



Taff Wenallt Ministry Area

June 2025 Newsletter

' Risen, ascended, glorified '

' He is not here: He has risen, just as He said. '[St Matthew 28, v.6]

' You are witnesses of these things. ' [St Luke 24, v.48]

' Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . . and, lo!

I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

[St Matthew 28, v.20]

' O Thou, Who camest from above . . . '

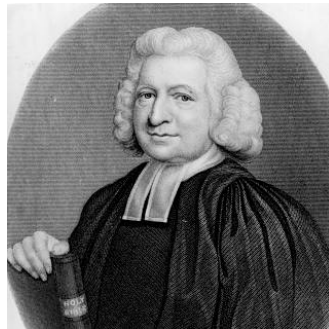
O Thou, Who camest from above the fire celestial to impart,
Kindle a flame of sacred love on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for Thy glory burn with inextinguishable blaze,
And, trembling, to its source return in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will, my acts of faith and love repeat;
Till death Thy endless mercies seal, and make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley (1707 –1788)



This hymn, one of 8,989 written by Rev'd Charles Wesley, is usually sung during Ordination services.

†

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire:
Thou the anointing Spirit art Who dost Thy sevenfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love.

†

Attributed to Rabanus Maurus c.776 – 856

†

**Please pray for Rev'd Henry Grover who is to be ordained priest by
Bishop Mary in Llandaff Cathedral at 11.00am on 28th June.**

Ascension Day

On this day we remember Jesus's ascension into heaven. Along with Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost, it is one of the Church's most important celebrations. On Easter Day we celebrate Jesus's resurrection from the grave. Forty days after that we celebrate His Ascension into heaven. Because the date of Easter Sunday varies from year to year,* Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday.

Jesus's Ascension is mentioned twice in the Bible. The first account occurs in the reading we've just heard from St Luke's Gospel:

'When He had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.'

[St Luke chapter 24, verses 50 & 51]

The second occasion is reported in the Acts of the Apostles, also written by St Luke. Here's what Jesus said to his disciples:

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judæa and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When He had said this, as the disciples were watching, He was lifted up and a cloud took Him out of their sight. *[Acts 1, verse 8]*

Ascension Day is a celebration of Christ's exaltation. While He walked on the earth, Jesus *'took the form of a servant, being made in human likeness.'* *[Philippians 2, verse 7]* By entering heaven as the representative of humankind, He was completing the work of our salvation which guarantees the eventual glorification of all who love Him.

And just as Jesus was lifted up, two angels appeared to the watching disciples and told them: *'This same Jesus Who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.'* *[Acts 1, verse 11b]*

This is our faith and hope that, just as Jesus went into heaven, so will **we** be received into heaven. Jesus told His disciples that it was for their good that He would go away because only then would He send them another Advocate, the Spirit of truth. And this coming of the Holy Spirit is exactly what we celebrate in ten days' time at the Feast of Pentecost.

*[* Vide May 2025 Newsletter.]*

[With gratitude to Rev'd Carol Davies for material quoted from her Ascension Day sermon.]

Ascension Day Eucharist: 10.00am on Thursday 29th May in St Mary's.
[Do stay after the service for our weekly Coffee Morning afterwards]

FEAST OF PENTECOST

10.00 am on Sunday 8th June in All Saints' Llandaff North
A Taff Wenallt Ministry Area Combined Eucharist with Bishop Mary,
followed by a 'Bring and Share' picnic lunch.

**The Clergy are always available for the Ministry of Reconciliation and Healing
and the administration of the Sacrament to the sick and housebound.**

MA Leader:	Rev'd John Davis	johndavis@cinw.org.uk	02920 626072
Vicars:	Rev'd Peter Mortimer	petermortimer@cinw.org.uk	02920 650883
	Rev'd Anna Harwood	revdannaharwood@gmail.com	07564 012412
	Rev'd Andrew Highway	office@twma.church	02920 624115
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Benedict Yates	benedictyates@cinw.org.uk	02922 804378
Assistant Curate:	Rev'd Henry Grover	henrygrover@cinw.org.uk	02920 624115

FAO those of you with internet access:

Our website address is:

www.twma.church

At **10.00am** on **Sundays** and **Thursdays**,
services are streamed live from St Mary's.

You can watch them at

www.youtube.com/@TWMA.church/streams

For enquiries about the Calling of Banns, Weddings, Baptisms, and Church Hall Bookings:
the email address is: office@twma.church

The Taff Wenallt Ministry Area telephone contact number is 02920 624115

Or you can write to:

**The Taff Wenallt Ministry Area Office,
The Rectory, 6, Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff. CF14 2AD**



Ministry Area Leader Canon John's Retirement

It was in the March Newsletter that MAL John dropped his retirement bombshell:
*'Having reached my 60th Birthday in January, I have taken the decision to retire later
this year. My last day in full-time stipendiary ministry will be Sunday, 20th July . . .'*

I am sure that many of you, like me, will feel that you cannot let the occasion pass
without expressing your profound regret at MAL John's decision, together with your
gratitude for all that he has given us by his spiritual example and leadership on a
public and personal level. He has agreed to contribute a valedictory address to be
printed in the July Newsletter. I imagine it will include some of his fonder memories
of his time as our Rector and then Ministry Area Leader. I, too, am planning to write
about my own somewhat unusual but unforgettable memories of his ministry which
will mention such mundane things as sewers, wet sponges, and piano wheels!

If **you** have memories, anecdotes, expressions of gratitude, or other tributes to share,
do send them in **as soon as possible** to 8 Alfreda Road, CF14 2EH; or you can email
MarilynDavidson2000@Yahoo.co.uk or contact the TWMA Office [address above].

Word Search by Nicholas Ashford

based on

1 Peter 1, verses 3 & 4

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

Blessed be the God and **Father** of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who, **according** to His great **mercy**, caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an incorruptible and **undefiled inheritance** that does not **fade away**, **reserved** in **Heaven** for you.

Testimony

Testimony – that is what our readings are about today.

As we come to the end of the Easter season, we approach that sacred moment when what happened at Easter collides with what happens in our lives – and that moment centres on testimony, on being witnesses.

The Bible is made of two testaments, two witness statements, one old and one new. The Old Testament witnesses to what God did for His people before Jesus's birth, and the New Testament witnesses to what God did after Jesus's birth, when God came down from heaven, walked on earth, died, rose again, and gloriously ascended into heaven. As St John said in his letter:

'I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.' John is writing as a witness to the reality of God in Jesus.
[1 John, chapter 5, verse 13]

And as St Peter said to the disciples:

'One of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the time when He was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to His resurrection.'
[Acts chapter 1, verses 21 & 22]

The Bible is a witness. The Apostles were witnesses. The Church throughout the centuries has been a witness. We gathered here today are likewise called on to be witnesses. We are called to witness in our lives and actions the testimony that has been handed down to us in Scripture and Tradition:

'and this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life . . .' [1 John chapter 5, verses 11 & 12].

Life in Christ, life in God. That is what we have – given to us in Baptism, and refreshed and nourished each time we come to the altar of God to receive the body and blood of His Son in Holy Communion. This life in Christ and life in God, however: . . . what does it mean? Easy to say, less easy to understand and live out. Well – Christianity teaches that it means following the model of Christ Himself – but not in mere imitation. Hear again those Gospel words that Jesus spoke:

'Now they know that everything You have given me is from You; for the words that You gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent me . . . And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You . . . They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.'
[St John chapter 17, verses 17 – 19]

The life we have been given, to which we are witnesses, is a life of being to the world around us something like what Christ Himself is to the world.

Christ came down from heaven to dwell with His people because He loved them. We are called on to come out of our comfort zones and be with anyone we meet, treating them equally with respect, kindness, and love – just as Jesus did. Speaking out against wickedness, immorality and injustice – but without malice, superiority or violence.

Christ healed the sick, cast out dæmons and fed the hungry out of His limitless compassion. We are called on to have compassion and act upon it, helping any whom we meet who are in need or distress, acting as comforters, healers, and supports to all those around us.

Christ taught the people about the truth of God's love. We are called on to proclaim the truth that we have heard – not only in our actions of compassion and generosity, but in our words, in our feelings, in our very hearts. There should be no aspect of our lives that does not flow with God's strength and love such that all whom we meet may learn something of the love of God.

Christ died for our sins. We are called on to live sacrificially, giving our lives and all that we have as a gift to God and to others. There should be nothing that we are not willing to give up for God's sake and for love of Him – even our very lives.

Christ rose again and ascended into heaven. We are called on to follow Him there. We do not belong to the world, just as Jesus does not belong to the world.

There is a Kingdom that will come. We are sent by God into this world, not as permanent residents, but as travellers. We have been sent into the world to bear witness to Christ, and to return home – to our true home, which is where Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father in glory.

In our witness, our love and our compassion for others, we must hold this world lightly. Even good works can become an idol if they are limited to making this world a better place so that we can stay here forever - nor even that our children and children's children may live in a better world and have more comfortable lives. We as Christians are called on to make this world a better place by our actions because we know there is a yet more glorious kingdom and life awaiting us – and from our compassion, generosity and love we should always want this flawed and broken world to become as like that kingdom as possible, so that we and this world may be a testimony, a witness to that future hope of heavenly splendour and joy; knowing because of the testimony we have been given, and which we witness to others, that we will inherit eternal life.

AMEN

While we were still digesting the news that Ministry Area Leader Canon John is to retire in July this year, we learned that Assistant Curate, Rev'd Dr Benedict Yates, will leave us in June! For me, as TWMA Newsletter Editor, this is a tragedy – Benedict has been 'a very present help in trouble' – a virtually inexhaustible treasury of thought-provoking, encouraging, spiritually-inspiring sermons with which he has blessed all of us who are able to attend church services in person, and also shared generously with housebound parishioners through the monthly Newsletters. Thank you, Benedict, for sharing your wisdom, learning, spirituality, humanity . . . and sense of humour! We'll all miss you.

PENTECOST



TWMA Combined Eucharist Service

10.00 am

Sunday 8th June

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH LLANDAFF NORTH

with

Bishop Mary

followed by a 'Bring & Share' picnic/party to celebrate the Church's birthday on that first Pentecost

NB: There will be no 8.00am services in St Mary's or All Saints' Rhiwbina today

SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday 20th July: 10.00 am: Llandaff North: MA Leader John's 'Farewell' Eucharist
4.00 pm: St Mary's: MA Leader John's 'Farewell' Service & Party**

Taff Wenallt
Ministry Area Leader
Canon John Davis
installed as
Honorary Canon
of
Llandaff Cathedral
at
Choral Evensong
on
Friday 23rd May
2025



Canon John writes:
*'the Diocese of Llandaff
nurtured my vocation,
supported my training,
and
enabled my ministry.'*

*It has been a joy to
serve the
Church in Wales
for the past
twenty-nine years.'*

WORD-ASSOCIATION QUIZ

(All answers contain the element ENT)

1	How often to forgive someone sinning against you. (7,5,5)	
2	Sir Roger's type of window. (8)	
3	Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus, Deuteronomy. (10)	
4	Jeremy Corbyn's forward thrust. (8)	
5	Noiseless night. (6)	
6	Insurance. (10)	
7	Carrot, as opposed to stick. (9)	
8	Bruce? Clark? Or the Garden of England. (4)	
9	Attlee. (7)	
10	Lots of rooks. (10)	
11	Labrador. (7)	
12	Souvenir. (7)	
13	Seven. (11)	
14	Herod's victims. (4, 9)	
15	Acute, or grave? (6)	
16	Monmouthshire. (5)	
17	Gift now. (7)	
18	Origin of the Magi. (6)	
19	Where they sent Lady Godiva. (8)	
20	She said he beguiled her. (7)	
21	One of the main geological rock classifications (11)	
22	Zelensky. (9)	
23	10,2, or 1 Parable. (7)	
24	Words by Jeremiah, music by Thomas Tallis. (12)	
25	US state gaol/prison for people who are sorry! (12)	
26	Posh car! (7)	
27	Pythagorean, just, or equal? (11)	
28	Biblical clothing. (7)	
29	Item of ecclesiastical garb. (8)	
30	Rotund. (9)	
31	Canal. (10)	
32	Crime and (10)	
33	Not Celsius, not Fahrenheit. (10)	
34	' , my dear Watson. ' (10)	
35	Last will and, Old, New. (9)	
36	John the Baptist's message. (6)	
37	Can do. (9)	
38	Abuse, not ' broke ' ! (7)	
39	Lazy. (8)	
40	Outward & visible sign of an inward & spiritual grace.(9)	

Dates for your Diaries:

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 25.5.25	Sixth Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday		
Sunday 25.5.25	2.30 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	City Ringers' <i>cancelled</i>
Sunday 25.5.25	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Choral Evensong
Monday 26.5.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Tuesday 27.5.25	9.30 am	St Mary's Hall	Tots on Tuesday
Wednesday 28.5.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 28.5.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist and Coffee Morning
Thursday 29.5.25	Ascension Day		
Thursday 29.5.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist and Coffee Morning
Thursday 29.5.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Saturday 31.5.25	1.30 pm	St Thomas's	Flower Festival
Sunday 1.6.25	Seventh Sunday of Easter		
Monday 2.6.25	2.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	Bible Study
Monday 2.6.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Tuesday 3.6.25	9.30 am	St Mary's Hall	Tots on Tuesday
Tuesday 3.6.25	7.30 pm	Llandaff Cathedral	Diocesan 'Listening' Meeting
Wednesday 4.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 4.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist and Coffee Morning
Wednesday 4.6.25	7.00 pm	St Thomas's	Healing Service
Thursday 5.6.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist and Coffee Morning
Thursday 5.6.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle: Rev'd Henry - talk
Thursday 5.6.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Saturday 7.6.25	2.00 pm	Rectory Garden	Strawberry Fair – tickets £6
Sunday 8.6.25	Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday		
Sunday 8.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	TWMA Service & Picnic!
Monday 9.6.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' LN	MU Devotional meeting
Monday 9.6.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Tuesday 10.6.25	9.30 am	St Mary's Hall	Tots on Tuesday
Tuesday 10.6.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Friends of St Mary's meeting
Tuesday 10.6.25	6.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
Wednesday 11.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 11.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 12.6.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Rev'd Benedict: 1662 Eucharist
Thursday 12.6.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Friday 13.6.25	1.00 pm	St Mary's	Guitar Concert
Saturday 14.6.25	<i>t.b.c.</i>	St Mary's	Wedding blessing
Sunday 15.6.25	Trinity Sunday		
Sunday 15.6.25	10.00 am	St Thomas's	ASLN & St T's Eucharist
Sunday 15.6.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' LN	<i>Sine Nomine</i> rehearsal
Sunday 15.6.25	3.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Messy Church

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 15.6.25	3.00 pm	Llandaff Cathedral	Taizé Service
Sunday 15.6.25	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Rev'd Benedict: Evensong
Monday 16.6.25	4.45pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Tuesday 17.6.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Bingo
Wednesday 18.6.25	8.00 am	St Mary's Hall	Tŷ Calon Craft Fair
Wednesday 18.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 18.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 19.6.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Corpus Christi: Eucharist
Thursday 19.6.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle meeting
Thursday 19.6.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Sunday 22.6.25	First Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 22.6.25	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Choral Evensong
Monday 23.6.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Wednesday 25.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 25.6.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 26.6.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 26.6.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Saturday 28.6.25	11.00 am	Llandaff Cathedral	Rev'd Henry - ordained Priest
Sunday 29.6.25	Second Sunday after Trinity – St Peter & St Paul		
Monday 30.6.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's	MU 150th Anniversary Service
Monday 30.6.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Monday 30.6.25	7.00 pm	St Mary's	Festival Week Concert
Monday 30.6.25	7.00 pm	Copleston Methodist	Messy Church Planning
Tuesday 1.7.25	7.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Rev'd Henry's First Eucharist
Wednesday 2.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 2.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Wednesday 2.7.25	7.00 pm	St Thomas's	Healing Service
Thursday 3.7.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 3.7.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle
Thursday 3.7.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth
Friday 4.7.25	11.00 am, 12 noon, 2.00 pm		St Mary's Tower Tours
Saturday 5.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Summer Fair
Sunday 6.7.25	Third Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 6.7.25	11.30 pm	All Saints' LN	Church Committee Meeting
Sunday 6.7.25	3.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Messy Church
Sunday 6.7.25	3.00 pm	St Thomas's	Handchime Rehearsal
Monday 7.7.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Club
Tuesday 8.7.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Friends of St Mary's
Tuesday 8.7.25	7.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
Wednesday 9.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 9.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 10.7.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Thursday 10.7.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Saturday 12.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Working Party
Sunday 13.7.25	Fourth Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 13.7.25	2.30 pm	All Saints' LN	Messy Barbecue
Monday 14.7.25	4.45 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Wednesday 15.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 15.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 16.7.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 16.7.25	6.30 pm	St Mary's Hall	TWMA Youth Group
Sunday 20.7.25	Fifth Sunday after Trinity – MAL Canon John's Farewell Services		
Sunday 20.7.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	TWMA Combined Eucharist
Sunday 20.7.25	4.00 pm	St Mary's	John's Final Service & Party



' View me, Lord . . . '



*View me, Lord, a work of Thine!
Shall I then lie drowned in night?
Might Thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.*

*Worldly joys, like shadows, fade
When the heavenly light appears;
But the covenants Thou hast made,
Endless, know not days nor years.*

*Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At Thine altar pure and white;
They that once Thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earth's delight.*

*In Thy word, Lord, is my trust,
To Thy mercies fast I fly;
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet Thy grace can lift me high.*

Thomas Campion (1567 – 1620)

An English poet, composer, musical and literary theorist, and physician, Campion was one of the outstanding songwriters of the brilliant English lutenist school of the late 16th and early 17th centuries. After attending the University of Cambridge (1581–84), Campion studied law in Gray's Inn, London, but he was never called to the bar. Little is known of him until 1606, by which time he had received a degree in medicine from the University of Caen, France. He practised medicine from 1606 until his death.



*Campion's lyric poetry and songs for lute accompaniment are undoubtedly his works of most lasting interest. He thought naturally in the modern key system, with major and minor modes, rather than in the old modal system. His originality as a lyric poet lies in his treatment of the conventional Elizabethan subject matter. Rather than using visual imagery to describe static pictures, he expresses the delights of the natural world in terms of sound, music, movement, or change.
[Encyclopædia Britannica]*

For the Birds!

I recently bought a very grown-up colouring book for my small granddaughter. I haven't been able to part with it yet, because each of the wonderful drawings is accompanied by a quotation which speaks directly to me as a compelling philosophy of life! Here are some of the most striking ones:



The present is an egg laid by the past
that had the future inside its shell.
[Zara Neale Hurston]

You cannot go on indefinitely being
just an ordinary decent egg.
We must be hatched . . . or go bad.
[C.S.Lewis]



A bird is safe in its nest –
but that is not what its wings are made for.
[Amit Ray]

'Take these broken wings and learn to fly.'
[Paul McCartney]



If only the best birds sang, the forest
would be silent.
[Henry Van Dyke]

The sound of birds stops the noise in my mind.
[Carly Simon]

And here's my personal favourite!



You'll have a lot more respect for a bird after you try to make a nest!
[Cynthia Lewis]

*Our smALL Saints' Sunday School and parents/helpers **know** this is **true**! How?
Well, one Sunday the Gospel reading contained Jesus's saying:
'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere
to lay His head.' (St Matthew 8:20)
So we tried making nests, using raffia. Result? Total shambles – and much laughter!*



PRAYER NETWORK UPDATE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2023-2024

STATISTICS FOR PERU

Shoeboxes distributed: 432,178

Children enrolled in
The Greatest Journey: 249,361

The Greatest Journey Teachers
trained: 16,342

Reported decisions who made faith
commitments: 135,224



Delivering Good News, Great Joy in Peru. Going Full Circle with a Shoebox Gift.

Lima, Peru, a city 10 million people call home, is a vibrant place of ministry for Operation Christmas Child. Decades of outreach events in this South American country have already enabled 5 million children to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the work continues. The Peru National Leadership Team, made up of six experienced, passionate volunteers, desires for more children to be saved and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Up the mountain at Iglesia Jesucristo es la Unica Esperanza, dozens of children hear about Jesus. Led by Pastor Ivan, his church serves vulnerable families in the Pamplona community, who years ago were displaced by the Shining Path ("Sendero Luminoso") guerilla group. The church's partnership with Operation Christmas Child is playing an important role in empowering the congregation in the work of evangelism.

Elipas works tirelessly and serves the community where he was born and raised. He grew up going to this very church and remembers going to Sunday school from age six all the way through 14. Now an adult, the pastor gave Elipas the opportunity to get involved as a Sunday school teacher. He said, "I'm very happy to be here and to be serving now at the place that served me."

At the outreach event, Elipas led the Gospel presentation with enthusiasm. This was special to him for many reasons. Elipas received a shoebox gift when he was five years old. "I was also a recipient; they gave me a box as a child and to actually be part of an event where we're giving away boxes to other children is a huge blessing to me."

Twenty-two years after receiving his own shoebox gift, he was able to share a similar tangible expression of God's love with other children. This brought the experience full circle for him. Elipas considers it a privilege to have taken part in this event and to watch each of the children receive a shoebox gift.

"Children are so bombarded by so many other voices all the time," Elipas said. "And to be able to share the Word of God with them is extremely important."

Elipas hopes that the Lord will continue to guide his steps as he serves his hometown. He said, "God has been using me here, I just tell Him, 'Here I am.'"

Please pray for Elipas, Kelly, and Pastor Elfren as they minister to the people of Lima. Pray that God gives them wisdom and strength as they lead by example and continue passing the torch of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

**Whatever things
you ask in prayer,
you will receive.**

-Matthew 21:22

Prayer requests from Peru:

Please pray for Elipas, as he ministers to the children in Lima.

Pray that God gives him wisdom and strength as he leads by example and continues passing the torch of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Additional prayer requests:

Pray for Myanmar

Samaritan’s Purse is responding to the deadly earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand on 28th March. This powerful quake has caused widespread destruction across both countries, collapsing buildings and infrastructure, killing more than 1,700 people and injuring countless more. The Ministry of Health in Myanmar has requested assistance as tens of thousands are suffering. In response, we immediately mobilised our Disaster Assistance Response Team, including deploying team members from our Vietnam and Cambodian offices. We are preparing to send an Emergency Field Hospital to provide life-saving care. Please pray for all those affected, and for our teams as they serve.

The Greatest Journey Classes

Please pray for the Greatest Journey teachers – for wisdom and guidance as they plan, prepare, and teach the lessons. Please pray for the children taking the classes, that they will come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

Children’s Heart Project

For over twenty-seven years, Samaritan’s Purse has arranged for critical congenital heart surgery for over 1,600 children from over a dozen countries. Please pray for the surgeons and medical staff as they provide the medical care the children require. Pray for opportunities for the Samaritan’s Purse medical teams to share the Gospel with the children’s families.



**BIRCHGROVE IN BLOOM 2025
FLOWER FESTIVAL**

St Thomas’s Church, CF14 1UE

1.30pm – 3.30pm Saturday 31st May

*Join us at BIRCHGROVE IN BLOOM Flower Festival,
a celebration of creativity and community.*

Five competition categories to enter – entry is free:

Fill your Welly Boot (*age 11 and under*)

Hanging Basket

Summer Wreath

Cut Flower Display

‘ Wales for Wildlife ’ Planter

*Live demonstrations.
Refreshments & cakes.
Plants, pots, and vases
for sale.*

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