



Taff Wenallt Ministry Area
August 2025 Newsletter
'One more step . . .'



*'This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind,
and reaching out to those things which are before,
I press toward the mark for the prize of the
high calling of God in Christ Jesus.'*
(*Philippians 3, verses 13 & 14*)



*Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I'll see
You'll be looking at along with me:*

*As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me traveling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know:*

*Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with You:*



Please pray for those whose lives are taking 'one more step' in a new direction: a change in domestic circumstances; a new job; retirement; leaving home for college or university; a new school. Please pray particularly for our Ministry Area smAll Saints, many of whom will be making the transition from Junior to High School in September.

'In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear. . . '

*I suppose the overall theme of this month's Newsletter is travelling, moving on – hence the two globes featured on the first page. Before taking **their** next step and moving on to Hartlepool, Canon John and SallyAnn are going to spend time visiting family members in Asia and Australasia. We wish them God speed and Bon Voyage – as, indeed, we do to all our readers who will be travelling this summer. We also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who, for whatever reason, will not be able to enjoy a change of scene this holiday season, and pray that God will bless them with a constant sense of His presence and companionship surrounding them in all they do.*



Canon John Davis celebrated Holy Communion for the last time as Ministry Area Leader of the Taff Wenallt Ministry Area at 10.00am on Sunday 20th July in All Saints' Church, Llandaff North. Here's his final sermon to us:

'Martha – or Mary?'

(St Luke chapter 10, verses 18 – 42)

Are you a Mary or a Martha? It's a question that's often asked in relation to today's Gospel. Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened – or Martha, who busied herself with all the preparations that had to be made.

Note that wording: '**had** to be made' – not '**could** have been made', or, '**should** have been made', but '**had** to be made.' This wasn't optional. There were protocols, procedures, things that had to be done in a civilised society, and Martha did them.

Notice also that it was Martha, not Mary, who opened her home to Jesus. Martha was the host – she was the one who issued the invitation, so the burden of following the procedures, and the pressure to get them right, all fell on her shoulders. Having two sisters myself, I can almost imagine Mary turning to Martha and saying – '**you're** the one who invited Him!' Martha was a diligent host. She had invited Jesus – no wonder she was anxious to get everything right.

Last month we welcomed Bishop Mary here to All Saints' as we celebrated the many ways in which we all support our churches. An hour before the service began, I was here with a checklist, making sure everything was ready for the Bishop. I know that Jayne and Marilyn, David, Alan, the choir, and many others, were all here early, too, making sure that everything was ready for the Bishop's arrival.

What a lot of Marthas we are!

But there's nothing wrong with that. Being prepared, taking care, and paying attention to details are all important. And we weren't just welcoming the Bishop: we were celebrating the Mission and the Ministry of the Church – a ministry in which you all participate in our Ministry Area; and you are **important**, so we took great care to try to include everyone in that Pentecost Thanksgiving service - great care to thank everyone for their contribution to the life and the ministry of our churches.

I turned up with my checklist, not because Bishop Mary was coming, but because **you** were. I wanted everything to go well so that you would feel valued, appreciated and celebrated, as the special and unique member of our church that you are. What a Martha I am! I was the host, and you were my special guest, just as you are today – so I busied myself preparing for your arrival.

But then the service started, and we all focussed. No more fussing, no more checklists, no more moving around. The service began, and it was time to concentrate – on Jesus, on God the Father, on the joy of the Holy Spirit, and on our united worship, in praise and thanksgiving as God's Church, in God's house. We stopped fussing and we focussed on God. What a lot of Marys we are!

And that's the point I want to emphasise today: if you value your church, your neighbour, and your encounter with God, then you're not a Mary **or** a Martha – you're both!

You'll approach God with care, reverence, due diligence, dignity and respect. You'll come prepared for worship, having worked to make the best offering of praise and thanksgiving of which you are capable, and then you'll focus – you'll pay attention – you'll choose what is 'the better part' . . . and there is nothing better than spending time with Jesus.

So, if you think you're a Mary – work at becoming a Martha and make sure you're doing something for God – after all, the letter of James reminds us that faith without works is nothing. And if you think you're a Martha, remember that Jesus told her that only one thing matters when He is present – and that's concentrating on Him.

So, work together to build up the body of Christ – because that's what Marthas do well. But in your worship pay attention to Jesus – because that's what Marys do well. Be a Martha **and** a Mary, and don't neglect one or the other. Prepare for worship, work hard to get yourself ready to meet the King. Then, when you **do** meet Him, enjoy every moment of it – because you've earned it, and He loves you, just for being you.

My work in Taff Wenallt ends today, but **yours** doesn't. As a community of faith, be confident in mission, diligent in prayer, faithful in worship, and joyful in fellowship. Be Marthas **and** Marys – hard-working and focussed – and let God worry about the rest.

It's been a joy to journey with you for the last seven years. Thank you, each and every one of you. You are the church, and the church is what you make it. So give it your all - and stay focussed on Jesus. Be the best of both Martha and Mary.

Be faithful, be bold, be joyful, be blessed, and to God be the glory!

Amen.



*Please pray for the people tasked with appointing a new Ministry Area Leader for the TWMA; and for the priest whom God will choose to guide us as we take **our** next step forward. Please keep the current members of the clergy team in your thoughts and prayers as they shoulder the burden of all the challenges an interregnum brings. May God be with them all to give them His strength, and surround them with His loving presence. Amen.*

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

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 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**



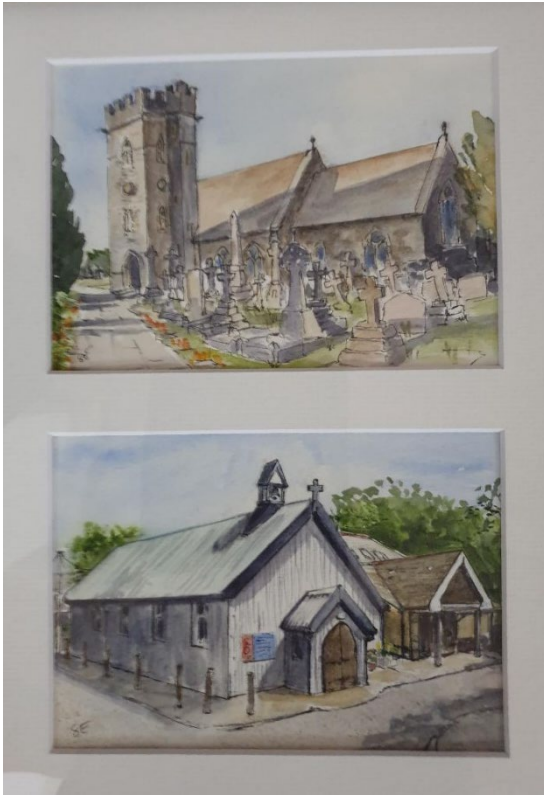
' The One that Got Away!' . . .

No, **not** Franz von Werra – (that dates me!) but John Evans of the Society of St Francis and All Saints' Rhiwbina fame! The July Newsletter featured tributes to MAL Canon John from many contributors from all four Ministry Area churches, but John Evans was The One That Got Away - he managed to elude my journalistic clutches and slipped under the radar!

The deadline for publication arrived before I managed to interview anyone who spoke of John as a **spiritual** counsellor – though I knew of many people with personal experience of that aspect of John's ministry – which meant that our portrait of him was incomplete. I emailed John Evans, and here's what he wrote:

When I think of Canon John, I am reminded of the Sermon on the Mount, and in particular of the seventh Beatitude: ' *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God*'. John was a source of peace and stability in our midst during the ' interesting ' challenges of both the COVID pandemic and the imposition by the Church in Wales of the Ministry Area structure. John's peacemaking gift is surely linked to his profound sense of calling to spiritual leadership within the structures of the Church, a calling reflected in his God-given compassion for everyone he meets.

One Artist's Tribute to Another



Sarah Edwards of St Mary's is a woman of many parts – a Lay Preacher, a J.P., and also a phenomenal artist! As her personal appreciation of Canon John's ministry, she has painted these stunning water-colours to remind him of the Taff Wenallt Ministry Area when he and SallyAnn take up residence in Hartlepool. When John gave a talk about painting to the Rhiwbina Ladies' Circle he spoke about his use of art to explore and express his own spirituality. Sarah says:

As a fellow artist, I couldn't think of a more fitting way to say 'thank you' to Fr John.

An Evening of Live Music

with

Singer / Guitarist

Jack Chandrinos



FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

7.30pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LLANDAFF NORTH

CF14 2JJ

Tickets £5 | Call Pat on 07974 480333 | Pay at the Door

Word Search : Psalm 48, verses 12—14

Walk about **Zion**, and go around her. **Number** its **towers**. Notice her **bulwarks**.

Consider her **palaces**, that you may tell it to the next **generation**.

For this God is our God **forever** and ever. He will be our **guide** even to **death**.

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St. Mary's Whitchurch - Church Hall,
Church Road, Whitchurch.

High-Tea BINGO



Every **3rd Tuesday** in the Month

16th September 2025

21st October 2025

18th November 2025

CHRISTMAS BINGO - 16th December 2025

20th January 2026

PANCAKE BINGO - 17th February 2026 - Shrove Tuesday

No Bingo sessions in Lent

21st April 2026

19th May 2026

16th June 2026

21st July 2026

Doors open: **1.30pm**

Eyes down: **2.00pm**

Tickets £5

Available at the door

Raffle!

Prizes!

High-tea refreshments!

Come along and have some fun!

Everyone welcome!

Rev'd Henry's Sermon

*preached at 6.00pm on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at All Saints' Church, Rhiwbina,
at his first celebration of Holy Communion after being ordained priest by Bishop Mary
in Llandaff Cathedral at 11.00am on Saturday 28th June 2025.*

No matter how long you've been coming to church, or even if this is your first time, you've probably heard Christians talk about 'stepping out of the boat' - that idea of stepping out in faith, doing something brave, having the courage to face any and every danger - because through faith in Jesus we can do all things.

That being said, in all my years I don't think I've ever heard a sermon talk about actually getting **into** the boat in the first place.

The disciples didn't have faith in Jesus from the get-go - they didn't just bump into Him at the market and commit their lives to Him - they were **chosen** by Him, and they were **invited** to follow Him.

A lot of the messages we hear talk about how important it is to have faith - but they don't often pay much attention to the fact that, **before** that faith, there's an invitation - an invitation to know Jesus.

We have been invited to know Jesus - we have been invited by Him to be close to Him, to be where He is, to be by His side.

Because how can we have faith in someone we don't know?
How can we know someone we're not close to?

St Matthew tells us that the disciples followed Jesus onto the boat. They didn't know a storm was coming. It wasn't some dramatic act of faith - they were just following the One they'd chosen to be close to.

And that's where faith begins: in following, in staying near, in saying 'yes' to the invitation to walk with Jesus.

Faith doesn't start with stepping out - it starts with drawing close.

There aren't a great deal of boats to get on to be with Jesus here in Rhiwbina and our Ministry Area - but we do have what we've been left with.

With the Bible, with prayer, with Communion, with this body of believers that all in some way reveal the love of Jesus to us - we have everything we need to respond to Jesus' invitation, and to find faith in Him.

It's all well and good, and easy, for me to **say** that, but it's much harder for me to **show** you how that faith comes about.

I could give my testimony, I could talk about the difficult times in my life where I've been afraid - even after a life of growing close to Jesus, I can still feel as if I'm on a boat in a storm and He's just asleep.

It's in those moments of fear and uncertainty that the disciples' eyes are opened. It's through following Jesus that they come to know Him, and it's through knowing Him that they begin to have faith in Him.

And it's the same with us. We follow, we draw close, and then we discover who Jesus truly is - the One who commands the wind and the waves, the One who brings peace when everything seems out of control.

In a moment we're going to be invited to share Communion together, to share in the body and blood of Jesus that were given for us so that we may know Him better.

There's no boat outside, you don't have to journey any further than you have already in order to be here this evening - you just have to respond to His invitation to come:

- Come not because you must, but because you may.
- Come not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
- Come not because of any goodness of your own, but because you need mercy and help.
- Come because you love the Lord a little, and would like to love Him more.
- Come because He loved you, and gave Himself for you. **Amen.**

Rev'd Henry Grover (Assistant Curate, Taff Wenallt Ministry Area)



Henry's running a half-marathon

on

5th October 2025

in aid of

bigmoose



a local mental health charity.

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Target: £1,000

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' He is not here . . . He is risen! '



How's this for an Easter Garden?

Photograph printed by kind permission of Rob and Trisha Wilson of All Saints' Rhiwbina who created this empty tomb in their front garden.



Easter Baptisms at St. Thomas's

During the last year we have welcomed three new families to St. Thomas's, and we are delighted to have nine children who bring their parents each Sunday.

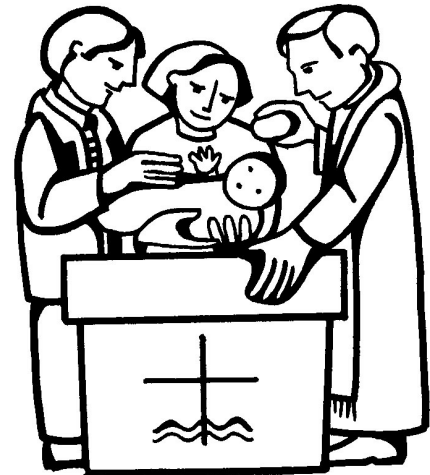
The children add much joy to our worship and take part in the services at the offertory and the peace, as well as enthusiastically enjoying their craft table provided by Jane.

What a wonderful happy day we had on Easter Sunday when one adult and five children from our new families were baptised! Baptism is always special, but it's even more special on Easter Sunday.

The baptisms were also a very special occasion for Rev'd Anna who had looked forward for some time to this special day. Rev'd Anna baptised Hannah and her three children Mathis, Emlyn and Louis along with two cousins, Penny and Emilie, and welcomed them into the Christian family. Godparents, family and friends joined our congregations to celebrate the baptisms.

We wish every blessing to Hannah, Mathis, Emlyn, Louis, Penny and Emilie as they begin their Christian journey as members of Christ, children of God, and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The service was followed by the compulsory Easter Egg Hunt and delicious food.



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

Rev'd Canon Sally Davies.

‘AST’ WORD-ASSOCIATION QUIZ QUESTIONS

1	Egyptian cat goddess. (4)	
2	Chew like a cow. (9)	
3	Break and loose. (4)	
4	Pollux oil (6)	
5	Assault violently. (7)	
6	Pod. (4)	
7	Tor. (11)	
8	Weather. (8)	
9	Ulcer. (7)	
10	Amaze. (7)	
11	Not nice. (5)	
12	Knicker. (7)	
13	Ancestor of Play-Doh. (10)	
14	Inflammation of mammary glands. (8)	
15	Cobbler’s final tool? (4)	
16	Not Yorkist. (11)	
17	Barbara Richards. (6)	
18	Pale Cornish. (5)	
19	Lake. (9)	
20	Psalms 34.8 (5)	
21	Houses hops. (4)	
22	Enders. (4)	
23	* (8)	
24	Revelation 3.19. (7)	
25	Device to find latitude / measure height of heavenly body. (9)	
26	Big dog. (4, 7)	
27	St Luke 7.37. (10)	
28	Monkhouse. (9)	
29	Martin. (5)	
30	Green Psalm 23.2. (8)	
31	Extinct mammal of the elephant family. (8)	
32	Ming, Tang. (7)	
33	Ban the Bomb. (11)	
34	St Mark 8.15. (5)	
35	Ginger Rogers’s partner who danced forwards! (4, 6)	
36	Isaiah 56.8. (8)	
37	Hobby . . . not horse! (7)	
38	Fidel. (6)	
39	St Luke 2.16. (5)	
40	Doctor Zhivago. (5, 9)	
41	1066. (8)	
42	St John 21.6. Instruction to flamenco fisherman? (8)	

43	Postpone until tomorrow. (14)	
44	Destination of coals? (9)	
45	Between the fetlock and the hoof. (7)	
46	Shocked into speechlessness. (13)	
47	Pliable, malleable. (7)	
48	Foaming Italian white wine. (4, 8)	
49	First milk of a cow. (9)	
50	Yore. (4)	
51	Persian Monotheistic religion founded in 6th Century BC. (14)	
52	Testing ground. (10)	
53	Robinson Crusoe. (8)	
54	Of Paris. (7)	
55	RAF motto. (3,5,2,5)	
56	Surprised. (10)	
57	Stop that pirate! (5)	
58	Old Testament Preacher. (12)	
59	Followers of the teachings of Emperor Haile Selassie. (12)	
60	Biblical meal. (6)	
61	Measures, action. (<i>adj.</i>)(7)	
62	Solva, Haverfordwest. (11)	
63	Vigorous opponent of established ideas and traditions. (10)	
64	St Matthew 26.17	
65	Rovers. (9)	
66	Terror-struck. (6)	
67	Flour and water. (5)	
68	False goat's beard. (7)	
69	Villainous plot! (9)	
70	York racecourse. (9)	
71	Finicky, demanding complex nutritional requirements. (10)	
72	Imperfection in the curvature of the eye. (12)	
73	Cured beef brisket from Roumania. (8)	
74	Hindu class system determined at birth. (5)	
75	Beech nuts. (4)	
76	Aka Sirach (14)	
77	St Matthew 25.40. (5)	
78	One who doesn't like Italian food?! (9)	
79	Catch speedy rock? (7)	
80	Originally 16th Century dessert - eaten at speed? (5,7)	
81	e.g. the Prodigal Son. (7)	
82	Rummy with two packs of cards. (7)	
83	Incongruous mixture of various styles. (8)	
84	Psalm 103.17(11)	
85	Flowering shrub good for birds but poisonous to dogs. (11)	

86	Fabulous! (10)	
87	Beauty. (5)	
88	Galileo, Halley, Hubble. (11)	
89	He made milk safe! (5, 7)	
90	Isaiah 42.12. (10)	
91	Aberfan. (8)	
92	Coe. (9)	
93	Meaning of Heraldic bar sinister. (8)	
94	Daniel 4.7. (11)	
95	First female MP. (4,5,5)	
96	Ephesians 2.9. (5)	
97	Spiritual shepherd. (6)	
98	1 Corinthians 13.13. (8)	
99	Stormed on 14.7.1789. (8)	
100	Reprimand severely. (8)	

An extra-long Quiz because it's the holiday season and you might have more leisure time!

♪ ♯ : ♭ ♯ : ♭ ♯ : ♪#

Treorchy Male Choir
7.00pm*
Saturday 11th October
All Saints' Church, Rhiwbina
Tickets £25
[http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
taff-wenallt-ministry-area](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/taff-wenallt-ministry-area)
or from
ASR Committee Members
*doors open 6.30pm

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Sine Nomine Singers
Conductor: Oliver Till
In Concert
7.00pm
Saturday 1st November
All Saints' Church, Llandaff North
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smAll Saints & Stewpots



I suppose it all began on Advent Sunday last year at the 10.00am Eucharist. The first congregational hymn had been sung, Rev'd Anna had prayed for our Sunday School session, and the smAll Saints with their parents/teachers trooped into the church hall to talk about celebrating Christmas.

It was more a discussion than a lesson. As usual, I, the so-called teacher, learned a great deal from the children. We talked about the presents we hoped – and assumed! - our friends and families would give us because they love us. Gradually the conversation became a little less mercenary, and we thought about all the giving that would take place during the Christmas season, and the reason why so much giving focuses on that one short season of the year: '*God so loved the world that He **gave** His only Son . . .*'. We looked forward to Epiphany, too, and the coming of the Wise Men bearing their priceless gifts. Was there anything, anything **at all**, that we could give the God Who loved us so much?

At 5.00pm on Christmas Eve, we in All Saints' Llandaff North hold a Crib Service. Our smAll Saints are getting bigger now, and they're eager and able to play their part in our worship. We stopped thinking about Christmas **presents** and substituted the word **gifts** instead. What gifts/talents did we have that we could offer to God in the Crib Service? Suggestions came so thick and fast that I, the scribe, had a hard job keeping up with them!

They wanted to tell the Nativity story, but we had performed a Nativity play last year. We decided to base the Order of Service (*itself a significant title*) around four Biblical passages to be read by different groupings of smAll Saints. What else could we offer? Tabitha wanted to sing a solo – '*Once in Royal David's City*'. Lucas said he could play '*Hark! the Herald*' and '*O Come, All Ye Faithful*' on his violin. Dylan was desperate to play '*Silent Night*' and '*Away in a Manger*' which he had learned to play on the keyboard last year.

I suggested Sophie and Dylan could read one of my favourite Christmas poems, '*The Barn*'. All the smAll Saints knew the Grace in British Sign Language and wanted to include that. Matt, a very **big** Saint, suggested he could paint/draw a tree on whose leaves were written '*Happy Christmas*', '*Nadolig Llawen*', '*Joyeux Noël*' (*or the equivalent*) in as many languages as we could muster to greet the congregation as they entered the church.

It was a wonderful, joyous, inspirational planning session with the smAll Saints', and we went home buzzing! The Crib Service eventually followed the pattern we'd planned, and we rejoice that over fifty people came to share the joy of Christmas with us. And that is how it all began - with us offering our gifts to praise God and thank Him for His love for us.

In the New Year there was a flurry of Combined Services which were held in various Ministry Area churches. When things settled back into their normal pattern, smAll Saints' 'lessons' resumed. Preparations and rehearsals for the Crib Service had meant that the Advent 1 Gospel reading usually known as '*The Widow's Mite*' was first on the '*To Do*' list for after Christmas.

During the Epiphany season we had marvelled at the faith of the Magi, the perseverance of their long journey, and richness of the gifts they brought to the Christ Child. But the

Widow's Mite teaching begins with the vivid contrast Jesus drew between wealthy people making a great show of pouring their riches – which they could well afford – into the Temple Treasury, and the poor widow who gave everything she had, even though it meant that she had nothing left to live on. **Her** devotion to God entailed sacrifice. I have always loved the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The Pharisee wasted his time in the Temple by telling God – and anyone else listening – about all the religious duties he performed in the course of his daily life, concluding that he was therefore **far** more worthy of God's recognition than the Tax Collector standing 'afar off' asking humbly for God's mercy and forgiveness.



The Story of the Four Beggars

Once upon a time – long ago and in a town far away – there were four beggars. All day long they sat by the roadside on the way to market asking passers-by for items of food for their begging bowls. It was not a rich town, but people gave them what scraps they could spare. It was not much and by the end of the day their begging bowls were almost empty.

At dusk the beggars huddled together around a small fire, sadly comparing the contents of their bowls. The first man had been given a leek; the second showed his friends a bunch of wilting herbs; the third had a small pinch of salt. The fourth man was lucky – someone had given him a whole potato. It was a bit small and scabby, but he was starving, so he washed it in a nearby stream and started to eat it raw. It was better than nothing!

The first man stopped him. 'Wait a minute, brother!' he said. 'I've just had a thought: I've got precious little in my bowl to make a meal, and some of us have even less. If you don't want to sleep on an empty stomach this night, I have a plan: why don't we boil a pot of water and add all our food together? That way we'll be able to enjoy a hot and tasty stew for supper.'

They thought this was a splendid idea. Night had fallen, and they had to do **something** if they didn't want to spend the night hungry. The fourth man was sent back to the stream to get some water, and the pot was passed between them for their contributions to the meal.

The fourth man thought: 'I've got a whole potato! It's dark. None of the others will know if I keep it for myself so that I have something to eat tomorrow.' So he made the sort of plopping sound a potato makes when dropped into a pan of water, and passed the pot on to the second man.

The second man thought: 'Well, these herbs don't look much, but I may be able to sell them for a few pence tomorrow. The others won't see if I hide them in my hat tonight.' So he made the kind of swishing sound that herbs make when added to a cookpot, and passed the stewpot onto the third man.

The third man thought: 'If I keep my salt for myself, no-one will notice the difference, and I may be able to make a penny or two if I sell it tomorrow.' 'Here you are, brother,' he said, as he passed the pot on to the first man.

The first man was cunning! He had planned all along to save his leek for himself. It was a good, strong leek and its overpowering smell was already permeating the air around the

fire. Why waste it in the stew? So he put the stewpot onto the fire to boil – without his leek!

Then they all sat and waited, each one looking forward to some good, hot stew before settling down for the night, and congratulating himself on his cleverness in saving his own food for the morrow. The pot bubbled away merrily on the flames. Finally the first man, who was the leader, decided the stew must be ready by now. In the darkness he carefully ladled out a portion of the stew into each man's bowl, then sat down to eat his own. 'Don't burn yourselves', he warned the others, 'it's boiling hot! Wasn't it a good idea of mine to share our food? It'll keep us all warm tonight!'

Had they shared the little they had, they could all have enjoyed a nutritious stew before they settled down to sleep. As it is, all they had was a cup of hot water, an empty, rumbling stomach, and a life-lesson learned.



Lent & Stewardship . . . Lent: the season of the church's year which focuses on self-denial and begins with the account of Jesus's Temptations in the Wilderness:

'Lent' is also part of the verb 'to lend'. Everything we have in life, our food, clothes, homes, and the gifts/talents we have, are **lent** to us by God for use in His service (*just as the smAll Saints' had attempted to use theirs in the Crib Service.*) 'We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be: all that we have is Thine alone, a gift, O Lord, from Thee.'

We played anagrams: 'stewardship' contains the word '**stew**'! The story of the four beggars reminded us that there are homeless people on our Cardiff streets who beg for food every day. We spoke about the work done by St Thomas's for the Rainbow of Hope, a Cardiff charity for the homeless, and we asked Jane Gill for a list of the items they needed to provide a cooked meal every week for their guests.

The smAll Saints each had a **STEWard's pot** to save their Widow's Mites during Lent.



After Easter they brought their stewpots back to All Saints' and counted the 'mites' they had saved during Lent: **£85 – 93! Wow!** With matched funding, that came to a total of **£171 – 86.**



On Sunday 22nd June the smAll Saints arrived in church at 10am, armed with Jane Gill's shopping list of the items needed by the Rainbow of Hope. With MALJohn's blessing the smAll Saints broke the fourth Commandment, took their Stewpot money, and marched

with their parents along the road to Lidl to spend it! They filled three trolleys, and apparently caused absolute chaos at the checkouts!



Then, flushed with success and as high as kites, they loaded the food into car boots and returned to church.

Their timing was impeccable! We stay-at-homes had just said 'Amen' at the end of the post-Communion prayer when the smAll Saints, each lugging a **huge** bag of food, burst dramatically (and noisily!) into the church and staggered to the front, announcing excitedly: '*There's loads more in the car boot!*' MALJohn, to his eternal credit, didn't turn a hair, but came down the chancel steps into the nave and solemnly inspected the contents of each bag.



Here's Jane Gill's list of items the Rainbow of Hope needed: *We are always short of **sugar, long-life milk, and tea.** We'd also be grateful for any of the following: **baked beans, tinned meat and fish, tinned tomatoes, rice, breakfast cereals.*** And here's the email of thanks Jane sent: *My goodness, what an incredible donation from the children at All Saints'! I cannot thank you all enough for this breathtaking act of generosity. I have been asked to send heartfelt thanks from the staff at Rainbow. They are nearly out of food. This food is given to people who have experienced some incredible challenges in their life and your help is absolutely wonderful! With love, prayers and gratitude, Rainbow of Hope. Cofion cynnes a bendithion, Jane Gill.*



‘Give us this day our daily bread . . .’



As I write this, I am overwhelmed by a sense of outrage and impotent fury at world leaders' apparent inability – and, in some cases, unwillingness born of indifference - to put an end to the insane obscenity of the situation in Gaza where every day innocent civilians drop dead in the streets from malnutrition as a consequence of man-made starvation . . . while laden foodtrucks wait outside the barriers, forbidden to enter.

‘Gaza’s last lifelines are collapsing!’ scream our television screens. No wonder, when there is no place of refuge for its citizens from incessant bombing, and while they are herded like cattle from one end of the Gaza strip to another to collect what minimal food aid is permitted to them . . . and are then shot at ‘to maintain order.’

How is it possible to see such atrocities and remain unmoved?

Deliver us from evil. People of goodwill throughout the world are praying urgently and tirelessly for God to intervene. Many of us standing on the sidelines experience feelings of complete hopelessness, helplessness and despair at our inability to effect any change at all in the current world situation.



In the face of such disaster, it seems inappropriate, even ridiculous, to worry about the domestic situation here in Cardiff! Yet on a recent trip to the Foodbank warehouse I was struck by how empty the shelves looked. David, the Manager, confirmed that this was indeed the case – the ‘cost of living crisis’ was having its inevitable effect and the level of donations had fallen considerably in the last few months. He consoled himself with the thought that two local supermarkets intended to hold gift days in the near future. That will bring a welcome increase in the warehouse food stocks, he said.

‘Is there anything you particularly need?’ I asked. ‘There’s plenty of pasta, tea bags, baked beans, and cereals,’ he said, ‘but we **are** short of **jam, long-life milk, cooking sauce in jars, rice, long-life fruit juice, and tinned fish.** And when you’re hungry and depressed, there’s nothing like sweet things to give you a boost, so **tinned fruit, sponge puddings and tinned custard** are always welcome.’ ‘On the hygiene front,’ he added, ‘we have plenty of nappies, but we do need **washing up liquid.**’



Most school-based Breakfast Clubs close for six weeks in the summer holidays. The Free School Meals Service operates only in term-time. Many children living in poverty in this country reliant on Breakfast clubs and Free School Meals in term-time are likely to experience hunger during the holidays. There **is** something we can do here in Cardiff, even as we pray desperately and helplessly for the war to end, and for food-aid to reach Gaza. The Trussell Trust is right – let’s do what lies in **our** power to help ‘*Stop Hunger in the UK.*’