



CREDO

60p

Volume 24 Issue 1

The Parish Magazine of Christ Church, Roath Park
Lake Road North, CARDIFF CF 23 5QN

2nd February - Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



Christ Church
the Church by
the Lake
where everyone
is welcome.

Visit our new informative and
updated website
let your friends and family know too!
www.christchurchcardiff.co.uk

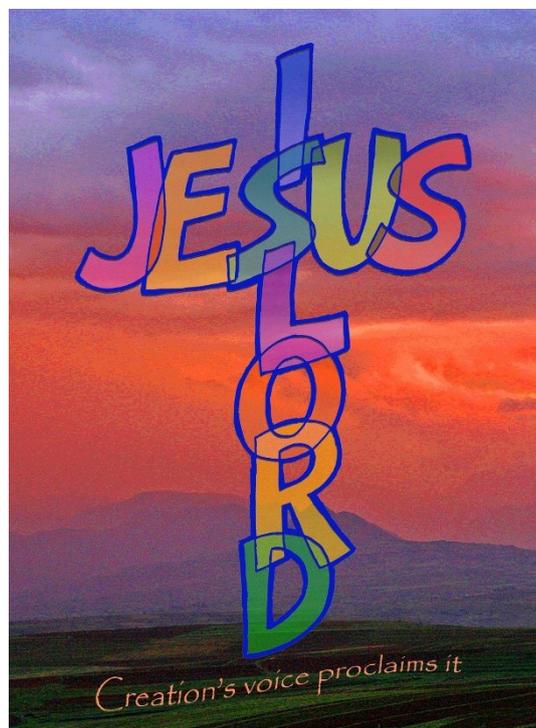
Annual subscriptions for 2017

£6.00 in envelope marked Credo with your name and address
on back of the envelope - to **Molly Hughes**

Articles for the **March 2017** edition of Credo
NO LATER than 15th February 2017

Handwritten, or **on memory stick with a printed copy to Church
letterbox or Editor, or email ced45@btinternet.com**

February 2017



1st March ASH WEDNESDAY
7.30 pm

Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

Sunday Evening Lent reflections from
5th March - 2nd April at 6.00 pm.

At Christ Church & St Denys, Lisvane

See page 3 for details

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FEBRUARY DIARY



- Thursday 2nd 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)
- Sunday 5th **4th Sunday before Lent**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE
6.00 pm Service of Light
- Tuesday 7th 10.00 am - 12.00 noon **Church open for PRAYER**
- Sunday 12th **3rd Sunday before Lent**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist & Funky Church
6.00 pm Taize Worship
- Thursday 16th 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)
- Sunday 19th **2nd Sunday before Lent - Creation Sunday**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Funky Church
and J Walkers Youth group
6.00 pm Social Justice Evening Service
- Sunday 26th **1st Sunday before Lent - Transfiguration Sunday**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist & Funky Church
6.00 pm Celtic Night Prayer

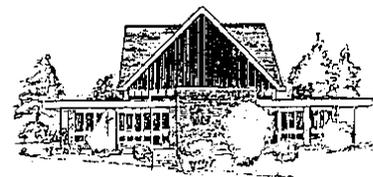


Wednesday 1st March - ASH WEDNESDAY
7.00 pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

- Thursday 2nd 9.30 am Holy Eucharist (*tea & coffee to follow*)
- Sunday 5th **1st Sunday of Lent**
8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.00 am Parish Eucharist & Funky Church
6.00 pm Lent Talk: Who was Jesus? (Revd Dr Trystan Hughes)

Prayers for Healing 10.00 am every Wednesday in Church
The meetings involve prayers for individuals and for our local community - all are welcome

Other services & activities as announced in the newsletter



Thought for the Month REFUGEES

They have no need of our help
 So do not tell me
 These haggard faces could belong to you
 or me
 Should life have dealt a different hand
 We need to see them for who they
 really are
 Chancers or scroungers
 Layabouts and loungers
 With bombs up their sleeves
 Cut-throats and thieves
 They are not
 welcome here
 We should make them
 go back to where they came from
 They cannot
 Share our food
 Share our homes
 Share our countries
 Instead let us
 Build a wall to keep them out
 It is not okay to say
 These people are just like us
 A place should only belong to those who
 are born there
 Do not be so stupid to think that
 The world can be looked at another way
 By Brian Bilston

NOW READ FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP

*Sent in by Gill Barker, seen in St. Jude and
 St. Nicholas Church magazine Swansea*

Candlemas 2 February
 (Luke 2:22-40)



February snowdrops we
 welcome you!
 Candlemas Bells,
 winter's half-way markers,
 symbols of hope and light to come,
 creation's reminders of the Creator
 revealed in the child in Simeon's arms.

Jesus -
 fulfilment of God's promise
 to save and illuminate.
 Jesus -
 who overcame darkness and death
 to live for us and in us.

At the snowdrops' prompting,
 Lord Jesus, we welcome you afresh,
 Hope and Light in person.

By Daphne Kitching - Parish Pump



Buildings Renewal Fund Update: the latest tally of contributions (87 so far) is £28,254 (including a recent £5,500 anonymous donation and £3,674 in collections at 10 events) plus the tax refunds so far received on Gift-Aided donations £3,559, making a total of **£31,813**.

Thank you to those who have recently added to this fund. Further donations or enquiries are welcomed in favour of Christ Church, Roath Park, to Gerald Bradnum or Treasurer, John Hodgson.

Various events/sales have so far raised a further **£5,506**, including **£551** from sales of garden produce, loom-bands, CrossInMyPocket, books, toys.

At 24th January 2017:- **Grand Total Received: £37,319**

minus **Expended or contracted for -**

architects: scheme 1 & pre-Application Council: £7,490

(scheme 2 incurred £2,541 & budgeted £5,800: = £8,341

Re-roofing: £3,700. VAT expert £600. Bat data: £49): **£20,180**

Fund Balance in hand £17,139



Our Vicar Trystan Writes :

Finding God

Dear friends,

Before Christmas, we went to Dyffryn Gardens in the Vale of Glamorgan. The busy-ness of the festive season was stressing me somewhat, as was the thought of crooning the Teddy Bears Picnic in front of 130 people, and so I thought a trip to a National Trust park would relax me. I failed to consider that running around after a crazy little three year old is not exactly relaxing, especially when he was on one of his “grumpy days”, as we call them. Within half an hour of being there, my stress levels had markedly increased. So, Sandra kindly offered to take Madsen on a little walk to give me a little space.

I walked to a quiet area of the grounds, with no one else there but me, and I came across a sculpture. There was a nice quotation on that sculpture by Austrian poet Rainer Maria Rilke – the sculpture, it explained, attempted to explore

“the difficulty of communication with the ineffable, in an age of disbelief, solitude, and profound anxiety”.

The ineffable is, of course, something too great or wonderful to be expressed or described in words – in other words, for us Christians, the ineffable is God. As I finished reading what was the sculpture I lifted my head to discover a surprise moment of connection, of communication, of awe, of wonder. It’s a moment I can’t really describe or explain – **it was ineffable.**

I didn’t see anything particularly special – I just saw the branches of trees. To some it may have seemed nothing, but, to me, the patterns of the trees, the beauty of the trees, lifted my heart, lifted my soul.

It’s not always easy to connect with God in this way. Life is busy, life is stressful, life can be difficult, life can be painful. Sometimes we feel our connection with God is just not there... sometimes we feel God isn’t ineffable, but he seems invisible.

In those moments, we need to be reminded of the fourteenth-century German philosopher Meister Eckhardt’s words: *“we are all meant to be mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born”*. In other words, our call is to look beyond the ordinary, to look beyond our everyday worries, and search for God in our midst, however he comes to us – through nature, music, art, friendship, love, compassion, films, laughter, the joy in the face of a child, the kindness of a friend.

When I was younger I used to think the church’s role in all this was to give us those moments of connection with the ineffable, with the transcendent, with God – to provide those moments through worship, the bible, preaching, music, the Eucharist, and so on. Now I realize that, while church worship can sometimes do that, if we come to church expecting that each week, we’ll end up disappointed.

In the famous Welsh poem “*Y Llwynog*” (“The Fox”), R Williams Parry describes coming face-to-face



with a fox on a beautiful Sunday in July. The bells of the church are ringing, calling him to go to church, but he chooses to walk up the mountain instead (*a choice I don’t get on Sunday mornings!*). But as he’s walking, a fox suddenly steps out in front of him. This surprise appearance stuns him into silence and stillness. To him, this was as much a spiritual event as going to church. The moment doesn’t last long, as the fox soon scuttles away, and he compares that fleeting moment of joy to seeing a shooting star – it lifts your heart and then it’s gone.

I realise now that church is not necessarily there to give you those moments, even though it can hopefully sometimes do that. Instead, church is rather here to prepare you for those moments. It’s here to help you recognise and welcome those moments. It’s here to help you birth God in your daily lives, so you are stunned into silence and stillness. However difficult and bleak life sometimes feels, the church is here to help you open your eyes to recognising God’s presence all around you – to discovering his love, his peace, his hope, his joy, his compassion. And then the church is here to inspire you to share that presence with others by becoming Christ to them, bringing his light and life to all those we come into contact with.

*Yours in Christ,
Trystan*

Sunday Evening Lent Talks 2017 - Faith in a Nutshell Sundays at 6.00 pm



5th March at **Christ Church**, Roath Park: **Who was Jesus?** (*Revd Dr Trystan Hughes*)

12th March at **St Denys**, Lisvane: **How does Jesus save?** (*Revd Dr Jordan Hillebert*)

19th March at **Christ Church**, Roath Park: **How does God want me to live?** (*Revd Chris Burr*)

27th March at **St Denys**, Lisvane: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Making sense of the Trinity?**

(*Revd Dr Jordan Hillebert*)

2nd April at **Christ Church**, Roath Park: **What happens in the end?** (*Revd Chris Burr*)



From our Curate – Revd Jordan Hillebert The Business of Prayer in the Busyness of Life

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.’ (Mark 1:35-39).

This episode takes place right at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, on the morning after a *very* busy day in the life of Jesus.

After calling the first disciples to follow him, Jesus makes his way to Capernaum – a fishing village on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus begins his day by teaching in the synagogue. While he is teaching, a man in the crowd with an unclean spirit interrupts him, and Jesus liberates the man of his demonic tormentor. Jesus then leaves the synagogue and makes his way to the home of Simon Peter, where he swiftly heals Peter’s mother-in-law of a fever. All throughout the day, the news of Jesus’ teaching and healing spread like wildfire through the village, and that evening, at sunset, the entire village shows up at Peter’s door – many of them imploring Jesus to heal them. Late into the night Jesus ministers to the women and men of Capernaum, caring for them, comforting them, ridding them of their diseases and their demons.

A busy day for any new minister: a sermon, a demonic heckler, some ministry of healing and a few exorcisms! As we read in the passage above, the next day is just as busy – Jesus begins his travels throughout Galilee, preaching the good news of God’s Kingdom, healing the sick and the possessed.

But first, Mark tells us, Jesus retreats to a deserted place... and he prays. Before the sun even rises, Jesus comes before his Father in prayer.

There is a quote often attributed to Martin Luther: **‘I have so much to do that if I didn’t spend at least three hours in prayer I would never get it all done.’**

How many of us often feel like Bilbo Baggins: *‘thin, sort of stretched, like butter scraped over too much bread.’*

Life is busy. Our schedules and our relationships are demanding. Unless we follow the example of Jesus – unless we place ourselves constantly within the context of prayer – we will burn out. We will discover that we simply have nothing left to offer.

In prayer we are sustained and equipped by the Spirit of God within us. We are reminded of our total dependence upon God, and we are strengthened by the grace of his presence. In prayer we become uniquely attentive to the same voice that spoke all things into existence.

In prayer we also learn to see our own stories in the light of God’s story of redemption. We read in Mark’s gospel that when the disciples discover Jesus praying, he tells them, *‘Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.’* Jesus returns again and again to the Father in prayer in order to be sent out by the Father in the power of the Spirit to extend God’s ministry of reconciliation to all people.

In prayer, then, we come to God both for direction and for the strength to obey. God gives us a task, a role to play in his story, but he also gives us the grace to sustain us in our lives and in our ministry.

Thoughts for Further Reflection:

Jesus is intentional about *when* he prays: *In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up... and... he prayed.* Is there a time of day when you find it easiest to pray? How might you ‘protect’ this time for prayer?

Jesus is intentional about *where* he prays: *Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.* Is there a place where you find it easiest to connect with God in prayer?

A room? Surrounded by nature?
A church?

While Jesus prayed, *Simon and his companions hunted for him.* What in your life is ‘hunting for you?’ What are the difficulties and distractions you face in finding the time and the space for prayer? How is God calling you to respond to these circumstances?

With love - Revd Jordan

WHO’S WHO at Christ Church Lake Road North Cardiff CF23 5QN

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Rev. Jordan Hillebert
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Parish Secretary

Denise Searle: at Parish Office

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Church Wardens

Haydn Hopkins Tel: 20621280

Colin Francis Tel: 20751773

Reader

Dominic de Saulles

P CC Secretary

Judith Hill Tel: 20758080

Treasurer

John Hodgson Tel: 20764485

Gift Aid Secretary

Gerald Bradnum Tel: 20751177

Electoral Roll Officer

David Alexander Tel: 20759704

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Assistant: Haydn Hopkins

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Organist /Choir

Julie Waller Tel: 20615007

Funky Church

Karen Payne Tel: 20765428

Sandra Tel: 20758588

Flower Rota Organiser

Sylvia Dowell Tel: 20408265

Churches Together

Julie Waller Tel: 20615007



Our Christ Church young people went ice skating to Winter Wonderland, on 21st December. It was a great trip.

Youth Group 11-16 year olds - J Walkers meet at the 10 am Service every 3rd Sunday and Sunday evening in the Church Hall 7.00 - 8.30 pm during term time.



There was a really busy Messy Church on 19th December with around 90 children.

Next Messy Church
Good Friday
14th April for Messy Easter

GOOD COMPANIONS

Members of Good Companions and the PCC would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to **Norma Ash** for all her hard work and dedication to leading the group for many years. Norma intends to continue being a 'good companion' but has decided the time is right to hand over the reins of organisation to a team: Julia Matthews, Alison Peters and Val Jones. **Contacts p12**



Can YOU help with occasional transport ??

Many members of Christchurch attend Good Companions on a weekly basis, relying on transport kindly provided by fellow parishioners. The current rota is planned on a four-weekly basis with pairs of drivers sharing the giving of lifts from local addresses at 2pm and then home at 4pm.

Two of the team are shortly moving away from Christ Church so offers to join the rota are welcome.

Anyone from Christchurch and the local community are welcome to join us in the hall on Tuesday afternoons, 2pm-4pm, for conversation, refreshments, quizzes and games.



Used postage stamps for Goodwill

Goodwill Children's Village, S India, has supported long term care and education of destitute children in S.India since 1976. They now fund 3 children's homes and a Tribal Outreach Programme which works with children in their own villages. My family have supported the charity for 30 years, initially when Christ Church Youth club in the late 80's supported them. In their recent newsletter they asked for used postage stamps to help raise funds - leave up to 1 cm around the stamp.

I would appreciate any used UK or foreign stamps - you can leave any stamps marked for Goodwill Children's Homes in the Church porch for me to collect. I will collect them through the year. Look up their website www.goodwillhomes.org.uk for further information. **Many thanks.**

Claire Edwards - 20756493



Around the Church Family

Our Good Wishes & Prayers to:

Elvet Lewis, John Griffiths, Bill Mapleson, back home/recovering after recent hospital stays
Barry Chiles, now undergoing hopefully effective medication

Rhiannon Davies of Retford, cherished former parishioner, recovering with recently fractured legs

Nancy Eyre, Marion Le Beau and Robin Wood at home not so well

Congratulations & Good wishes to:

Stephanie (nee Barker) & Kelvin Snell on the birth of their daughter Holly, born 8th December

John & Margaret Griffiths celebrating their diamond wedding Anniversary on 30th Dec. and with the congregation for cake & Bucks Fizz on 8th Jan.

Joanna Penberthy (Llanishen Parish 1985-89), consecrated 129th Bishop of St David's 21st January

Dr Barry Morgan (Bishop Llandaff & Archbishop of Wales) upon his retirement on 29th January

Our sympathies & Prayers on the recent deaths of:

Molly Frape, on 1st Dec. to Elizabeth, Richard, Jane & all the family

Mary Lubas, on 11th Dec. to daughter Ann Guise and family

Derek Day on 20th Dec. to wife Pamela and family

Marjorie Jones on 1st Jan. to Malcolm, Gareth, Heather, Susie & families

Revd Tom Davies (Cyncoed Methodist Minister 1980's) to his family

Elizabeth Quinn in January, to daughter Clare and son-in-law Andrew Wade and family

Mary Kaveney on 25th Jan. to Jane and family.

Mary moved to be near her family in Leeds several years ago. She kept in touch with Mollie Hughes and regularly received her copy of Credo

Home Visits & Home Communion



Home visits and, if wished, Communion are available for parishioners including the house-bound and anyone unable to attend church due to ill-health or an accident. Communion are brought usually monthly at mutually convenient dates and times. If you, or anyone you know, would like one of our pastoral visitors to call with Communion or for prayer or a chat, please inform Gerald Bradnum (tel. 20751177) or enter your name upon the request slip in your weekly News-sheet and hand to any service welcomer or clergy or into the office.

The Presidential Inauguration took place on January 20th.

I made this address at the 8 o'clock Eucharist on 6 November, before the election. We know Donald J Trump is now the next president of the USA. It was based on the Gospel reading for that day – Matthew 22 15-22.

You can currently buy online 2 t-shirts from the same American company. One proclaims 'Republican Jesus is my homeboy' with a picture of a rather modern long haired Jesus armed with a kalishnakof rifle. Another has a young woman model wearing a white t-shirt asserting 'Get real! Like Jesus would ever own a gun and vote Republican'. A swift trawl through the internet reveals many websites appropriating Jesus for their political cause. One says 'The Lord would certainly not be a democrat' on the basis that he would not want to be involved with supporting homosexual activists & their gay rights causes, a debased, debauched lifestyle that God calls abominable. On the other side American democrats claim Jesus for themselves stating he would agree with redistribution of wealth & be for treating the hungry, the thirsty, the sick & other 'least of these'. If you fail to help the 'least of these; Jesus promises he will send you to Hell'

Could the Church of Wales have given me a more appropriate reading for a Sunday before the American election?

There's a familiar down-to-earthness about the passage which makes you think the scene could happen at any time in the world's history. It's a theme very relevant for our times, highly visual, appealing as much to emotional intelligence as intellectual. The Pharisees and Herodians out to get Jesus, but taking a stealthy, softly softly approach, hope with a cunning flick of the tail to trap our man with a situation and accompanying question. 'Teacher', they purr, 'We know that you are true, and teach the way of God truthfully and care for no man; for you do not regard the position of men. So is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'

The Caesar in question is not of course Julius but Tiberius, although I couldn't get the images out of my head of - firstly Hilary Clinton, a dagger in her back, turning to the FBI director and saying 'Et tu Comey', secondly Mr Trump, chest inflated and staring hard at anyone who might be seen as an enemy – a man, in Shakespeare's who 'doth bestride the narrow world like a Colusus and we petty men walk under his huge legs...'

The question to Jesus from the Pharisees and Herodians is concise: 'Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?' The tax is the census tax, a per person tax of a denarius.

The problem posed for Jesus is this: if he answers yes, then he could be perceived as in collusion with Rome, justifying Roman occupation and oppression of the Jews. This would not be a popular answer with the Jewish people. If Jesus answers no, he could be seen as inflaming revolution against Rome.

Jesus's answer shows he has the measure of them. He calls them 'hypocrites' because they show something on the outside (flattery) opposite to what is true within. He calls for a coin – a denarius - the figure required for the tax. Whose image, he asks, is on the coin. When the face & title of the emperor are identified, Jesus delivers an amazing & rather ambiguous one-liner: 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's'.

It is a brilliant answer because, while the first part of it indicates the tax should be paid, since the emperor's image and inscription on the coin would cause it to fall under "things that are Caesar's", nevertheless the final bit places a question mark on what belongs to whom. Right through Matthew's gospel, Jesus' preaching has been about the arrival of God's kingdom. So it is hard to imagine he would see much of anything falling outside "the things that are God's." To quote the Psalm which I asked to be used this morning – "The earth is the LORD'S ...the world and those who dwell therein."

The beauty of Jesus' answer is that he both concedes payment of the census tax while at the same time questioning the reach of the emperor. It's like one of those pictures where one moment you see one thing, maybe a beautiful girl, the next a very old woman. If read one way, Jesus' answer is simply an affirmation of Christian submission to governing authorities. Yet if read from another angle, he affirms the all encompassing reach of God's ownership in a way that relativizes imperial claims of right to rule. The denarius which Jesus called his questioners to produce had on one side "Tiberius Caesar, Au-

gust Son of the Divine Augustus" while on the other is "Pontifex Maximus" (high priest). Into such universal and even idolatrous claims, Jesus here asserts God's ownership and rule.

So how does this passage relate to our context and indeed to those of our fellow humans across the Atlantic as they placed their vote? At the core the issues raised by this reading are ones of allegiance. If God owns all, then we belong to God alone. Yet we live a life in which competing powers and influences vie with one another to own us, to sway us, to capture our hearts, minds and souls. The power of the words of someone desperate for power while making out it is for the freedom and self determination of the masses, this power, fuelled by 21st century mass and social media, is a potentially catastrophic cocktail which, if we are not careful can sway and influence us, can, without us realizing, invade our very being and embed itself within us. Listen carefully as the words whisper in the wind. 'Muslims are not coming into the country if I'm president', 'Climate change is a Chinese hoax', 'I love war', the fascination of nukes', "devastation".

It is a form of materialism and consumerism that can change the whole way we live and breathe if we are not alert to it. 'You cannot serve both money and God' says Jesus and we need to guard against consumerism and materialism as competing with allegiance to our loyalty to God. This passage challenges us to follow Jesus and live in whole hearted allegiance to God, while navigating in life contexts that often pull at that allegiance. Such navigation is not easy. We would do well to seek God's wisdom and discernment as we desire to follow Jesus in a world, which although fully God's is also one, because of the ways of sinful men and women, full of siren songs. It is a balancing act that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Christian pastor, theologian and martyr under the Nazism understood well.

'I discovered later, and I'm still discovering right up to this moment, that it is only by living completely in this world that one learns to love faith. By this worldliness I mean living unreservedly in life's duties, problems, successes and failures. In so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God, taking seriously, not our own sufferings, but those of God in the world. That I think is faith.'

Andrew Wade



Churches Together in Llanishen & District
LENT discussion Groups

'Tough Talk',

5 part course exploring some of the more puzzling and challenging sayings of Jesus.

Group meetings start the week beginning Monday 27th February for people from different local churches and the community to discuss informally in homes. Anyone may join. No special knowledge is needed. A good opportunity to meet new people and explore faith.

The 5 main weekly sessions consider:-

1. Shrinking and Growing;
2. Giving and Using;
3. Praying and Forgiving;
4. Loving and Telling;
5. Trusting and Entering

Tough Talk looks at many of the hard sayings of Jesus and faces them squarely. It's not always comfortable material, but it needs to be faced if we are to understand the full impact of the Gospel on our lives.

Tough Talk is not for the faint-hearted!

The course booklet, written by Canon John Young, includes questions aimed at provoking wide-ranging discussion. Contributors include Steve Chalke (*Baptist minister and writer*); Fr Gerard Hughes (*R.C - author of 'God of Surprises'*); Tom Wright (*former Bishop of Durham*); Prof. Frances Young (*Methodist minister and theologian*).

Application Form and leaflet available in Christ Church porch. Choose your preferred day/s of week and time/s of day. Please pass completed applications to Gerald Bradnum (tel. 2075 1177) by **Sunday 12th February** or posted direct to Ian Thomas (tel. 2075 4255) at his address shown in the forms by **Tuesday 14th February**.

See poster in the Church porch



**A Priceless Find by accident!
The Dead Sea Scrolls**

70 years ago this month a couple of shepherds in the hills above Qumran near the Dead Sea idly threw a stone into what they thought was an empty cave. When they heard the sound of smashing pottery they searched inside, and found the most important biblical discovery of the century.

Their stone had led them to what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts of the entire Hebrew Bible except for the book of Esther, stored in clay vessels. The scrolls were the work of a religious community called the Essenes, who lived near that site before and during the life of Jesus.

As scholars slowly unravelled them – and that task took decades – they discovered that they were handling manuscripts of the Bible which were hundreds of years older than any we had previously possessed. Most of the biblical manuscripts on which our translations had previously been based were copies of copies, carefully crafted in monasteries over the centuries by people dedicated to preserving the sacred text. But inevitably, in the process, there were occasional slips in the copying, and at times it's obvious that those who were doing it didn't understand the words they were copying.

So, in February 1947, the world had access to a much older and therefore more accurate record of the Jewish Scriptures – the Bible of Jesus and the first Christians. The most remarkable thing is actually how few 'mistakes' there were, seeing the centuries of copying – and not one that seriously affects our fundamental understanding of the Bible.

Those two shepherds 70 years ago ensured that we today have a Bible text which is as close to the original as one could ever hope to get. I'm glad they threw the stone into the right cave!

David Winter - Parish Pump



Caedmon - the poetic shepherd

Caedmon (d 680) should be the patron saint of all farmers who enjoy humming to themselves as they do the lambing this Spring. For Caedmon of Whitby was a bit like David in the Bible – he grew up as a simple herdsman out on the hills who enjoyed composing songs and poetry for himself while watching his flocks.

Like David, Caedmon also had a keen awareness of God, and used his creative gift to express his devotion and love for his Creator. When his poems and songs

became known to others, they liked them so much that soon Caedmon left his sheep in order to become a monk. This gave him time to compose many poems based on the stories in the Bible: from Creation and Genesis, to the Exodus and entry of the Jews into the promised land, to the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ, and finally to the future Last Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

Then one day Caedmon suddenly announced that he knew he was going to die soon. And so he did, in a state of charity and peace with everyone. There was great mourning.

Sadly, only nine lines of his poetry has survived, and we have the great historian, Bede, to thank for even that much. But in his time, Caedmon's gift of telling Christian stories in the vernacular must have been of great value in evangelising the common folk.

Parish Pump

Illustration: *Memorial to Caedmon, St Mary's Churchyard, Whitby. The inscription reads, "To the glory of God and in memory of Caedmon the father of English Sacred Song. Fell asleep hard by, 680."*



Coming Events



Prayer Link 2017

Churches Together in Llanishen & District
Saturday 10.00 am - 11.00 am

4th March - Christ the King (RC)
 Newborough Ave., off Templeton Ave. East
ALL WELCOME



CHATTERBOX

Babies and toddlers with parents/grandparents

Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm
 in Christ Church Hall during term time

Contact Gill Barker - 20747464



Altar Kneeler Project.

Tuesday and Thursday home stitching continues weekly contact Posy for details

Next Saturday meeting 10am - 12 noon
 25th February and 25th March

Ring Posy if you would like to help complete these altar kneelers this year.

Contact: Posy Akande 07807628212



CONFIRMATION

Sunday 19th March at 10.00 am

Contact Revd Trystan if you wish to be confirmed at this service when Bishop David is visiting Christ Church



J WALKERS

Youth Group 11-16 yr olds
 Come and join this group every third Sunday each month at the 10 am service

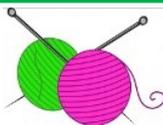
Plus

Sunday evenings during term time
 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm in the Church Hall

Electoral Roll

You are invited to speak with David Alexander or the Vicar to be on our Electoral Roll, whether you regularly worship or attend infrequently.

This informs the Diocese that Christ Church is your home church.



Wool Donations

I continue to collect any donations of wooll which will be forwarded to several charity knitting groups.

Please leave in the back of the church labelled with my name. Many thanks
 Val Jones



Fair Trade Fortnight 2017

27th February - 12th March

Look out for special events in Cardiff and products



Thank You to all at
Christ Church Roath Park
 for your donations of
278.4kg of food
 donated during 2016

Your donations help us to help those in crisis in our city

www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk

Donations of food are welcome to be placed in the box in the Church Porch. Many thanks.



Thanks to:

Velia Ellis for offering to join the small band of garden volunteers that endeavour to maintain the grounds around Christ Church

But when the weather warms up perhaps YOU could volunteer too for just a few hours now and then to help.

Contact Claire Edwards - 029 20756493



Do YOU enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and time to chat and meet after our Sunday morning service?

Elizabeth Burston (20 754557) would be very happy to add your name to the **Coffee rota for 2017.**

PLEASE HELP - you will be made very welcome to join with others. It works out about 5 times a year!



Carols and Mince pies (and so much more!).

In the busyness of the festive season it was a real pleasure to sit down and enjoy the Christ Church evening of Carols and Mince pies (and so much more!).

It strikes me that there are relatively few opportunities in modern society for everyone to enjoy an activity altogether, young and old, and just how good this is for both the young and the old. So many of church activities are aimed at particular ages but it was good to see everyone together at this evening. How good as well for the youngsters to gain so much pleasure from live music, poetry and drama rather than second hand from a screen.

For our children, opportunities to hear poetry read aloud are sadly now few and far between. How good also to see those older folk amongst us embracing and clapping along to Jordan's rapping! The warmth, love and joy in the hall that evening and the sense of fun captures not only all that is good about Christmas but also all that is good about our church in that everyone is included.

I hope the opportunity to host such events will increase with the building of the new hall. I have only one problem with the evening and that it for those of us in between the young and the more senior members of the congregation - the event often falls on the prime night for work Christmas dos!

Emma Laing



CHRIST CHURCH SOCIETY MEETING ON 23rd November "History of Recreational Spaces in Cardiff" by Andrew Hignell (Curator of the Glamorgan Cricket Museum)

We had another good evening listening to Andrew Hignall, whose speciality is cricket. I can't say the thought of an evening about Cricket grabbed my imagination as the one and only time I ever watched a game, I realised that many around me were falling asleep. However, I was most pleasantly surprised by Andrew's engaging personality and wide knowledge of his subject.

When we look around Cardiff in the 21st Century we see a city with an unusual number of parks and stadiums. It seems that we all have Cricket to thank for this..... and the Bute family!

I've often wondered how the Cardiff Arms Park and Principality Stadiums have managed to shoe-horn themselves into our City Centre and it seems much of this was thanks to Isambard Kingdom Brunel who decided to straighten the river in order to accommodate his new railway line and station. The land was owned by the Bute family, and because the provision of recreational space increased the value of the land then, they often said "yes" to ideas for Cricket, Football and Rugby. It seems that the Bute family gave away all the recreational spaces to Cardiff City Council in 1960's which was when the National Rugby Stadium was developed.

The Marquis of Bute said "no" to a cricket pitch in Llanishen in favour of selling land to the railway, so here in the north of Cardiff we didn't fully benefit.... But we did get Roath Park as this was given by the Bute's to increase the value of their land and it's still a pretty good piece of real estate to this day.

Linda Alexander

Thank you Pippa !

Pippa ran the Cardiff half marathon in October in memory of Louise Lucas.

She presented a cheque for £526 for the Church Hall Funds on Sunday 4th December at our 10.00 am Family Service with many of Louise's family attending. Several of the congregation from Christ Church sponsored Pippa, for which thanks all round!



Ghana - Thank you from Norma to all those who bought cards, marmalade and 4 Nativity sets making it possible for Norma to send £500 to Fr. Jeremiah in early December in time for school fees and food for the 'hungry season'.

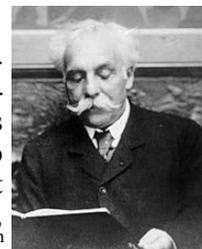
Gabriel Faure (1845 – 1924)

Born in Pamiers, south west France, Gabriel Urbain Faure held a series of positions connected with church music. This led him to hold the position of organistship in the L'Eglise de la Madeleine in Paris at the age of 51. Besides being an organist, he is regarded as one of the foremost 19th century romantic composers, pianist and teacher in the Paris Conservatoire. He held the position of professor of composition between the ages of 60 and 75 years.

It is not surprising that his works are heard quite frequently. Popular works include his choral *Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Requiem*. **This latter work is being performed by a scratch four part choir in Whitchurch Methodist Church, Penlline Road on Saturday 4th February from 12.00 to 6.00 pm comprising of a rehearsal in the early afternoon followed by performance.** A fee of £10 per singer / attendee will help their roof appeal.

Contact: Adrian Wilson on 079 09 986 736.

Refs: *Oxford Companion to Music (10th edition)* Percy A Scholes.
Wikipedia





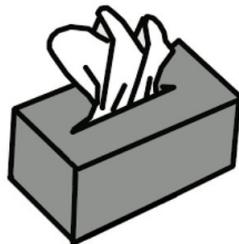
COUGHS & SNEEZES

February seems to be the coldest time of the year – and most of us get a cold, complete with runny nose and sore throat.

Well, 3rd February is the right day to have a sore throat because it is St Blaise's Day. Legend says that St Blaise was on his way to be martyred when he saw a young child choking with a fishbone stuck in his throat. The saint touched the child and the bone was dislodged. This led to a custom of Blessing the Throats on St Blaise's Day which continues today in one London church.

Another way to celebrate the day was with big bonfires (before the Bonfire Night we keep in November was thought of) and that is probably why we say that bonfires blaze.

So you can sit in front of a blazing fire, sniffing into a tissue and think about the patron saint of sore throats.

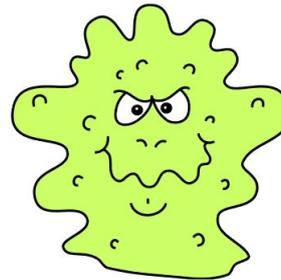


A COLD PUZZLE

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with winter sniffles. Can you find them all?

S	N	I	F	F	L	E	S	T	E
L	H	W	L	E	F	F	T	I	L
I	A	I	U	L	V	K	A	S	A
N	N	C	V	E	I	E	O	S	Z
C	K	O	O	E	R	P	R	U	N
T	I	E	O	L	R	U	H	E	E
U	E	S	L	D	D	S	T	S	U
S	W	O	T	E	L	B	A	T	F
W	I	N	T	E	R	H	G	I	N
A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	I

cold fever flu hankie influenza
 linctus medicine nose pill
 shivers sniffles tablet throat
 tissues winter



What happen if your nose runs and your feet smell?

You're built upside down!

What sort of transport gives people colds?

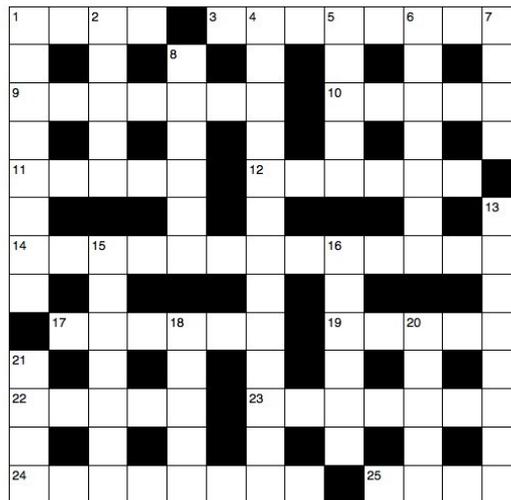
A-choo-choo-trains.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)



Across: 1, Wage; 3, Cleansed; 9, Plateau; 10, Ready; 11, Did so; 12, Hollow; 14, Unregenerated; 17, Offers; 19, Islam; 22, Is not; 23, Overran; 24, Barracks; 25, Legs.

Down: 1, Wiped out; 2, Guard; 4, Laughing-stock; 5, April; 6, Seaport; 7, Days; 8, Belong; 13, Oddments; 15, Refiner; 16, Raided; 18, Extra; 20, Large; 21, Limb.

- DOWN 1** Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
 - 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
 - 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
 - 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
 - 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
 - 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
 - 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
 - 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
 - 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
 - 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
 - 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
 - 21 For example, one of 25 Across



GOD IN THE ARTS - Noah and the Flood

Outstanding people in great stories of the Bible - as depicted in painting or sculpture – that is the theme of God in the Arts this year. Michael Burgess begins way back – with Noah and the Flood.

'Once upon a time' is the traditional way to begin a story. In the Bible it might be 'in the days of' or 'it came to pass': those words introduce us to the wealth of stories in Scripture. We read stories about the triumph of good over evil, others that are full of derring-do, and yet others that are heart-rending and poignant.

And all of them revolve around colourful individuals. This year we shall be exploring that treasury of stories narrated in the Bible – it might be a patriarch or a king, a mother or a wife, a disciple or an evangelist. We shall see them described in Scripture and also reflected in a painting or sculpture.

We begin this year with Noah and the Flood, vividly described in Genesis and taken up by the Chester Mystery Plays and Britten's 'Noye's Fludde.' God's intention at the Flood is to judge the world and purify it, but to save a remnant. He chooses Noah, a just man, who with his family will be saved to people that renewed world. Like the other stories, we see human figures caught up in God's plans, and they abound in the glorious mosaics that decorate the interior of the magnificent 12th century cathedral of Monreale, near Palermo in Sicily.

Among the scenes depicted there, one mosaic shows Noah and his family looking out of the ark. The bodies floating in the water are signs of the old sinful world, but Noah is leaning out to welcome back the dove. It bears an olive twig – a sign that the waters have receded. The dove and the olive twig promise a new earth and a new life to faithful Noah, who will preside over that reborn world. January marks a new year for us, and our hopes echo this scene as we pray for our world and a renewed desire for peace and harmony in it. *The Rev Michael Burgess - Parish Pump*



Prayer of thanks for God's light - Father of all creation. Thank you for signs of life and light, even in the dark and sometimes difficult days of winter. Thank you for Jesus' victory over darkness and death – and for the assurance that, if we put our trust in Him - nothing can ever separate us from you.

Help us to hold onto the hope you have given us and to walk on with Jesus as our guiding light. And may His light attract others who don't yet know Him and whom the darkness threatens to overwhelm. Shine on us, Lord, that we may reflect your light and receive your peace. In Jesus's name. **Amen.** *Daphne Kitching - Parish Pump*

WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH**Sunday**

8.00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist
10.00 a.m. The Parish Eucharist
6.00 p.m. Evening Service

Weekdays

1st & 3rd Thursday 9.30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist
 (Saints' Days and Festivals: See Parish Diary)

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

in the Lady Chapel for about half an hour
Wednesday mornings 10.00 am

Eucharist for healing
 with anointing and the laying on of hands as announced.
 Holy Communion is taken to the sick and housebound,
 and anointing as requested.

Please inform the Vicar in cases of sickness, bereavement or distress.

OTHER SERVICES

Please arrange with the Vicar
 for baptism, confirmation, marriage and funerals.

The Vicar is happy to arrange times for the
 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) or for counsel.

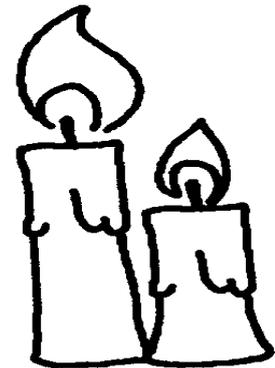
From the Registers**December 2016 Communicants**

Sundays	4th	108
	11th	100
	18th	110
25th Christmas		100

Weekday communicants 68
 Including Christmas Eve First Mass 37
 Communions of the ill/housebound 5

Funeral Services:

16th Dec. Katherine Molly Frape
 22nd Dec. Mary Lubas

**FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH****GOOD COMPANIONS**

Tuesdays 2.00 - 4.00 pm
 Julia Matthews 029 21157213
 Alison Peters 029 20761277
 Val Jones 029 20747021

CHRIST CHURCH SOCIETY

4-5 times annually
 Howard Kilvington 20317301

LADIES KEEP FIT GROUP

Mondays at 7.30 pm.
 Jill Kilvington 20317301

**FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE
STUDY GROUPS**

(see newsletter for details)
 Haydn Hopkins 20621280
 Linda Alexander 20759704

SERVERS' GUILD

Sunday morning and as announced
 Gerald Bradnum 20751177

CHATTERBOX

Thursday 1.30 - 3.00 pm
 during Term time
 Gill Barker 20747464
 Ann Francis - 20751773

FUNKY CHURCH

Karen Payne 20765428
 Sandra 20758588

**YOUTH GROUP
(11-18 year olds)**

Sunday evening 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Rev. Trystan Hughes 20758588

CHOIR

Thursdays at 6.30 pm
 Julie Waller
 Tel: 20615007

RAINBOWS

Tuesdays at 5.00 p.m.
 Emma Lane 07975505863

BROWNIES

Mondays at 6.00 pm

84th SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader
 vacant

Group Committee Chairman
 Geoff Payne 20756577

Enquiries to Caryl Roach 20754463

BEAVERS

Thursdays at 5.30 pm
 Chris Davies 07948399111

CUBS

Wednesdays at 6.15 pm
 Simon Rimell

SCOUTS

Wednesdays at 7.30 pm
 Simon Broadley