



Taff Wenallt Ministry Area November 2025 Newsletter

‘ Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done . . . ’

‘ The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our God and of His Christ,
and He shall reign for ever and ever!
King of kings, and Lord of lords.’
[Revelation, chapter 11, verse 15]



‘ Thy kingdom come! ’ On bended knee
The passing ages pray;
And faithful souls have yearned to see
On earth that kingdom’s day.



And lo, already on the hills
The flags of dawn appear;
Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
Proclaim the day is near.



‘ The Lord is my Light ’



The day in whose clear shining light
All wrong shall stand revealed,
When justice shall be throned in might,
And every hurt be healed.

When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
Shall walk the earth abroad;
The day of perfect righteousness,
The promised day of God.



(Frederick Lucian Hosmer 1840 -1929)

Hosmer wrote this hymn in 1891 for the opening ceremony at Meadville Theological School, Meadville, Pennsylvania, on 12th June, 1891. It first appeared in *‘ The Thought of God in Hymns and Poems ’*. [Boston, Massachusetts: 1894]

Harvest Festival Thanksgiving October 2025

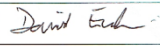



ST MARYS CHURCH, WAICHURCH

Many thanks for your generous donation of

41.6 kg of food



This will provide 4+ local people in crisis with 3 days' supply of food, helping us to achieve our aim that no one in Cardiff goes hungry.

7/10/25 date  signed

www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk



Perishable goods ⇒ Tŷ Bronna

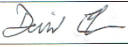



TAFF WENALLT MINISTRY AREA

Many thanks for your generous donation of

57.4 kg of food

This will provide 6 local people in crisis with 3 days' supply of food, helping us to achieve our aim that no one in Cardiff goes hungry.

8/10/25 date  signed

www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk



Groceries & toiletries ⇒ Tŷ Bronna



Awaiting transit . . .



all packed, and ready to go



Thank you all for your amazing generosity once again this year! Due to the eagerness of baggage-handlers, **all** donations from Llandaff North, both perishable and non-perishable, were loaded into my car boot for Tŷ Bronna. Nearly 100 Kg of goods from the TWMA were delivered to the Foodbank warehouse. (*The second certificate **should** read 'All Saints' Rhiwbina'.*)

THE £50 WORD

Autumn is a wonderful time of the year – the changing colour of the leaves on the trees, the gathering of fruit and crops . . . ‘*all is safely gathered in*’. And if ever there was a theme for this season of giving thanks for the fruits of the earth, we think of Harvest — a time of year when surely we must be giving thanks . . . saying thank You to God for all that He has given to us to maintain our daily lives.

Giving thanks – **surely** that’s what Harvest must be all about!!

We do this, tangibly and visibly, by bringing produce and flowers to Church to show our thanksgiving; but, more importantly, thanksgiving must come from our **hearts**, in the form of joyful praise and in the way we live our daily lives.

But thanksgiving mustn’t be confined to just that one Sunday in the year: surely it must be part and parcel of our daily live . . . **Thanks-living**.

I’m sure you have all heard of Rudyard Kipling, the author of ‘*The Jungle Book*’ and ‘*Captains Courageous*’. His books made him not only famous — they also made him a fortune!

A newspaper reporter once asked, ‘*Mr. Kipling, I’ve just read that somebody has calculated that the money you make from your books amounts to over £50 per word.*’ The reporter then reached into his pocket, pulled out a £50 note and gave it to Kipling, saying ‘*Here’s a £50 note, Mr. Kipling. Now give me one of your £50 words in exchange.*’ Rudyard Kipling looked at the money, put it in his pocket, and said, “*Thanks!*”

To give thanks is worth its weight in gold!

It never ceases to amaze me that some people are so ill-mannered that they can’t be bothered to say ‘*thank you*’, either when receiving a gift, or when someone shows them an act of kindness or courtesy.

We see examples of this discourtesy every day, from the battle of shopping trolleys in the local supermarket; to failing to slow down at a zebra crossing to allow a pedestrian to cross; or failing to give way to allow an approaching car to join a queue ahead of us at the traffic lights . . .

And do they say thank you?! It’s almost as though raising a hand is impossible – almost as though it’s too heavy to lift, almost as though it were made of lead! Does it cost them the earth? Perhaps £50? On the contrary, it costs nothing at all. It’s what we **used** to call ‘good manners’!

In many conversations with friends, neighbours, and even strangers, I remember having been told that there are three essential words in the English language, or indeed, in any language:

- Please
- Sorry
- Thanks/Thank you

We have a lot to learn from each other.

Jesus had exactly the same problem! Jesus went out of His way to cure ten lepers who approached Him and asked to be cured. Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest, as was the law. As they went, they were cured. Only one of them turned back to thank Jesus . . . ‘ *Where are the other nine?* ’ Jesus asked.

We all fall into the trap of taking our friends and loved ones for granted; but, most of all, we take **God** for granted.

If you stop to consider it, quite often we do not appreciate anything until we lose it! This is especially true of those we love, our families and friends: we take their love and friendship for granted, and when we **lose** them, we realise just what we are missing. Then it hits us, and the loss hurts us deeply.

Do we become so self-centred, so absorbed in our own problems and concerns, that we do not realise what’s going on around us? Are we so selfish that we like to receive — but are not so keen to **give**? Giving even little things, like saying ‘ thank you ’?

If you make ‘ thanks-**living** ’ your new rule of life, you will soon see the benefits:

- People respond and react cheerfully to you;
- You feel more cheerful, and build up a positive outlook on life;
- **Everyone** is happier — they even smile in return!
- You, your whole family, and your friends — all benefit;
- Thanks-**living** leads to thanks-**loving**.

It is even more important to thank God for the many blessings of this life which He gives us day by day, and which we take so much for granted.

To compile a list of these many blessings would take for ever; but there’s help at hand from a 17th Century bishop, Edward Reynolds, who wrote the prayer known as the General Thanksgiving. Here’s a modern translation of that wonderful prayer:

*Almighty God, merciful Father, source of all holiness and grace,
we thank You for Your goodness and unending love to us and to all creation.*

*We thank You for making and sustaining us, and for surrounding us with Your
blessings.*

*But of all Your gifts we thank You most, that, in Your love, beyond our power to
express,*

You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to restore and heal the human race.

*We praise You, Father, for all the channels of Your grace,
and for the hope of sharing Your glory.*

*Enlighten our hearts and minds, and show us the greatness of Your love,
that our gratitude may be sincere: not only the praise of our lips,
but the offering of our lives, dedicated and righteous in Your service.*

*All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Alleluia. Amen.*

There was a Scottish minister, Alexander Whyte, who was known for his uplifting prayers from the pulpit. He always found **something** for which to be grateful – to say ‘ thank You ’ to God. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy and depressing that one church member thought, ‘ *The preacher certainly won’t think of anything for which to thank God on a wretched day like this.* ’ Much to his surprise, however, Whyte began by praying, ‘ *We thank Thee, Father, that the weather is not always as bad as this.* ’!

There is a saying: ‘ *Every cloud has a silver lining* ’. When everything seems dreadful, life is difficult and full of problems, the cloud is dark and dismal – there **is** a silver lining. It’s difficult to find, but it’s there, though you may realise only in retrospect.

The Epistle to the Hebrews has a similar analogy about running the race of life: ‘ *Let us lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* ’ (Hebrews 12:1,2)

For me, to put it simply, the race of life is a **hurdle** race: each hurdle is a problem or disaster we have to face along the course of life.

All the hurdles are at different heights, and some seem impossible to jump! So where is the silver lining in this particular cloud?

Well, the silver lining is to not **jump** each hurdle, but find a solution: to pray to God for His help and direction – then run **around** the hurdle rather than trying to jump **over** it!

Thank God, our loving Father, for His Son Jesus Christ, Who gives us the victory.

(Dr Geoff Foot. Harvest Thanksgiving Service, 5th October, All Saints’ Llandaff North.)

All Saints’ Rhiwbina 200 Club

The **draw** takes place after the Morning Service on the **first Sunday of the month**.

The owner of the lucky number wins **£50**.

You can buy as many numbers as you wish: **1 number = £15; 2 numbers = £25**

Payment options:

Cheques made payable to **Taff Wenallt Ministry Area;**

BACS: TWMA Bank Account

Sort Code 08-90-03 Account No. 50617663

*(Please use reference **ASR200Club**)*

Please contact Helen Edwards 07970 970024

or any member of the Church Committee.



Hurrahing in Harvest



Summer ends now; now, barbarous in beauty, the stooks arise
Around; up above, what wind-walks! what lovely behaviour
Of silk-sack clouds! has wilder, wilful-waiver
Meal-drift moulded ever and melted across the skies?



I walk, I lift up, I lift up heart, eyes,
Down all that glory in the heavens to glean our Saviour;
And, eyes, heart, what looks, what lips yet gave you a
Rapturous love's greeting of realer, of rounder replies?



And the azurous hung hills are His world-wielding shoulder
Majestic - as a stallion stalwart, very-violet-sweet! -



These things, these things were here and but the beholder
Wanting; which two when they once meet,
The heart rears wings bold and bolder
And hurls for Him, O half hurls earth for Him off under His feet.



Gerard Manley Hopkins

Prayer for the Week from Archdeacon Anne-Marie Renshaw

[from Materion Llandaf: 7.10.2025]

What an absolute joy it has been to come and join you all here in the Diocese of Llandaff! I have been made to feel very welcome. It has been a move of two hundred and fifty miles almost due west from Tiptree in Essex, where I have been living and ministering for the past fourteen years. Even if you have never been to Tiptree, you may well have eaten the jam at some point! It was always possible to tell what the factory was making each day from the smell in the air: I have to say I preferred the strawberry jam days to the chutney ones!

One thing they don't have many of in East Anglia is hills – not proper ones anyway – so it is a particular joy for me to be living once again where there **are** hills. (*You can remind me I've said that when we get to winter and I'm complaining I can't get up and down the hills on icy mornings!*) There is something about hills. As you look down from them, they are places that give you a different perspective on the landscape. Since ancient times, they have been used as places of fortification and safety, as sites of worship and encounter with God.

Moses meets with God on the top of Mount Sinai and establishes a covenant with Him there. Jesus, having renewed the covenant and redefined what it means to belong to God's people, gives His disciples the Great Commission from the top of a mountain. We can sometimes feel closer to God when we are out in the open up on a hill – where there are no walls for prayers to bounce off, as I once heard someone put it.

The Commission that Jesus gave His followers – to go out to make disciples – is still the calling of the church today. Our task is to help people to discover God's love for themselves, and then to invite them to walk together with us as we learn more of what it means to be God's people in today's world, and as we seek to grow more of the fruits of the Spirit in our own lives. I look forward very much to working with you in making new disciples here in the cities, towns and villages that make up our Diocese, and to walking beside you as we all discover more of God's love for us, and how God can work through us to share that love with others. As we do that, we know that Christ Himself walks with us. Remember, '*I am with you always, to the end of the age.*' [St Matthew 28, verse 20]



God of the hills and the valleys, You are always one step ahead of us, calling us on; and always beside us, sharing in our sorrows and our joys, listening to all that we bring to You in prayer, and inviting us to share in Your outpouring of love for people of all nations. May we know Your presence with us more deeply as we walk together with You, and may Your love flow through us to help others draw nearer to You. Amen.



We're so excited to welcome formally our new Archdeacon of Morgannwg, Anne-Marie Renshaw, to the Diocese. She was installed by Bishop Mary in Llandaff Cathedral on 21st September. This was also an opportunity to welcome our new Canon Chancellor, Rev'd Kate Harrisson. We're so looking forward to seeing how they can help us to tell the joyful story, grow the Kingdom of God, and build our capacity for good here in Llandaff. Please hold them both in your prayers as they begin their new ministries.

70th Anniversary of Canon Glyn Turner's Ordination



Canon Turner is pictured reading the Gospel of the Day at the 10.00 am Eucharist in
All Saints' Rhiwbina
on
Wednesday 24th September 2025, the 70th Anniversary of his Ordination



Canon Turner is pictured with Rev'd Peter Mortimer

**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**

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING**



MacMillan Coffee Morning at St Thomas's

Friday 26th September

Whether you joined us for the charitable cause, the chatter, or the tasty treats . . .
your generosity helped to raise a fabulous

£573*

to help support people living with cancer.

Congratulations to all the volunteers from St Thomas's Church,
and a huge thank you to the community who supported us so generously!

See you all next year!



* Plus Gift Aid



All Saints' Rhiwbina
Tŷ BRONNA CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL 2025

Last year Christine Lewis and Rosamond Evans collected gifts for the young people at **Tŷ Bronna** and received wonderful support from the ASR congregation. They plan to repeat the initiative again this year.

Tŷ Bronna is a homeless and housing-support service under the auspices of the **Church Army** which targets young people from sixteen to twenty-one years of age. The hostel itself has room for thirteen residents. **Tŷ Bronna** also supports a number of young people in the community. Currently there are ten boys in the house and only three girls, but this could well change by December, so it might be better to buy gender-neutral gifts until we have a better idea of the number of boys and girls.

We have consulted members of the **Tŷ Bronna** staff who have suggested that the following categories of gifts would be greatly appreciated:

Gift cards/vouchers for music or cinemas, or from supermarkets or High Street shops such as *Boots*;

Stationery items for college/study: *e.g.* pens, pencils, paper, diaries, calculators;

Festive food for Christmas lunch: biscuits, cheese biscuits, crisps, nuts, mince pies, Yule logs, squash, soft drinks, *etc.*;

General goods: umbrellas, torches, towels, picture frames, headphones, mugs, combs, hairbrush sets;

Toiletries suitable for boys or girls.

Gifts of money would also be much appreciated by the **Tŷ Bronna** staff to enable them to buy the things they know the youngsters need. They work hard to give the young people a very special Christmas.

A large collection box will be placed in the Church foyer for your donations.

If you are **donating money**, please put it in an envelope marked **Tŷ Bronna** and give it to a member of the clergy or to a sidesperson, to be stored in the safe until it can be passed on to Christine or Rosamond.

Thank you.

‘ NOV ’ WORD-ASSOCIATION QUIZ

1	Russian Regent 1585 – 1598, Pushkin, Mussorgsky. (5,7)	
2	Kim. (5)	
3	18th Century Venetian traveller and philanderer. (8)	
4	Rapturous reception for a new pub? (10)	
5	Like Mars . . . only poisonous! (8)	
6	Duomo City of Piedmont. (6)	
7	Notre Dame School of 14th Century music. (3,4)	
8	Disgraced musical Russian landlord?!! (11)	
9	Yamaha digital/e-piano. (9)	
10	Blue plaque Welsh actor, singer, composer. (4,7)	
11	Steroid ointment for inflammatory skin disorders. (9)	
12	Strikingly original, adjective, prose work of fiction, noun. (5)	
13	Russian/Slavic equivalent of ‘Johnson’! (9)	
14	Spain, Italy, Portugal, Pennsylvania. (9)	
15	Free from wickedness! A nun with L plates! (6)	
16	Personal finance business specialising in vehicle trading. (6)	
17	Diminutive version of 12? (7)	
18	Make young again! (8)	
19	Style of Brazilian music, a blend of jazz and the samba. (5,4)	
20	Used to be dentists’ analgesic of choice. (9)	
21	Found in a cracker! (7)	
22	Charity team minus one! (7)	
23	Russian city dating from the 9th Century. (8)	
24	Biggest explosion ever seen by human beings. (5,4)	
25	Devotional worship offered on nine consecutive days. (6)	
26	Scottish musician and songwriter. (7)	
27	1917 – 1918 German revolution. (8)	
28	Bulgarian skier, three times gold medal winner. (7)	
29	Cardiff waterside café. (5,4)	
30	Academy Award-winning film actor, director & writer. (5,7)	
31	Why the jelly rolled . . .? (5,8)	
32	Antibiotic tablet used to treat ear/nose/throat infections. (9)	
33	Town in Brunswick. (<i>Think ‘Pied Piper’ territory.</i>) (7)	
34	Group identity of a number of 15s. (9)	
35	Russian imperial family — of Italian extraction? (7)	
36	Broadcaster, presenter of ‘ <i>The Briefing Room</i> ’. (5, 11)	
37	Alba in Canada. (4,6)	
38	Star whose brightness waxes and wanes. (4)	
39	Russian late Romantic composer. (8)	
40	Royal horse and hound dynasty! (10)	

How I regret having chosen ‘ NOV ’ for this Quiz! NOV words are much harder to find than OCT ones — hence the Slavic/Russian slant. Good luck!

The BIG Breakfast

for

PROSTATE CYMRU

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



10.30 am – 12.30 pm
11th November
St Thomas's Church

PROSTATE CYMRU

We are mainly a volunteer group dedicated to fighting prostate cancer, procuring equipment, and raising awareness here in the Welsh Principality.

Whether you are a cereal lover or enjoy a full cooked breakfast, the Big Breakfast is a fun and easy event you can hold on any day in November - in the workplace, at home or a community space.

Find out more or register as a breakfast host today at prostatecymru.com and receive your own Digital Breakfast Pack.

For more information, phone:

02920 340029

or here's the link:

info@prostatecymru.com

In the UK, prostate cancer annually claims 11,000 lives. New cases are rare in men under fifty, but the condition becomes more pronounced and common with age.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoebox Collection 2025

St Thomas's Church Hall

We'll be open to accept your boxes at the following times:

Monday 10th November: 10:00am – 1.00pm

Thursday 13th November: 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Saturday 15th November: 10.00am – 1.00pm

1. Choose your shoebox. You can decorate it, if you like.
2. Choose an age-range: 2 – 4; 5 – 9; 10 – 14.
3. Click on this link for information on gifts to choose, and how to pack your box:
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions>
4. You could personalise your box by including a hand-written note or Christmas card.
5. Place a rubber-band around your filled box and bring it to St Thomas's Hall.

You can build a box online by following this link:

[samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online/create-a-box](https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/shoebox-online/create-a-box)

Dates for your Diaries:

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 26.10.25	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity — Bible Sunday		
Sunday 26.10.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' LN	<i>Sine Nomine</i> rehearsal
Sunday 26.10.25	3.00 pm	St Mary's Office	Confirmation Group
Sunday 26.10.25	3.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Messy Church
Monday 27.10.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Wednesday 29.10.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 29.10.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 30.10.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 30.10.25	4.45pm	All Saints' LN	The Rock Project
Saturday 1.11.25	3.00 pm	All Saints' LN & Hall	<i>Sine Nomine</i> rehearsal
Saturday 1.11.25	7.00 pm	All Saints' LN Church	<i>Sine Nomine Concert in aid of ASLN/TWMA Funds</i>
Sunday 2.11.25	First Sunday of the Kingdom — All Saints' Day		
Sunday 2.11.25	12.30 pm	St Mary's	Baptism
Sunday 2.11.25	3.00 pm	St Mary's Office	Confirmation Group
Sunday 2.11.25	3.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	City Ringers rehearsal
Monday 3.11.25	All Souls' Day		
Monday 3.11.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Monday 3.11.25	6.00 pm	St Mary's	All Souls' Day Eucharist
Wednesday 5.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 5.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 6.11.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 6.11.25	4.45 pm	All Saints' LN	The Rock Project
Saturday 8.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Working Party
Sunday 9.11.25	Second Sunday of the Kingdom		Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 9.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	<i>No Service!</i>
Sunday 9.11.25	10.15 am	St Mary's	Prayers for Peace
Sunday 9.11.25	10.30 am	Whitchurch Memorial	Remembrance Service
Sunday 9.11.25	3.00 pm	St Mary's Office	Confirmation Group
Monday 10.11.25	Samaritan's Purse – Shoebox collection week begins today		
Monday 10.11.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Mothers' Union Devotional
Monday 10.11.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Tuesday 11.11.25	10.45 am	Whitchurch Memorial	Armistice Memorial Service
Tuesday 11.11.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Friends of St Mary's meeting
Tuesday 11.11.25	6.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
Wednesday 12.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 12.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 13.11.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Mattins & Coffee Morning
Thursday 13.11.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle
Thursday 13.11.25	4.45 pm	All Saints' LN	The Rock Project

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 16.11.25	Third Sunday of the Kingdom		
Sunday 16.11.25	3.00 pm	St Mary's Office	Confirmation Group
Sunday 16.11.25	3.00 pm	Llandaff Cathedral	Taizé
Sunday 16.11.25	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Choral Evensong
Monday 17.11.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Tuesday 18.11.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's Hall	Bingo
Wednesday 19.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 19.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 20.11.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 20.11.25	4.45 pm	All Saints' LN	The Rock Project
Saturday 22.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Christmas Fair
Sunday 23.11.25	Fourth Sunday of the Kingdom — Christ the King		
Sunday 23.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Combined TWMA Confirmation Service
Monday 24.11.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Wednesday 26.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 26.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 27.11.25	10.00 am	All Saints' St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 27.11.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle
Thursday 27.11.25	4.45 pm	All Saints' LN	The Rock Project
Sunday 20.11.25	First Sunday in Advent		

Advance Notice:

Sunday 14.12.25	3.00 pm	All Saint's Rhiwbina	Messy Church
Sunday 14.12.25	3.00 pm	All Saint's LN	Mattins



CÔR MEIBION

PENDYRUS

MALE CHOIR



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St Mary's Church Whitchurch

Friday 12th December

7.00 pm

Tickets: £15

07396 824420 or 02920 625019

On sale in Earl Haig Club

Doors open 6.30 pm

The Feast of St Matthew

Sunday 21st September 2025 at All Saints' Church, Llandaff North

John Evans, TSSF, reflects on today's Gospel reading:

On this feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, I am going to offer a reflection on today's Gospel reading: **St Matthew chapter 9, verses 9 – 13.**

Matthew the Apostle was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. According to Christian tradition, he was also the author of the Gospel of Matthew, and thus one of the four Evangelists. Indeed, his gospel is sometimes referred to as the 'Gospel of Matthew the Evangelist'. The New Testament accounts by Mark and Luke, as well as Matthew's own, state that he was one of the band of disciples who followed Jesus. The Church Fathers relate that Matthew preached the gospel in Judea before travelling to other countries, including Ethiopia, where he was martyred. He was a great man of God. Yet, when Jesus called him, he was still a tax collector.

1. A tax collector.

Matthew's duties as a tax collector would have made him really obnoxious to his fellow Jews, and wholly contemptible from a Jewish **religious** point of view; because, although he was a Jew, he would have been an agent of the Roman government. He would have taken taxes from **everybody**, including the fishermen operating on the Sea of Galilee. And he would have done this for his own profit — it was expected that he would collect more taxes than were due, and that he would pocket the excess as, indeed, tax collectors **needed** to because they did not receive a salary as we understand it nowadays. The job had been privatised. You had to **bid** for it — to convince the Romans [and yourself] that you could make a living out of it. You had to be really canny in the ways of the world, and not too sensitive about what other people thought of you!

I know some tax collectors. They're really nice people whose incomes do not depend on the amount of tax they gather for government coffers. They do not work the way Matthew and his contemporaries did. Just imagine what would happen if modern day taxmen were allowed to charge us whatever they wanted – and took any surplus for themselves . . . A better parallel for the 1st Century tax collector would be a modern debt collector, offering his services to gang lords to bring in any debts owed to them!

It is not surprising that Jewish tax collectors tended have a reputation for cheating and enriching themselves at the expense of their own compatriots. They were callous bullies – if you did not pay your taxes, they would send extortioners after you who could send you to gaol — or worse!

2. Then, one day, an extraordinary thing happened!

Jesus came to see Matthew and called him, '*Follow me!*' And Matthew got up and followed Him. St Luke's account adds another detail which Matthew himself omitted – perhaps out of modesty? Luke says that Matthew left everything behind — he abandoned

his old form of life, with all its security (*and also its troubles*) and started a new life with Jesus.

Luke's account also says that Jesus was **looking** for Matthew — which is a lovely thought: Jesus loved Matthew **before** Matthew loved Jesus — something which is also true for us. It also suggests to me that this was not Matthew's first contact with the band of Jesus's disciples. It implies that Matthew knew something of the person and teaching of Jesus; that he had had chance to examine his own way of life and had found it wanting. In other words, as our reading from Proverbs tells us, Matthew had recognised that holy **wisdom** was the **true** wealth. He had understood the importance of following the commandments of God. He had realised what was — what **is** — more important than all the wealth in the world, namely, to live in a right relationship with God. And he had understood that he could find God through Jesus of Nazareth Who walked the streets of Capernaum with him.

Matthew must have become conscious of everything that was wrong with himself and his life. He must have wondered incredulously: *'How could Jesus want **him** as a friend?'* Sometimes we draw back because we feel unworthy of God — perhaps we **always** tend to do so? It can be strangely hard to be loved!

3. Enter the Pharisees!

If **Matthew** did not understand how unworthy he was, the **Pharisees** were there to help him! The Pharisees were people who believed they were there to keep society on the straight and narrow — for not entirely unworthy reasons: their aim was to purify society in order to usher in the kingdom of God. While their **aims** were good, their **methods** had a tendency to result in exclusion. They wanted to quarantine people they regarded as unclean — to isolate them from society. The Pharisees wanted desperately to keep **themselves** apart from unholy people and tried to make sure other members of society did the same. They despised people who did jobs like tax-collecting, and scorned people who just did not take their faith seriously enough. They labelled them 'sinners'.

4. But Jesus had not come to call the righteous . . .

One thing we often miss about Jesus is His sense of humour! He pointed out that doctors are not a great deal of use if they isolate themselves from sick people. Just imagine feeling really ill and deciding you need to consult your GP. Imagine the receptionist tells you: *'No chance — sorry, you can't come in — the doctor isn't employed to see **sick** people — it's not her job! — she's here to treat **healthy** patients. Come back when you feel better — any idea when that might be? I'll happily make an appointment for you to see the doctor then.'*

It's an amusing scenario — but it's also wonderfully good news! We are **all** sinners; we are **all** sick; and the Divine Doctor is at hand to look after us, to accept us in our sickness, and to begin the process of our healing . . .

Yes, we can believe, when we come to God seeking His forgiveness and asking for our relationship with Him to be restored, that God always accepts us as we **are**, unfinished and imperfect as we are, unloving as we are, of as little faith as we are.

And we find that God is not omnipotence, but humility; God is not lordly; but infinitely accessible; God is not withholding, but endlessly welcoming. When He asks us to follow Him, He accepts our starting out on the journey from exactly where we are. Of course, conversion is a **long** process — it takes all our lives. Benedictine monks vow that they will continue to seek conversion until the moment of their death!

5. Righteous or sinners?

As Luther famously said, we are **both**: we **are** sinners, but God counts us as righteous because of Jesus. We are considered righteous in God's eyes due to **Christ's** atonement, **His** sacrifice on **our** behalf, even while we continue to struggle with our sinful nature and desires.

We are sinners being drawn ever deeper into the righteousness of God — invited by His Holy Spirit to increasing joy in God within our hearts. Our sinfulness is not a problem for God — He can deal with it — on the Cross He already **has**. What is **really** needed is for us to stop being stiff-necked — we must be willing to change — we must acknowledge our need for the mercy of God — we must be open to God's grace in our lives. And of course this is not just about us individuals, but about us as a church of believers.

As believers, we are called to be Christ-like, welcoming, accepting, and understanding. We should never, insofar as is possible, be excluding — though, sadly, some must be excluded when they are a danger to other people, because the need for safeguarding is real.

But what can we do when we see division and exclusion in our midst, in the body of the church? Well, as usual, I'd like to tell you just a short story about St Francis.

6. Francis and the Assisi leaders.

In Assisi there were two major players: the Bishop and the Podestà — who was like a Lord Mayor. They both had real power, and part of that power involved exclusion. They fell out with each other, and the Bishop used **his** power to excommunicate the Podestà, which meant that the Podestà could not receive the sacraments or the comfort of the church. The Podestà hit back. **His** power was over the legal system, and he proclaimed throughout the city of Assisi that no one was to sell or buy anything from the Bishop, or to draw up any legal documents with him. This, of course, paralysed the life of the entire town and caused a great deal of division among the people.

We read that, although he was very ill, Francis of Assisi was moved by pity for them, especially since no one was intervening for peace and harmony between them. He could see the harm that was being done to the community in Assisi, and he wanted to do something about it. So he composed an extra verse for his song, known at the time as '*The Praises of the Lord*'. [We know it as the hymn '*All creatures of our God and King*', which contains verses originally written by Francis of Assisi.]

Now there's one verse, not found in the hymn we sing today, which Francis composed especially to bring peace between the Bishop and the Podestà. It reads like this:

' Praise be to you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned. '

Francis and his brothers managed to manoeuvre the Bishop and the Podestà into the same place and then sang the verse to them. This is what our sources tell us:

When the '*Praises of the Lord*' were ended, the Podestà said to everyone:

' I tell you the truth, not only do I forgive the Lord Bishop, whom I must have as my lord, but I would even forgive one who killed my brother or my son. '

And so he cast himself at the Lord Bishop's feet, telling him:

' Look, I am ready to make amends to you for everything, as it pleases you, for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and of his servant, blessed Francis. '

Taking him by the hands, the Bishop stood up and said to him: '*Because of my office, humility is expected of me; but because I am naturally prone to anger, you must forgive me. '* And so, with great kindness and love they embraced and kissed each other.

This is a lovely story. In every community there is division. In every community there is a need for peacemakers. Often there is nothing much we can do apart from praying. But, sometimes, God will help us to say the right thing in the right way at the right time.

Like St Matthew we are called to follow Christ, and like Him to do so in community. Let us work to build up our community – our Church – in peace.



Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

In God our Creator, His children all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment, and live each moment, in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth . . . and let it begin with me.

