

THE PARISH OF DOWLAIS AND PENYDARREN

Rogation Sunday May 5th



Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell:

Glyndwr Wright, Connie Lewis, Peter Hagerty, Shannon Vincent, Mark Lewis, Deborah Stoddart, Anthony Evans, and Paula Jones.

Post Communion Prayer

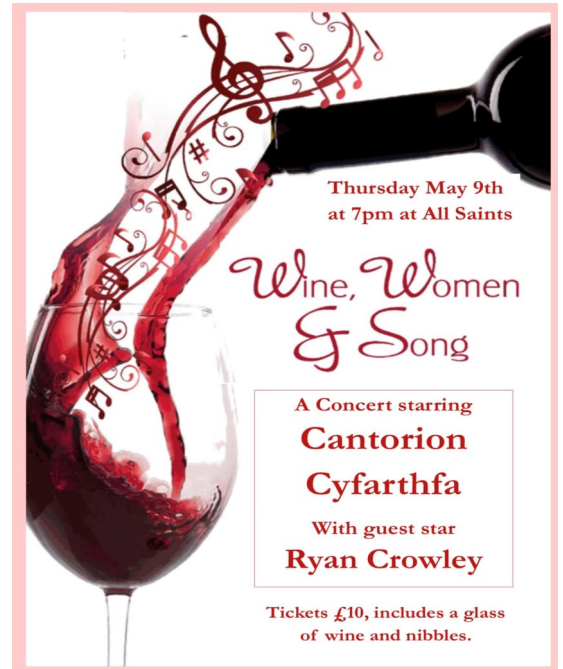
Bountiful God, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Ministry Area Development Workshops

Three workshops have taken place, and the next three will take place in different churches;

All are welcome to any of these meetings:

- ◆ Saturday 25th May 9:30-12:30 (bacon baps) - St Tydfil's
- ◆ Wednesday 29th May 18:00-21:00 (cakes) - Merthyr Vale
- ◆ Monday 3rd June (soup lunch) - All Saints Church



The **Mother's Union** will meet on Tuesday May 7th in Christchurch Hall at 2.30pm. All welcome.

Weekly Service Times

Wednesday 10.30am Christchurch
- Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10am Christchurch
- Holy Eucharist

11am All Saints - Holy Eucharist
11am online Facebook and Youtube Service.

Parish Contact Details

Rev Caroline Owen	Home: 01685 558660
Mrs Barbara Edwards (Rector's Warden)	Mrs Dorcas Cox (People's Warden)
Home 01685 387 665	Home 01685 554 995
Mobile 07810400068	Mobile 07807264009

Rogation Sunday Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labour: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give us all a right satisfaction in what we do, and a just return for our labour; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

ANY ITEMS FOR THE LINK MAGAZINE JUNE/JULY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.



Saturday July 13th,
10am - 12 noon
All Saints Church Hall.
Free entry.
Stalls £5 - tables provided .



Readings for May 5th – Rogation Sunday

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he had recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING **Acts 10. 44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalm 98

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸ Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

⁹ at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING **1 John 5. 1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL **John 15. 9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



Thought for the Day

- Ask for God's blessing.

Rogation is all about asking: the word comes from the Latin word 'rogare' - 'to ask': we are encouraged to ask God's blessing, ask for God's help for ourselves and for our community.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter has traditionally been called Rogation Sunday, because it is followed by the three Rogation Days - the Book of Common Prayer tells us that "Rogation Days are the three days preceding Ascension Day (which falls next Thursday), especially devoted to asking for God's blessing on agriculture and industry."

In the very early days of the Church, Christians adopted a Roman spring festival of walking through the fields to pray that the crops be spared from mildew and blight. For centuries, Rogation walks were held, and Rogation prayers were asked for God's blessing on the crops and to ensure a good harvest.

In Rogation processions in this country parishioners carried banners decorated with biblical figures: the 'rogations,' the requests to God, were often sung if there was a choir taking part in the procession. There was a tradition of literally 'beating the bounds' - with the boys of the parish carrying willow branches or long reeds to beat on the ground as they walked. In some accounts the boys were bumped themselves, or swung around the corner posts 'so as to impress the boundaries upon their youthful memories'.

At the Reformation in this country, the practice of 'processions' was suppressed, but parish "perambulations" were still encouraged—something we're very fond of in this parish! In the time of Elizabeth I, a Royal Injunction ordered the perambulation of every parish at Rogationtide and two special Homilies or sermons for Rogation Days were printed so that clergy could be sure to explain properly to their congregations what this was all about.

One of these homilies says how: 'in our walks on these days' people have occasion to behold the fields and countryside and to ask God in prayer for their fruitfulness and for seasonable weather. A wonderfully practical point is made about noticing the need for road repairs. Tudor law required labourers to give four days work each year to the repair and maintain the roads of the parish. So the Rogation walk encouraged people to have a good look at their area, and helped them to notice what needed doing.

Being out and about with our eyes open and with our thoughts tuned to prayer still is still important for us today. It's a practical way of linking our churches with the reality of the world and the town and the community we serve. Perhaps we could all find the opportunity for a Rogation walk of our own this week: simply taking time as we walk to ask God's blessing for the homes and shops and schools and cafés and businesses we pass.

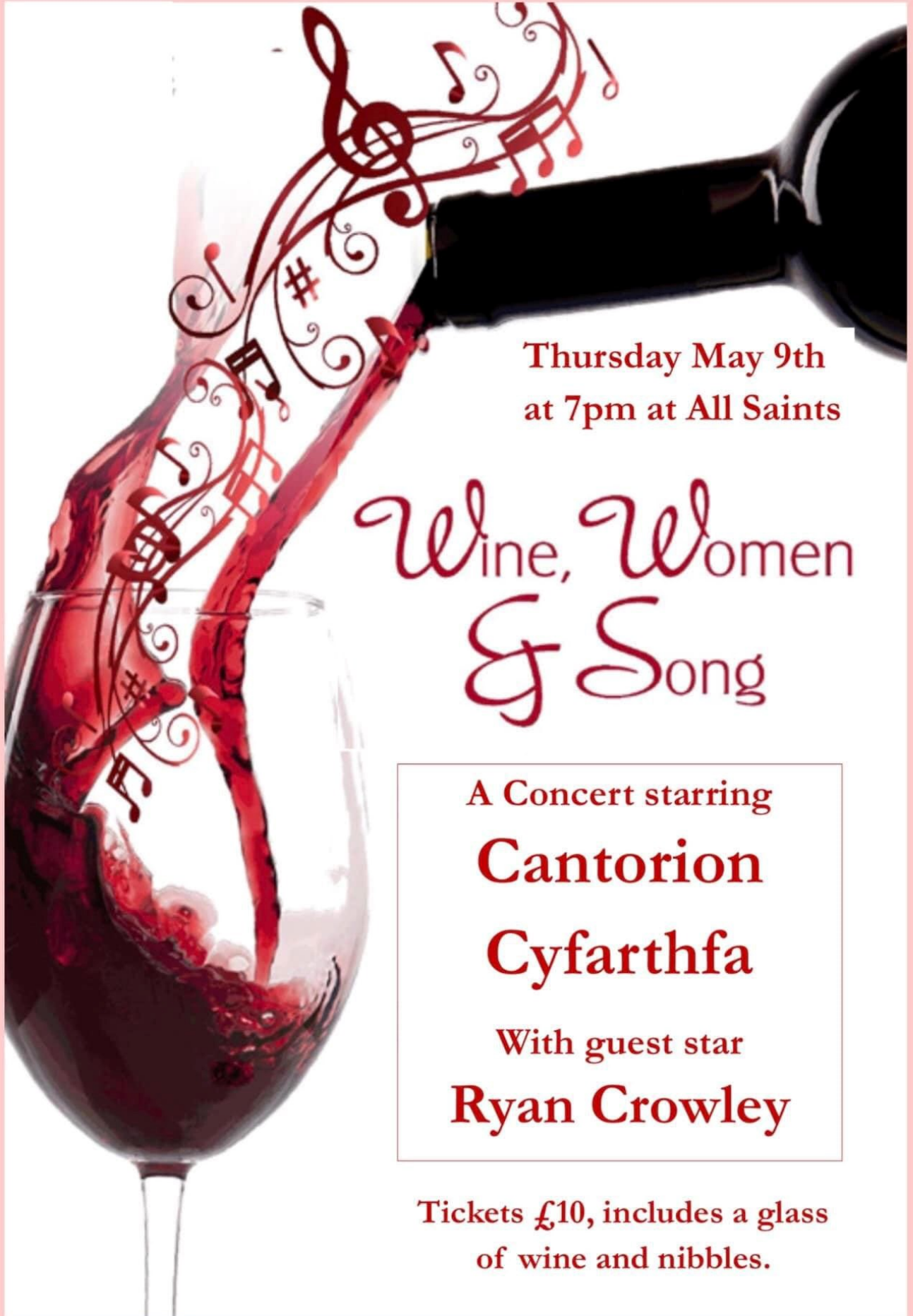
Rogation is about asking, but it is also about generosity - we are praying 'as well for others as for ourselves' - because we are not simply praying for ourselves but for others in our parish and for all on whom we depend for our food and wellbeing. God wants us to ask, as a way of showing that we know we need that blessing and are willing help those around us to receive blessings too. If we become too self-sufficient, we forget how to ask and how to trust. Rogation reminds us that God wants to bless us and to bless the world through us.

'Ask and you will receive', Jesus tells us; but that Rogation homily from the time of Elizabeth I suggests that Rogation also demonstrates the truth of: 'give and you will receive.' '...God hath promised to open the windows of heaven upon the liberal and righteous, that they shall want nothing' it says. If we give to others, then God will give to us: or as Jesus says elsewhere in the Gospel, 'Give and it will be given to you.' As we become more generous of heart so we become more generous in giving

"Surely you have granted him unending blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence."

Psalm 21:6





Thursday May 9th
at 7pm at All Saints

Wine, Women & Song

A Concert starring

Cantorion

Cyfarthfa

With guest star

Ryan Crowley

Tickets £10, includes a glass
of wine and nibbles.