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Heritage Coast  
Ministry Area  
Magazine



February 2023

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# Parish Magazine

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast Ministry Area comprises the Parishes of: St Bridget's, St Brides; St Michael and All Angels, Ewenny; St Giles, Gileston; St Cattwg's, Llanmaes; St Michael and All Angels, Llanmihangel; St Illtud's, Llantwit Major; Holy Trinity, Marcross; St Mary's, Monknash; St Donat's, St Donats; St Tathan, St Athan; All Saints, Southerndown; St James, Wick.

This magazine serves them all.

**Contributions to be in by 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month please**

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## This Month's Cover

It is probable, especially in this increasingly secular age, that most people will regard February as the month of Valentine's Day. 14<sup>th</sup> February is actually, a Saints Day for at least seven saints, including St Valentine. As the focus is on love on this day, and love is at the heart of our Christian religion, perhaps it is appropriate. However, there is a greater significance to most Februarys in that it is a month which sees a start of Lent, which is the lead-up to the most important festival in the Christian Calendar, Easter. Are you ready for it? Are you going to deprive yourself of any luxuries? Think about it, as it is right and proper to prepare ourselves for Easter.

## Clawr y Mis hwn

Mae'n debygol iawn, yn enwedig wrth l'r oes seciwlar gynnyddu, y bydd y rhan fwyaf o bobl yn ystyried mis Chwefror fel mis Dydd San Ffolant. Y gwir amdanni yw bod 14eg Chwefror mewn gwirionedd yn Ddydd Sant am o leiaf saith Sant, gan gynnwys Sant Ffolant. Gan fod yna ffocws ar gariad ar y diwrnod hwn a, fel y gwyddwn, cariad sydd wrth wraidd ein Crefydd Gristnogol, efallai ei fod yn briodol. Fodd bynnag, mae yna fwy o arwyddocâd i fis Chwefror i ni fel Cristnogion gan mai dyma'r mis sy'n gweld dechrau'r Grawys, sef y cyfnod cyn yr ŵyl bwysicaf yn y calendr Cristnogol, sef y Pasg. Ydych chi'n barod am y Grawys? Ydych chi'n mynd i amddifadu eich hun o unrhyw foethusrwydd? Meddylwch amdano, gan ei fod yn iawn ac yn briodol i baratoi ein hunain ar gyfer y Pasg.

---

*I was 32 when I started cooking; up till then, I just ate.*

# Diary

## Regular Events

Each Monday	Morning Prayer	9.00 am	via Zoom
First Tuesday	Mothers' Union	2.00 pm	St Illtud's
Each Tuesday	Chair Yoga	10.00 am	St Illtud's
	Prayers for the Parish	11.00 am	via Zoom
Each Thursday	Morning Prayer	8.30 am	Zoom. St James
	Clothes Bank	9.00 am	St Athan
	Seasons	2.00 pm	St Illtud's
	Celtic Contemplation	6.30 pm	St Illtud's (from 10 <sup>th</sup> )
	Bell ringers Practice	7.30 pm	St Illtud's
First Friday	Open Mic	7.30 pm	St Illtud's

For information about services in the Ministry Area,  
please refer to the weekly Newsletter.

## St Donat's

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, a morning gathering was held at St Donat's, as part of the monthly experience since the end of lockdown, entitled "Meet, Eat and Greet", the intention is to attract some of the Atlantic College students to come and meet us in an informal get-together with lots of chat and usually an ice-breaking activity which gives an opportunity to meet our small church community. This time Shelia and Vicky had prepared a workshop with tables through the church so that we could all make Christingles with oranges, ribbons and candles. Afterwards we each told of our "favourite place" ranging from Ghana to Mexico with Netherlands and many other places in between. Later we enjoyed snacks, and it was fascinating to hear everyone. The atmosphere was splendid and much enjoyed by the students, children and members of the congregation.

*Heather March*



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*No human being can readily understand another, and no one can arrange another's happiness.*

## From the Editor

Dear Friends,

One of the memories from my youth is listening to sermons in church. At one time, when I was in the choir at St Andrew's. Leyland, the pulpit was round the corner, out of our sight. Inevitably, my attention would wander, and, with the other choirboys, I would find alternative things to occupy my mind! Moving on a few years to when I was at school in the Lake District, I recall a visiting preacher to Evening Service who never put me in this position; the Vicar of Eskdale always held our attention firmly, from start to finish.

At a sermon, delivered by Emma, recently, I was once again kept to the subject which was appropriate to Epiphany, of following your star in life. She said that you may not know where you are going until you get there in exactly the same way that Three Wise Men followed THE Star over miles of journeying until the star came to a halt over the stable; here it halted, and they knew that they had arrived. If I understood her correctly, she went on to say that we should follow God's path even if we cannot see where it is leading us.

It may be that you have, or have had, an ambition to follow through life. You wanted to be an engine driver, a painter, a nurse or whatever and this has guided your course from early years. You will have been able to dedicate yourself to pursuing that goal and putting all your effort into getting there without being side-tracked at all. I have always envied people who have had this single-minded purpose in life to bring them to the fulfilment of their dreams.

On the other hand, how sad to have such ambition, pursue it, but not quite get there. I had a cousin whose tenor voice was good enough for him to sing in opera. He sang at Glyndebourne but never managed to progress out of the chorus. Winding up appearing in West End musicals and had the ignominy of having to work the night shift at an ice cream factory so that he had the day's available to look for singing work. I was very sad for him.

But let us return to the sermon. If we try to fulfil God's purpose in life, we will always succeed! We don't have to achieve sainthood in order to feel that we have performed satisfactorily for God. Surely, in His eyes, the very fact that we have tried to live as He wants us to, and as Christ showed us, is enough to recommend us. We must do our best to live and love.

Yours sincerely, *Eric*

---

*If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.*

# From the Ministry

Hello Friends,  
19<sup>th</sup> January:

I'm going to be writing this entry as a diary installation covering the events of the next couple of days. You see, as I'm sitting here writing this, we are into day 2 of the Electoral College's huge responsibility of electing the next Bishop of Llandaff. and that, God willing, will announce who our next Bishop of Llandaff will be.

I can't help but be rather reflective about this. I remember all too clearly where I was when Bishop June was elected, and so much has happened to me since that date. What about you readers? Can you remember hearing of Bishop June's election; can you remember where you were when you heard the announcement? When the announcement was made, I was attending a 3 day, All Wales, residential selection panel in North Wales, which chose candidates to go forward for training to become vicars. The 3 days were intense, and the news of Bishop June's election came on the final day. The combination of relief that the three days were coming to an end, and utter delight at the election of the new Bishop, made for very joyful celebrations.

Bishop June has been my rock throughout her time with us. In my eyes, she is a hard act to follow. But, just as I did for the 'selection panel' members in North Wales, I am praying for the Electoral College member. I am praying and I hope that we're all praying that the Holy Spirit will guide them to recognise the person that God has called to be the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Llandaff. I'm also hoping and praying that, before I have to submit this entry to Eric for printing into this magazine, God willing, the doors of Llandaff Cathedral will have been unlocked and flung open, with the much anticipated election news, .....

20<sup>th</sup> January:

Well, the incredibly exciting announcement has been made! Just after I had finished typing yesterday's instalment, Llandaff Cathedral announced that the Rt Revd Mary Stallard, the Assistant Bishop of Bangor has been elected to serve as the next Bishop of Llandaff. Bishop Mary was one of the first women to be ordained in the Church in Wales in 1997, serving her Curacy in Newport, then moving to the Diocese of St David's. She was appointed Canon Residentiary and Bishop's Chaplain at St Asaph Cathedral in 2003, fulfilling many roles in St Asaph, before moving to the Bangor Diocese as Archdeacon in 2018. Bishop Mary was appointed Assistant Bishop of Bangor in January of last year.

Archbishop Andrew John shared the news, commending Bishop Mary's 'enormous energy, faithfulness and joy'. He was delighted for Llandaff Diocese, that we can now share in the gifts that she will bring.

---

*Great events make for quiet and calm; it is trifles that are irritating.*

So what happens now? Well, Bishop Mary called it a 'real privilege to receive this new call', and her election will be formally confirmed at a Sacred Synod service in April. It is expected that she will then be enthroned as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Llandaff shortly after the election confirmation. Let us all continue to pray. Prayers for Bishop Mary as she ends her time in Bangor Diocese, and prepares for her new episcopacy in our beautiful Diocese of Llandaff.

So that's the end of my diary installations for the last couple of days, and all that's left for me to say is, congratulations and croeso Bishop Mary.

## How is a Bishop appointed?

Every organisation has its own quirky ways of doing things, and the Church in Wales is no exception! The election of Bishop Mary Stallard was made by the Electoral College of the Church in Wales, which is a group of lay people and clergy drawn from all 6 of the Welsh dioceses. Each diocese is represented by 6 people (plus their bishop) while the 'home' diocese, where the new bishop will serve has 12 electors. This means there are 47 electors and the successful candidate must receive the support of a two-thirds majority.

The doors of Llandaff Cathedral were locked for the duration of the election and the proceedings are confidential, with each elector swearing an oath of confidentiality before the process begins. The election is also a prayerful time, with a right and proper focus on allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the electors in their thoughts and reflection.

The successful candidate is declared Bishop-Elect, and then has up to 28 days to accept the position, after which their election is formally confirmed by a Sacred Synod of the Welsh Bishops; in the case of the next Bishop of Llandaff, we expect this to be held in April. Bishop Mary is already serving as a Bishop in Bangor Diocese, so there is no need for her to be consecrated (made a Bishop in a special service), but there will be a formal welcome to her as she takes up her new post in Llandaff Diocese. This is sometimes called the 'enthronement' of the Bishop and will be held at Llandaff Cathedral in a few months' time.

God in Heaven,  
we thank you for your humble servant  
Mary Stallard, Bishop designate of Llandaff.  
Through your Spirit, strengthen her as she  
prepares for her new ministry as  
Chief Shepherd of your people in Llandaff.  
Like St Teilo, may they help people to  
understand and proclaim Jesus' love.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
our Saviour.  
Amen.

Fr Edwin



---

*I can resist anything except temptation.*

## Taizé Music at St Illtud's

Some people have been asking about the music that is sung in St Illtud's Church during the Sunday morning Eucharist. These are the chants such as *Wait for the Lord, In the Lord I'll be ever thankful*, and *O Lord hear my prayer* that are sung a number of times while people receive Holy Communion. They come from a monastic community in France, based in the little village of Taizé on a hill-top in Burgundy.



Those with long memories will remember the evenings of worship that I led during the late 1980s and in the 1990s in the smaller churches of the diocese using the music of Taizé, accompanied by a small orchestra conducted by Mike Komor. The first was at St Donat's Church on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1989 – a beautiful summer's evening, with the service followed by refreshments in the churchyard. Twice our Taizé services were filmed by the BBC and ITV and used in their religious broadcasts, and I was interviewed for BBC Wales Today when we held a Taizé evening of worship during *Cardiff Alive* in 1995. In 1991 Mike and I travelled to Taizé to take part in a BBC *Songs of Praise* that was broadcast from the Community's Church of the Reconciliation; Mike played his trombone in the orchestra, and I was asked to sit next to Pam Rhodes, the presenter.

It was in was in the mid-1980s that the simple chants of Taizé became popular. The Taizé Community was founded by Roger Schutz immediately after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, bringing together Catholics and Protestants to live under monastic vows, with three periods of common prayer a day and to work in the world 'to be signs of Christ's presence and bearers of joy'. Soon 'fraternities' sprung up all over the world, and visitors began coming to Taizé to worship and pray with the Community. In 1962 a new church was dedicated to accommodate not just the Community but also the hundreds of visitors. By the 1980s thousands of mainly young people were coming to Taizé from all parts of Europe and further afield, camping in tents and taking part in the worship and study.

The Community needed to find a form of music that would allow everyone to participate in the singing, taking into account the great diversity of languages, and to be simple and prayerful. The solution was to use refrains of a few words from Scripture repeated over and over again to melodic chants which could be sung in harmony, unaccompanied, or with an organ or orchestral accompaniment. The first chants were composed to Latin words, such as *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* (Where

---

*If your heart is a volcano, how do you expect flowers to bloom?*



charity and love are God is there) but now many different languages are used, French, English, Spanish, German, Eastern European. I remember visiting Penrhys, the deprived mountain-top estate in the Rhondda, and hearing little infant school children skipping along the street singing *Nada te turbe, nada te espante* (Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten) having been taught Taizé chants by the minister of Llanfair church. We introduced Taizé chants to St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School, and they became firm favourites, more so than some of the lively modern choruses.

The whole point of the chants is to allow basic Gospel truths, using few words, to penetrate us, to become embedded in us. They are to be sung quietly, meditatively, in a congregation without single voices dominating. While a chant may be sung over and over again, it is not necessary for anyone to sing all the time. If people do not want to sing but just let the words be a prayer, that's fine. The singing continues in the silence of one's heart – the words become interiorised, taking root in one's whole being. At this precious time of our Eucharist in St Illtud's, as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion we also let his words speak to us in these simple chants from Taizé.

*Philip Morris*

## **Mother's Union**

On January the 3<sup>rd</sup> all three MU branches in our Deanery met in St Illtud's to celebrate the Eucharist for Epiphany. Our service was celebrated by Emma and was accompanied by wonderful A Cappella singing. A happy time of fellowship was enjoyed after the service.

Our February meeting will be on Tuesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm when worship led by Barry and Sue Letson will precede our AGM.

If you have not already paid your subs for this year, please can you do that as soon as possible.

If you would like to join us, please ask Diane Gullett, Tyann Leonard, Sheila Morris or myself for information.

Sue Beetlestone, Branch Leader

## **St Cattwg's**

In celebration of St Cattwg's Day, Llanmaes Village Hall hosted a Quiz attended by over 30 eager contestants. Organized by Jackie Wright, the event was greatly enjoyed, raising over £260 for church funds. The winners were "Peter Pan and Wendy" who managed to outscore the "Rockin' Robins" by one point.

---

*Let not your mind run on what you like as much as on what you already have.*

# Humour

My friend said that he had the body of a Greek god. I had to explain to him that Buddha wasn't Greek.

A mother texted her son to ask what some texting abbreviations meant. "Hello George, please can you let me know what the following mean - IDK, LY, & TTYL?" He replied, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk to You Later." The mother texted him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister to tell me, love you too."

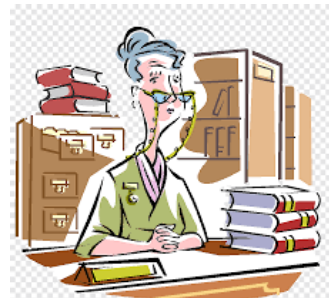
Bert was talking to his friend, George, and said to him, "Fred owes me £500, and he won't pay up. What should I do?" "Do you have any proof that he owes you the money?" asked George. "Nope," Bert said ruefully. "OK, then write him a letter asking him for the £5,000 he owed you," said George. "But it's only £500," came the reply. "Precisely. That's what he will say, and then you will have your proof!"

At the meeting of a Horticultural Society, the speaker was asked by a member what precisely she should do when transplanting some gooseberry bushes. The speaker gave her detailed instructions as to the correct procedure to be followed in lifting the bushes which included the precautions to be taken. Finishing up with "- and don't forget to look under the bushes to see if there is anything there."

At the end of a job interview, the interviewer asked a young engineer, fresh out of college, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replied, "In the region of £100,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquired, "Well, how about five weeks' vacation, 14 Bank Holidays, full medical and dental cover, company retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Mercedes?" The engineer sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replied "Yes, but you started it."



Don't forget, these are his birthday and his Christmas presents.



"Spare"? I've put it in Fiction over there.

---

*I must control the clock, not be controlled by it.*

# Puzzle Page

## Crossword No 122

	1	2	2	3			4	5		6		
7						8						9
10						11						
12								13				
	14			15			16			17		
18						19						20
21		22				23		24				
25								26				
	27						28					

### Across

- 1 Measure
- 4 Sinned
- 7 Anger
- 8 Supplier
- 10 Snug
- 12 Transport
- 15 Musicians
- 18 Deduced
- 19 Peel
- 21 Inserted
- 23 Chopper
- 24 United
- 25 Calculate.

### Down

- 1 Fruit
- 2 Consumed
- 3 Exam
- 4 Apparent
- 5 Score
- 6 Dashes
- 9 Surprise
- 11 Yell
- 13 Game
- 14 Award
- 16 Attest
- 17 Imprison
- 20 Tool
- 22 Equal

## Answers

*22 Thyme. 24 Cabal.*

*9 Fleet, 15 Visitor, 17 Request, 18 Alike, 19 Amend, 20 Reeks,*

*Down: 2 Renown, 3 Shack, 5 Extinct, 6 Tried, 7 Amiss, 8 Ivory,*

*27 Zebra, 28 Cloth.*

*14 Knave, 16 Storm, 21 Lotus, 23 Maccague, 24 Krypton, 26 Bleak,*

*Across: 1 Brush, 4 Teeth, 10 Mania, 11 Vitriol 12 Snooker, 13 Nudge,*

## Miniquiz

- 1 The 'Silver Fern' motif is associated with which commonwealth country?
- 2 North of the River Wear, Hylton Castle, Roker and Seaburn are suburbs of which city?
- 3 Ian Hart played which Beatle in the film Backbeat?
- 4 Which breed of terrier has the same name as a pile of stones?
- 5 Which desert in Central Asia is named from the Mongolian for 'waterless place'.

## Answers

*1 New Zealand, 2 Sunderland, 3 John Lennon, 4 Cairn, 5 Gobi.*

### Word Ladder

Go from one word to the next by changing only one letter.

FEAST	BANQUET
LEAST	MINIMUM
BEAST	ANIMAL
	EXPLODE
	BORED
	KNIFE
	DELL
	NOISE
	LOUD
	FIRE
BLAME	FAULT

*Feast, Least, Beast, Blast, Blade, Glade, Glare, Blare, Blazw Blame.*

*Go confidently in your dreams! Live the life you have imagined!*

## Satellite Launch

It was announced that thousands were expected. In Cornwall for Europe's first satellite launch. This completely ignores the fact that in 1970, the old British Black Arrows rocket made Britain only the 6th country in the world to launch its very own satellite. Now for the story that goes with it. This is all true and completely verifiable. Read on and be proud to be quintessentially British. Only we could put this disaster out of the head and come out smelling of roses. The whole of the Black Arrow programme in the 1970s went flawlessly, there were no engine failures, no not one.

The engines were built in Britain by Bristol, Siddly, I believe, and they were tested on the Isle of Wight at High Down. Their exhaust was aimed at the Needles Lighthouse, an area which looks too packed with tourists and holiday makers. Were they in danger of severe burns from the exhaust? No, the fuel from Black Arrow was hydrogen peroxide, used by ladies to make their hair very blonde, I believe, and kerosene. The exhaust was essentially steam. Love it! I was a steam Chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy and some of my friends were steam engineers from our local power stations for example, Aberthaw. Reports say that when a test was underway, the noise of the test rocket engine could be heard at least 10 miles away.



The UK was no really safe place to muck about with live rocket engines, so after testing they were overhauled cleaned and safely packed up to be flown to the vast open space safe spaces of Woomera. I repeat, not one of those engines failed to go. They could not, no more than you can cancel a firework rocket other than by throwing a bucket of water over it. Once lit, stand back and well back!

Now, the wonderful, wonderful British story, a story like no other! The day before its launch, Margaret Thatcher cancelled the whole thing, lock, stock and barrel on the advice of her scientific advisor as we were cash strapped and broke. What to do with this wonderful thing on the launchpad? Well, they did just pack up and go home, but the very last thing they did as they were out of work in any case, was to light the blue touchpaper and literally retire.

---

*We are just an advanced set of monkeys on a minor planet of an average star.  
But we understand t universe and that makes us very special.*

It was a 100% successful launch and all by itself reached the correct orbit and deployed its satellite, Prospero. We're the only nation in the universe to completely and successfully launch its own satellite and then retire. Prospero is still passing overhead daily and will for another 100 years or so.

I am proud to say some of the bits on it were made by me during my employment in a tool somewhere near the famous fighter station of Biggin Hill, London. Sad to say, the launch from Cornwall was a failure and the rocket lost somewhere in the vast Atlantic Ocean. Our only success was indeed 70 years ago with the Black Arrow and Prospero. Oh dear!



Bill Henderson

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## Troubled Times

Prime Minister Harold Wilson was a worried man. After two elections the previous year his government had a majority of only three; his former allies in the TUC were no longer prepared to limit wage demands; prices were rising and unemployment going up. As if that wasn't enough, the Conservatives had got rid of Heath, and it looked as though rising star Margaret Thatcher might take over.

This was February 1975 when the Vicar, the Revd. J. D. Llewelyn Jones was writing in the Parish Magazine about strange things happening to the climate: *The odd goings on in our gardens, with roses struggling on in January from last summer and daffodils blooming two months before their proper time and other plants in flower out of season, seem to reflect the unsettled state of the times. What with the weather and the economy. It is all a bit disturbing.*

His answer to all of this, as the season of Lent was on the way, was to try the three old fashioned religious duties of almsgiving, fasting and prayer. He wrote that the first was about our concern for others; the second about our restraint and self-discipline, and the third our need for God.

Like Wilson with the Country, he had concerns about the Church, and promised that the two clergy would visit as much of the parish as they could cover, adding that it was not easy with all the new building and their other commitments.

In the March issue he wrote that Disunity was still a problem, although he added that members of local churches had met together to consider how they could work together: *even if as yet there may not be complete unity in all things.* After mentioning the Covenant Scheme and the Wales for Christ project, he described how volunteers from the churches would be visiting households in pairs with an invitation to attend a joint service of Mission and Unity at St. Illtyd's in Holy Week, the church of their own choosing on Easter Day, and to offer them a copy of St. Mark's Gospel. He explained: *The purpose of this visiting is to meet people where they are and to invite them if they are not committed to consider the challenge of faith in God and His Christ.*

We do not know how many visiting pairs there were, although it would seem not as many as expected, as in the April issue the Vicar says that they had only visited the area around the old Ham house. One wonders whether they were mistaken for Jehovah's Witnesses, although in the April issue the Vicar writes: *so far reports tell of a kindly*

---

*Can anything be sadder than work left unfinished? Yes! work never begun.*

*welcome in the homes and visitors have found it an interesting experience, and we hope that some new contacts have been made.*

Although there is no report on the joint service, we can be sure that it was well attended, as in the April magazine he tells us: *Since this service includes members of the six main churches in the town, the first Mayor of Llantwit Major, Mr. Alfred Davies, has asked whether this would not be a fitting time to dedicated the new chain of office of the town, with its new coat of arms. This includes the traditional arms of St. Illtud, the wings of the Royal Air Force and the old motto, "En Toute Loyale," "Loyal in Everything." It does indeed seem an appropriate occasion to do this. Mr. Alfred Davies has filled this new office with devotion and dignity and set a high standard for his successors.*

In the St. Donat's Notes for March 1975 the Vicar writes about someone whom I well remember from my days as a young curate: *Miss Gertrude Wilde, who died at the age of 92 on 13th February, removes another link with the past. She loved St. Donat's and its church, which she served so well for so many years as church secretary until well into her eighties. Thanks for her life; may she rest in peace.* I say Amen to that.

David. G. Brunning

## **From the Registers**

### **Baptisms**

8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Trudy Irene June Truman

### **Marriages**

23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. Toby Mark Rhodes and Carly Rhian Matthews

29<sup>th</sup> Dec. Colin Thomas Dixon and Monica Alice Elizabeth Dancer

### **Burials**

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Allan Thomas-McDowell, aged 70 years, St. Brides Major

5<sup>th</sup> Jan. David Hubert Hesford, aged 90 years, Barry

11<sup>th</sup> Jan. Kenneth Royson Chilton, aged 98 years, Llantwit Major

13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Barbara Williams, aged 93 years, Llantwit Major

17<sup>th</sup> Jan. Joan Ashton, aged 90 years, Llantwit Major

---

*A man starts to cut his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.*

## Saint of the Month

### 19<sup>th</sup> February: Thomas Burgess, Bishop (1756-1837)

Last month's 'Saint' was responsible for founding a theological college for the training of priests at Mirfield, Yorkshire; this month's 'Saint' founded a theological college at Lampeter, west Wales.

Thomas Burgess was born in 1756, the son of William and Elizabeth Burgess, grocers of Odiham, Hampshire. He was educated at Winchester and Oxford, and ordained in 1784, becoming chaplain to the bishop of Salisbury.

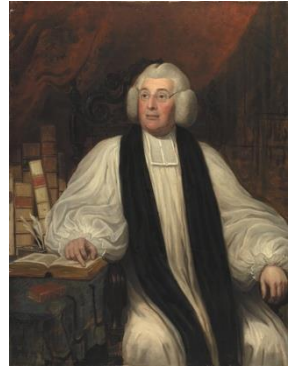
During his time at Salisbury Burgess wrote *The Salisbury Spelling Book* which was used for teaching reading and writing in Sunday Schools throughout the country. At the same time, he also wrote *Considerations on the Abolition of Slavery*, calling for the emancipation of slaves.

Burgess moved from Salisbury to Durham in 1791, becoming a canon of the cathedral. He worked among the poor, and was noted as an evangelist, "informing the ignorant as the sun dispels the darkness of the light."

In 1803, Burgess was appointed bishop of St Davids, and set about reforming the diocese, and particularly improving the education and preparation for ministry of the clergy. In order to do this, he began the establishment of a theological college at Lampeter. In 1827 the first students were admitted to St David's College, which is now the Lampeter campus of the University of Wales Trinity St David. By that time, Burgess had been appointed bishop of Salisbury, but the college he founded provided training for clergy up until 1978, with the ability to confer degrees, making it the third, after Oxford and Cambridge, oldest higher education institution in England and Wales, the fourth if you count Llanilltud Fawr as the first university

Burgess is remembered in the Bishop Burgess Hall at the University of Wales Trinity St David Lampeter Campus. The college's motto is *Gair Duw Goreu Dysg* – 'The Word of God is the best teacher'.

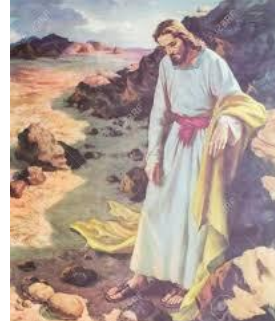
*Philip Morris*





## The meaning of Lent

Most people accept that it is sensible to prepare for events. They save up for birthdays or weddings or get the house ready for guests. In the Christian Church, we prepare ourselves as Easter approaches. This festival has the greatest significance in defining what Christianity is about. As it was the time when Jesus was crucified, died, was buried and rose again three days later. He prepared himself for his ministry by retreating into the desert for a period of 40 days. Here he fasted, meditated, and prayed and was tempted by the devil before returning to commence his ministry.



We feel that it is appropriate to follow Jesus' example through prayer, penance, repentance, /and self-denial at this time. People deprived themselves of certain luxuries or undertake charitable tasks during Lent. Traditionally, lent starts on Ash Wednesday. Which derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. As part of the stricter regime, homes would



eat up rich items of food beforehand so that they would not be available to them during Lent. Hence the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

It is also customary for churches to bare their altars of flowers and other devotional offerings, while crucifixes, statues, and other



religious items are often veiled in violet fabrics in observance of this event. Lent ends on Maundy Thursday, the day before Jesus was crucified on Good Friday.



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*When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.*

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The costs of this publication have been met by the Senedd Commission from public funds  
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