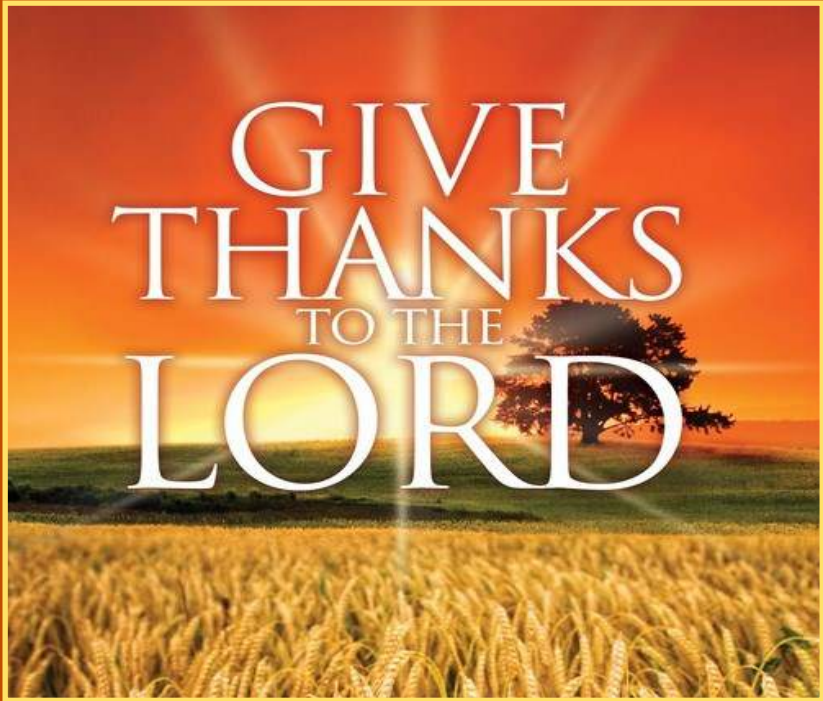


The Link



October and
November 2023

All Saints Church Dowlais
and Christchurch Pant

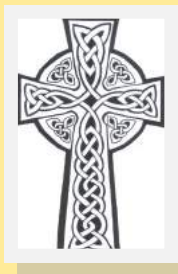
Rector: Rev. Caroline Owen

The Rectory, Gwernllwyn Road, Dowlais,

Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3NA

Phone: 01685 558660

Email: calowen18@gmail.com



Rector's Warden:

Barbara Edwards

Home 01685 387 665

Mobile 07810400068

People's Warden

and PCC Secretary: Dorcas Cox

Home 01685 554 995

Mobile 07807264009

Dear Friends,

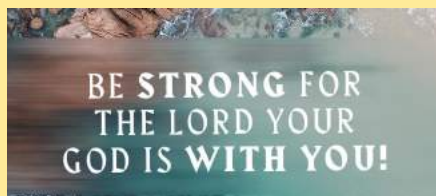
Each year October is the month when we say 'thank you' for God's goodness, with our Harvest celebrations. Our theme for November is 'remembering'.

Over the summer we've been learning more about the lives of some Modern Martyrs - Oscar Romero, Maximillian Kolbe and Martin Luther King Jr - and their wonderful inspiring examples of love, kindness, faith and courage. Throughout the years of Christian history there have been brave men and women of vision whose witness and example continue to speak to us. We call them 'saints' and celebrate them on November 1st, All Saints Day. But the Bible says that all Christians are saints, so what are we doing now in Christ's service and how will we be remembered?

I'm sure we can all recall faces and voices of many saints whose example still inspires us. It is now our turn to make our mark for Christ and to do the very best we can to share His love with a world in so much need of it. Most of us are not challenged to be martyrs, but every Christian has a part to play.

Every blessing

Caroline



The Parish Online

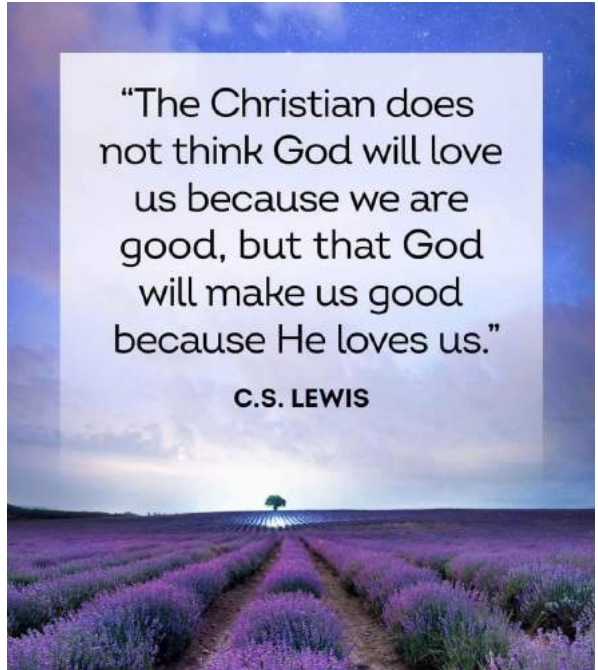
● Each Sunday at 11am we have a service of the weekly readings and prayers on Facebook and Youtube.

● Each Saturday evening - when the technology co-operates! - we send out an 'information pack' - the readings, pewsheets, sermon etc on email. If you don't get one, it means we don't have your email address - please let us know.

● Each morning I post a 'Thought for the Day' on Facebook, just to let you know I'm thinking of you and praying for you: sometimes it's thought -provoking, sometimes just fun.

● On this page you can read the most popular 'Thoughts for the Day' from the last couple of months.

● Our Parish Facebook page now has 409 members. Invite your friends to join us each day.





Harvest Thanksgiving and Bring a Friend to Church Day

Sunday October 1st

- ◆ 10am at Christchurch - Harvest Family Eucharist
- ◆ 11.00am at All Saints - Harvest Family Eucharist

Harvest Soup Supper

5pm at All Saints - Tickets £5.



Weddings Past and Present Exhibition

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October
at Christchurch Pant - free entry.

- ◆ Saturday 7th at 3pm - **Afternoon Tea**
with a talk from Huw Williams
Memorable Marriages of Merthyr.

Tickets £5

- ◆ Sunday 8th October at 4pm
Wedding Songs of Praise

What hymns did you have at your wedding?



Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday October 1st

5pm - Harvest Soup Supper in All Saints



**Dates for
the Diary**

Weddings Past and Present Exhibition

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October at Christchurch Pant.

Saturday 7th at 3pm - **Afternoon Tea**

Sunday 8th at 4pm - *Wedding Songs of Praise*



Twmpath/Barn Dance for the Ministry Area

28th October at Cyfarthfa Church

Afternoon Tea for Cancer Aid,

and Lighting the Remembering Tree

Wednesday 1st November at All Saints Church



A Service of Remembrance at Mayphil industries

(Kayser Bondor) Goat Mill Road - 10th November at 12 noon

A Service of Remembrance in Christchurch Pant,

10am Sunday 12th November

followed by a service at Pant War Memorial at 11am

Christmas Market

5pm Monday November 27th at All Saints Church.

Christmas Tree Festival

8th, 9th and 10th December at Christchurch.



Changing Service times in Christchurch

We have decided to move the **Sunday** service in Christchurch from 9.30am to 10am. The time of the service in All Saints will **not** change.



The change of the time of the Sunday service in Pant will begin on the *first Sunday of September*.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to my son Robert Spencer Parker on the 13th November 2023. Love from Sharon, Amy, Mash and Naleli Anne. xxx. Thank you for all your help and support during difficult times for me.

Colin



**HIROSHIMA
DAY
6 AUGUST**



**During our service of
Compline for Peace, we lit
candles and prayed for the
people of Hiroshima,
Nagasaki, Ukraine, Russia and
Niger.**



The Table Top Sale

turned into a cheerful, social event, as people wandered the hall chatting and drinking coffee. £300 was raised for the churches.

The Rotary Club turned out in force, and their stall raised £200 for their charities. Many thanks to all who volunteered on the day - and spent lots of money!





Our Pilgrimage

The sun shone at last for our pilgrimage to Margam Abbey and St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit, and it was lovely to see them at their best.

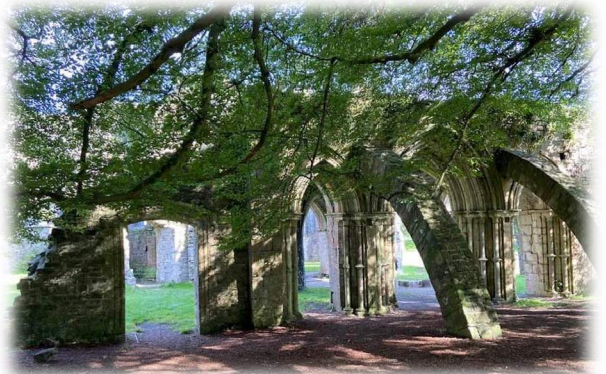
At the Abbey, our enthusiastic and very knowledgeable guide Bev Gulley was able to give us a broad sweep of the history of the abbey from its foundation in 1147, through the dissolution of the monasteries, to its purchase by the Mansel family and the Talbot family, who built the castle which overlooks it.



Theodore Mansel Talbot's tomb



Cross of Conbelin



The ruins of the Chapter House



Once again, we had a warm welcome - and award-winning cake - at the mediaeval church of St Illtyd, on the banks of the Neath Canal, where we celebrated our pilgrimage service.



Andrew McCutcheon, the church warden, kindly played the harmonium for our hymns, and told us some of the history of this ancient church, rounding off a special day.





The Brownies with Green Fingers!

All through the summer, the congregation of All Saints Church has been treated to a lovely display of flowers around the church, planted by the Brownies in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III. Thank you girls and Guiders!



BE COOL - BE KIND!

It was a great pleasure to be asked by Dowlais Community Centre to run some sessions on 'kindness' for the children attending their Summer Camp. We talked about times when people had been kind to them, and they had been kind to others. Then we had a story about the kindness of Maximillian Kolbe, a priest who volunteered to take the place of another prisoner in Auschwitz Concentration Camp, who had been condemned to die. The man had a wife and children and Maximillian didn't, so he wanted to give him a chance to be with them again. The other man lived, and survived into his nineties.

The children all worked hard to decorate letters to make up bunting which read 'Be Cool, Be Kind', all the time learning a new song

- Kindness, Kindness, Oh, whenever you find this

You will see the world's a better place.

Kindness, Kindness, Oh, whenever you try this

You will bring a smile to someone's face.

We hung some of the bunting in the community centre, and I was allowed to bring one back to put up in church, as Evelyn had decorated the 'B' and the 'C' specially for us!



My Favourite Hymn

A hymn for all seasons and all times of worship – morning, midday, or evening – all times and places. As it says in verse four – ‘Be this the eternal song.’

This hymn was translated from an anonymous German text by

Edward Caswall and first published in a collection of Catholic hymns in 1854. Caswall was the son of an Anglican clergyman. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1839, becoming deeply involved in the ‘Oxford Movement’, an Anglican movement with strong Roman Catholic leanings.

In 1847 Caswall and his wife travelled to Rome where they were received into the Roman Catholic Church. After his wife's death, Caswall became a Roman Catholic priest in Birmingham where he devoted himself to serving the poor of the city and translating hymns, mainly from Latin and German sources. He died in Edgebaston in 1878, and was buried at Redwall, near Bromsgrove, by his leader and friend, Cardinal Newman. The tune we use is called ‘Laudes Domini’ and was written by Joseph Barnby in 1868 and first published in Hymns Ancient and Modern. Born in York in 1838, son of noted organist Thomas Barnby, young Joseph Barnby displayed a marked talent for music. He was a boy chorister in his father’s choir at York and became a church organist when he was just twelve.

After completing a formal education at the Royal Academy of Music, he continued his career as one of the most prominent musicians in England. He achieved distinction as organist/choirmaster at St. Andrew’s, Wells Street and at St. Anne’s, Soho, in London. These accomplishments led to a long association with the prominent music publisher, Novello.

Queen Victoria knighted him in 1892 for his contributions to the musical life of England. He died in 1896 at the age of 57.

A lovely hymn to sing, it never fails to give me a feeling of peace and calm as we repeat the last line of each verse – ‘May Jesus Christ be praised.’

Maureen Prothero





Funerals

- ◆ The funeral of **Barbara Galeozzie** took place on 11th August.
- The funeral of **Susan Davies** took place on 12th September.

May they rest in peace.



Newsletter October 2023



07427 537437



info@merthycynon.foodbank.org

<https://merthycynon.foodbank.org.uk>

Jesus said: 'I am the Way the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.' John 14:6.

Items we need please!

Tinned fruit
 Tinned rice pudding
 Tinned meat
 Tinned carrots
 Pot Noodles (no pasta please)
 Tinned potatoes
 Tinned tomatoes
 Tinned soup
 Long life milk
 Squash

Our heartfelt gratitude for your commitment to this ministry. Your donations of time, food, toiletries and cash are invaluable for people in crisis who are struggling to afford the essentials we all need in life.

We are already recruiting volunteers for our National Tesco Collection which will be held on Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st December and Saturday 2nd December. Please ring us if you can take a 2 hour slot.

People fed July and Aug 23				
	Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
July	225	308	183	491
August	264	370	229	599



The Mothers' Union in the Ministry Area

We planned to have a garden party in the Rectory for our August meeting, but the weather let us down, as it did so often this summer, so we squeezed into the Rectory instead. After a service to celebrate Lammass Day - August 1st, celebrating the first fruits of the Harvest, we enjoyed some of the fruits of the Harvest with afternoon Tea.

A good time was had by all: we missed our friend Carol Thomas, and we are delighted to hear that she is recovering slowly but well.





During our September meeting, Mary Owen gave a talk on local landowner, Gwladys Davies: born Gwladys Jones of Maes y Faenor Farm in 1784, she married Edward Davies and they lived in Garth Farm and Pantyscallog Farm. They had six sons, and after her husband's death, Gwladys moved into town (to a house where later Burton's the Outfitter stood), renting her farm to the Guests.

She was involved in a number of business projects, including investing in pits for steam coal, alongside fellow Unitarians Lucy Thomas and Matthew Wayne.

Her eldest son Edward, a surgeon, settled in Machen House near Newport and became a JP. He provided a plot of land for the building of Christchurch Pant, and built houses on one of his fields - Gwladys Street and Edward Street, named after two of his children.



**Mother's Union
Thanksgiving Service**
at Llandaff Cathedral,
on 7th September was
attended by Dorcas,
Barbara,
Sandra and Shirley.

A Service of Compline celebrating Music, and the life of Derry Prothero.

The idea of dedicating a plaque on the organ in St David's Church to the memory of Derry just grew and grew! By Thursday 14th September it had become a full blown service of celebration. Many thanks to St David's Church Choir and Cantorion Cyfarthfa for taking part, and Roger Davies for playing the organ, the Rev Mark Prevett for dedicating the plaque and Lynda Price and Dorothy Evans for organising it all. St David's Church members also provided refreshments so that we could celebrate Maureen's special birthday on September 15th.



It was a very happy occasion, with lots of music, and a wonderful opportunity to sing with and chat with so many old friends - lots of good memories.



Archbishop Oscar Romero

- A MODERN MARTYR



In our services during August we heard about the lives of some of the Modern Martyrs depicted above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey. The first of these was Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador, who was assassinated at the altar during a memorial Mass on March 24, 1980. Two mercenaries approached the chapel and fired a single shot from a military assault rifle. Romero died within minutes: a martyr and the greatest source of hope for millions of oppressed Salvadorans, and the greatest threat to the greed and arrogance of the 14 families that ruled the country of El Salvador.

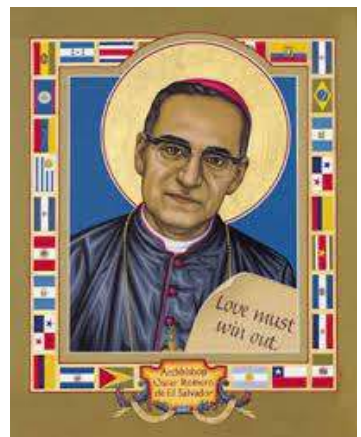
Romero was born into a family of ten on 15 August in Ciudad Barrios: when he was 14 years old, he went to a seminary to study to be a priest. He was ordained in Rome and returned to El Salvador. He became famous for his sermons and visiting prisons, and working with others to provide help and food for the poor, but was not prepared to be involved in political protest. Then Romero became Archbishop: a few weeks later, his friend Fr. Rutilio Grande was machine-gunned for helping peasants organize and become independent. The following Sunday, Romero allowed only one Mass in the whole diocese - at the Cathedral - where he spoke out against the murders - literally tens of thousands of men, women, and children were murdered by military and para-military death squads. Romero was transformed into a champion of the faithful. He had discovered that: "The word of God is like the light of the sun. It illuminates beautiful things, but also things which we would rather not see." He saw terrible violence and injustice - hungry farm workers were beaten or shot for eating the very produce they had grown; 60% of all

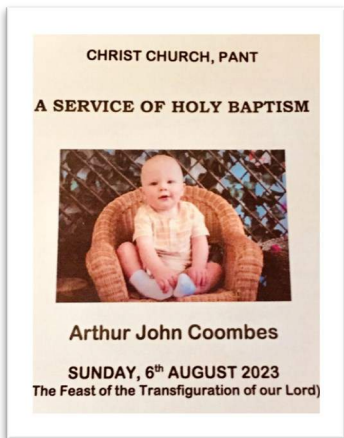
babies died at birth, and many suffered severe malnutrition. Archbishop Romero began to ask his now-famous questions: “How can Christians do such things to each other? What can the Church do?” Romero’s radio broadcasts – at a time when the press was heavily censored – were often the only means by which people in El Salvador knew the truth about the atrocities in their country.

In the last sermon Romero preached, only one day before his assassination, he spoke directly to the military: “No soldier is obliged to obey a law contrary to the law of God. In the name of God, in the name of our tormented people, I beseech you, implore you... I command you to stop the repression.”

Romero was denounced in the government-controlled media on a daily basis and he received numerous death threats. He isolated himself from his colleagues and friends, in case they too became casualties, but he refused to be silenced. Days earlier he had said: “May my death, if it is accepted by God, be for the liberation of my people, as a witness of hope in what is to come... if they succeed in killing me, I pardon and bless those who do it. A bishop may die, but the Church of God, which is in the people, will never die.”

After his murder, thousands attended Romero’s funeral at the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador. The army fired into the crowd: 30 people died and hundreds were injured. The civil war in El Salvador continued until 1992. On 15 March 2009, the new president of El Salvador announced that his government would be inspired by Romero and put the most vulnerable people first. Romero was made a saint by Pope Francis in 2019.





Baptisms

It's been a joy to welcome three children into the family of the church through baptism this month.

Arthur John Coombes was baptised by our friend the Reverend Haydn England Simon. We were delighted that Haydn was feeling well enough to take part.

Other photos show me welcoming Eleri Mai Davies into the church, and Reagan Williams taking a careful look at the water in the font. They were all as good as gold.

DOWLAIS AND PANT COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

The Bridge to Calm Waters

For many years, Dowlais resident, Gary Davies MBE has canvassed for a footbridge to be constructed over the A465 so that residents could reach both Top Pond and Middle Pond safely.

Gary was finally able to convince the Welsh Government Minister that a footbridge was needed, when they witnessed a lady pushing a pram across the busy dual carriageway at a meeting that had been arranged to discuss the proposal.

Gary has been a member of the Merthyr Tydfil Angling Alliance for decades, and has been instrumental, alongside other members, in doing so much for fishing, bio-diversity and making the Top Pond such a wonderful place to visit.

It is down to Gary's perseverance and never give up attitude that the footbridge has finally been constructed, and it's guaranteed to make the lives of many a walker and those who enjoy a spot of fishing a lot easier, and safer in future. Thank you Gary.

These fantastic photographs are courtesy of local resident Gerald Jones



A real blessing to come from our trip to Ireland was the arrival of chorister, Robert Rees who has blended really well into the baritone section and has since been encouraging men to join:



I would recommend joining the choir no matter what age as there is a wide band of ages throughout the group and it is a tremendous experience. If you are not sure, why not pop in any Sunday or Wednesday evening around 7pm



Robert Rees

We also welcomed a new chorister in Joshua Williams, whose first engagement was at the Celtic



Joshua Williams

Manor Hotel for a celebration of the Bevan Commission, established in 2008 by our very own President, Professor Sir Mansel Aylward. This coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Choir winning the National Eisteddfod in Ruthin in 1973. A proud achievement.

The summer break sadly saw the passing of two choristers – Mostyn Davies and Alun Coram Davies – and Dean Powell, compère for our 50th Anniversary Gala Concert. And on a positive note, our Musical Accompanist, Joseph Colbeck-Jones achieved a 2:1 from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. We also elected a new chairman, Stephen Flynn who spoke of his great love and vision to move the choir



Stephen Flynn

into a new and exciting chapter, including a concert with Carlton Male Voice Choir and the Blessed Carlo Acutis RC School Choir in St. Mary's RC Church on Friday 13th October at 7.30pm. Our Annual Concert will take place at High Street Baptist Church on Friday 10th November at 7pm, and will once again include a Remembrance theme. We will also be joined by baritone Twm Tegid and the choir of Edwardsville Primary School.

www.dowlaismalechoir.co.uk or find us on Facebook – Dowlais Male Choir

TWO MARRIAGES: TWO FUNERALS - by Huw Williams

Introduction:

It takes two to marry – and survive. Here in print before the planned talk at Pant Church as part of a celebration of the institution of marriage, are two stellar weddings with crucial consequences for the subsequent history of Dowlais and Merthyr Tydfil.

On 29th July 1833 forty eight year old widower Josiah John Guest, of the Dowlais Iron Company married twenty one year old Lady Charlotte Bertie, daughter of the ninth Earl of Lindsey. On 15th May 1846 twenty nine year old Robert Thompson Crawshay of the Cyfarthfa Iron Works married eighteen year old Rose Mary Yeates at St. Peter's Church, Caversham near Reading.

Both were matches in love despite the typical age disparity, more so in Guest's case. He had been married previously, to Maria Elizabeth Rankin (Ranken) in 1817. She died the following year and there is a plain plaque on the nave wall at Llandaff Cathedral to her memory.

PART 1: The Guests: from London to Dowlais:

On 19th May 1833, invited by Wyndham Lewis, his partner at the Dowlais Works, to a party where Lady Charlotte was celebrating her twenty first birthday, Guest met Charlotte, though she was receiving overtures from another presence at that occasion: a failing novelist, a London-based dandy with his flamboyant dress code, a Jew by birth but with serious political ambitions – one Benjamin D'Israeli. Within a month Josiah and Charlotte were engaged and married at the end of July. The setting for the wedding was George Frederic Handel's church, St. George's, Hanover Square. Here was and still is fashionable London, part of Mayfair and just off it at the top end of Brook Street on an upper apartment was where Handel lived during the 18th century, where much of his corpus of music was composed and then played at



the church. Two centuries or so later another stellar musician occupied the flat above where Handel had been: one Jimi Hendrix. Typical of the Guests for the rest of their lives, remarked Margaret Stewart Taylor, biographer of the Crawshay family, they returned to Dowlais under cover of darkness with minimum fuss. Contrast that with Crawshay and the wild celebrations of their return to Cyfarthfa Castle in May 1846: celebrations went on in one form or another for much of the rest of the year. Lord Ted Rowlands has stated in his biography of Josiah John, the Crawshays **were loved**, albeit intermittently by their workforce but the Guests **held the respect** of their workforce at Dowlais unerringly.

Ten children, five boys, five girls ensued from this happiest of marriages, the first born boy being Ivor Bertie Guest. Perhaps Disraeli (he had changed his name on relinquishing his Jewish faith to gain entrance to the House of Commons) never forgot Charlotte. Did they have a dalliance for a while in that heady month of May at London 1833 perhaps? There is no evidence so. Disraeli married Wyndham Lewis's widow, Mary Anne subsequently, the organiser of that party in May 1833. At his resignation honours list in 1880 as he was being elevated to Lord Beaconsfield, Prime Minister Disraeli ennobled Ivor Bertie to become first Baron Lord Wimborne.

Charlotte outlived her husband by several decades; Josiah John died in 1852 and is buried at St. John's, **his church**, at Dowlais. She married her eldest son's tutor, Charles Shreiber in 1855 at St. Martin's in the Fields in London, she now being by far the older of this new partnership and left Dowlais for good, living the high life in London where Ivor Bertie tried to emulate her in a round of parties, social contacts &c. Today it is known as social networking. A formidable woman in her own right, she learned the crafts of metallurgy alongside Persian and Welsh to assist her in her studies and works of translation, most notably the Welsh folk tales gathered together and translated into English from the collections known as *Y Mabinogion*.

A Page of Prayers



A Harvest Prayer

I give thanks to you, Lord over all the earth.

I give thanks to you, Saviour, redeemer, forgiver of my sins.

I give thanks to you who made the sun and rain,

I give thanks to you for new growth that rises from fertile land.

I give thanks to you for harvests of grain, for nourishing bread.

I give thanks to you for fruit and vegetables, full of goodness.

I give thanks to you for refreshing milk and eggs freshly laid.

I give thanks to you for the hearty and healthy provision of meat and fish.

I give thanks to you for all your great bounty.

Surely we taste your goodness today with truly thankful hearts.

Amen.



*make me an instrument of Your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where
there is doubt, faith; where there is
despair, hope; where there is darkness,
light; and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek to be consoled as to
console; to be understood as to under-
stand; to be loved, as to love; for it
is in giving that we receive, it is in
pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.*

St. Francis of Assisi



*To remember is to
pray for peace,
work for peace,
live peace.*



THE ROYAL WELSH ASSOCIATION (RWA)

GREETINGS: at the ending of summer and the onset of autumn months from RWA members. I recently caught up with a splendid free exhibition at the newly refurbished Brecon art gallery library and museum of

David Jones' pictures. It runs until October. Jones (1895- 1974) was one of the foremost artists and writers of his generation: as "the most gifted of all the younger English painters." (Kenneth Clark). T. S. Eliot and Igor Stravinsky among others placed Jones as akin to a genius. Yet he was Welsh, Welsh speaking and for two years 1916-1918 endured all the horrors of the Western Front in the service of the King with the Royal Welch Fusiliers, for some twenty six months at the Somme and Passchendaele, wounded in the leg during the assault on Mametz Wood in 1916 and finally demobilised in 1919. He likened this tour of duty as a "parenthesis": His memoirs of the Great War started in 1932 and finally published in 1937, entitled *In Parenthesis*, remains still in print. It was straightway hailed as a masterpiece. His other well known piece, *The Anathemata* was deemed by W. H. Auden as "very probably the finest long poem to be written in English this century. His life endured as a recoil from the war years; of what today would be termed PTSD helps explain his genius. As Jones stated: "There are many worse things in war than death."



SANCTUS CHRISTUS
DE CAPEL-Y-FFIN
David Jones

What is it with these Welsh regiments at the onset of war in 1914, recruiting the very best of intellectuals, writers, poets etc: Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and of course David Jones?



Here we are heading towards Autumn. One of my favourite seasons, I just love the colours of oranges, tans, and greens. It's time to get warmer jumpers out of the cupboard, roast a chicken and take a drive through the Beacons.

Having said that one week ago I was in Surrey where the temperature was 32 degrees - might there be a hot period on its way before temperatures finally dip? Our weather is so different to the 1960s of my childhood, but it is always a coffee morning talking point and brings back so many memories.

We continue to meet in Christ Church on a Sunday. We also use the cafe at Dowlais Community Centre for coffee mornings (Thursday morning 10.30 am.) and prayer meetings and Bible study (Wednesday evenings 6.30 pm.) and we are most grateful to both for their hospitality.

We are hoping to hold a children's Saturday craft morning and we are still involved in visiting Pant school regularly. Mums will be welcome to join us for a coffee and cake while the children enjoy themselves.

Our Harvest service will go ahead in September and before Christmas our friends from Welsh National Opera will join us for a morning of music and verse. Please remember that we also run a Sunday School which is open to all. On the first Sunday of every month we share breakfast together which is a very popular service with the children it's a lovely family service and everyone is welcome to join us.

Some of our members have been experiencing problems with illness and as friends we continue to support them through both prayer and daily contact. We like to think of ourselves as a family, it's good to have someone to call on, our church phone number is 07928 110372.

The Autumn of life is a great time to concentrate on God's wonderful blessings, family, friends, shelter, strength, provision, guidance, ministry and service are but a few. May you all have a happy and safe Autumn.

With every Blessing from New Beginnings Fellowship.

a n i m a l s k a t p e
 s t h m a f s c l i o v
 s e p o v e r t y t p o
 i c r o s s s i s t e r
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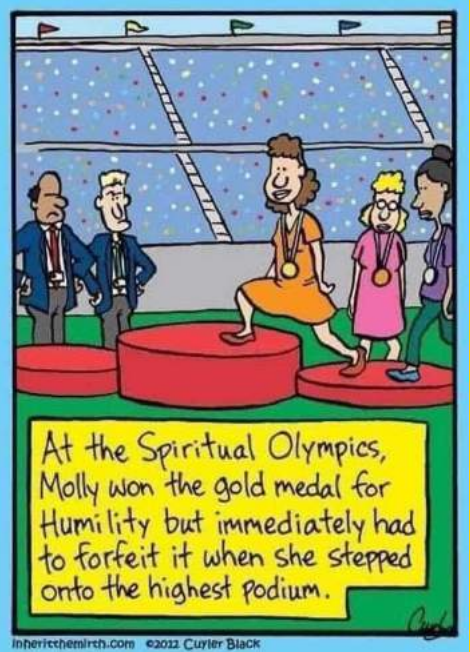
WORD SEARCH FOR THE FEAST DAY OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI - OCTOBER 4TH

Assisi, birds, saint, cloth, animals,
 Franciscan, rich, poverty, friar, church,
 pope, nature, brother, sister,
 flower, wolf, money, vow, wild, cross.



Francis was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. Francis gave all his money to the church, and his father became very angry.

Francis left his father's home and took a vow of poverty. He preached to people about Jesus Christ, and people began to follow him. He had one basic rule - "To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps" Francis was known for his love of nature and animals, and we are told he preached to them. One day he was talking to some birds, when they began to sing together, flew into the sky and formed the sign of a cross.



Vol 43