herb that grows profusely and hence symbolises fertility and prosperity. The origin of the dub grass dates back to the Vedic period. The turmeric is thought to be auspicious and wards off evil and negative feelings. These plants and ingredients are an extension of good wishes. The priest mixes them all together from both parties and when then are all thoroughly blended together divides the mixture into two equal portions and places each in a kerchief. Then a little competition takes place between the two fathers to see who is the first to tie up his bundle, and put it over his shoulder. They both try to show their dexterity and wisdom by being the fastest. But usually, if the girl's father is the fastest he usually and gallantly allows the boy's father to win. However in our case poor Tony was in such a state of nerves, he was all fingers and thumbs and his host was first by many seconds, much to everybody's gentle amusement. Then the two fathers embraced. The thorough mixture of the rice, turmeric and dub grass has been mixed in such way that it is impossible to tell which grain is from which house, sym-



bolising the mixing of the two families. Blessings were offered by the priest then the whole gathering stood up and recited the Shanti Path – the Peace Prayer. Finally five married women, close relatives of the Bridegroom, performed the Chumawal where each in turn pick up, between thumb and forefinger, a pinch of the yellow rice which the groom is still holding in his cupped hands on his knees. The first woman touches his head with the rice then his shoulders, then his knees, picks up more rice and repeats the process four more times. Each of the women takes her turn of dubbing the head, shoulders and knees of the bridegroom five times before they lead him away to his quarters where he is supposed to stay until after the wedding proper. The rest of us then had a break until Lisa's preparation ceremony, Haldi, began at 11 o'clock. This was similar but I had the duty of leading her Chumawal ceremony. This gave me the opportunity of whispering a few words to her to help her relax and smile as the yellow paste and powder covered her face and made a mess of her pretty yellow sari!

Janine Howarth

(Janine is working on the conclusion of the article—the wedding itself—and is burning the midnight oil in the hope that she can conclude it ready for next month!)

Superstitions:

Place a hand in front of your mouth when sneezing. Your soul may escape otherwise.

The devil can enter your body when you sneeze. Having someone say: "God bless you," drives the devil away.

If you sneeze on a Monday, you sneeze for danger;

Sneeze on a Tuesday, kiss a stranger; Sneeze on a Wednesday, sneeze for a letter;

Sneeze on a Thursday, something better; Sneeze on a Friday, sneeze for sorrow;

Sneeze on a Saturday, see your sweetheart tomorrow;

Sneeze on a Sunday, and the devil will have domination over you all week.

Parish of Pentyrch

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| Vicar – The Rev. John Binny | The Vicarage, Pentyrch | 20890318 |
| Parochial Secretary | Mr G A Longmore Plasnewydd Cottage Heol y Pentre, Pentyrch | 20892047 |
| Parish Treasurer | Mr John Davey Rocklands, Pant y Gored Road Creigiau | 20891765 |

St Catwg's Church, Pentyrch

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Churchwardens | Mr Andrew Dodd Mr D Pendlebury | 20891736 20892077 |
| Sacristan | Miss B Nixon | 20891948 |
| Treasurer | Mr M J Cragg 6 Cefn Bychan | 20890738 |
| PCC Secretary | Mrs Gill Stevens | 20811444 |
| Organist and Choirmaster | Mr John Gough | 20891721 |
| Sunday School | c/o the Vicar | 20890318 |

St David's Church, Groesfaen

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| Churchwardens | Mr H Mason Mrs Cynthia Dunn | 20890526 20892501 |
| Treasurer | Mrs M MacKay 28 Parc-y-Coed, Creigiau | 20890827 |
| PCC Secretary | Mrs M MacKay | 20890827 |
| Organist | Miss Jane Williams | |

St Elteyrn's Church Capel Llanilltern

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Churchwardens | Mr R J A Jenkins Mrs D Jenkins | 20890355 20890355 |
| Treasurer | Mr E Willis Llwyn y Pennau Farm Groesfaen | 20890770 |
| Secretary | Mr R J A Jenkins | 20890355 |

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| Pentyrch | Mrs M Curran | 20891693 |
| Creigiau | Mrs Gaynor Williams | 20890657 |
| Groesfaen | Mr Harry Mason | 20890526 |