



## Taff Wenallt Ministry Area

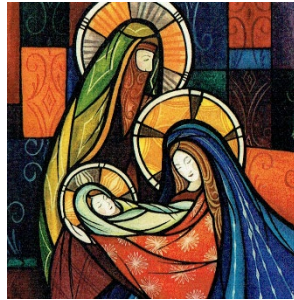
### December 2025 Newsletter

#### ' The truth sent from above . . . '

' We have seen His glory, glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.' ( *St John 1:14* )

' I am the way, the truth, and the life . . . ' ( *St John 14:6* )

' And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' ( *St John 8: 32* )



#### ' *This is the truth sent from above* '

1 This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love;  
Therefore don't turn me from the door  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

2 The first thing that I will relate,  
That God at first did man create;  
The next thing which to you I tell —  
Woman was made with him to dwell.

3 Then after that 'twas God's own choice  
To place them both in paradise,  
There to remain from evil free . . .  
Except they ate of such a tree.

4 But they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin -  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of our posterity.

5 Thus we were heirs to endless woes  
Till God the Lord did interpose;  
And so a promise soon did run:  
That He would redeem us by His Son.

6 And at this season of the year  
Our blest Redeemer did appear,  
And here did live, and here did preach,  
And many thousands He did teach.

7 Thus He in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way,  
Be pleased to hear what He did say:

8 'Go preach the gospel,' now He said,  
' To all the nations that are made!  
And those that do believe on Me,  
From all their sins I'll set them free.'

9 O seek! O seek of God above  
That saving faith that works by love!  
And, if He's pleased to grant thee this,  
Thou't sure to have eternal bliss.

10 God grant to all within this place  
True saving faith, that special grace  
Which to His people doth belong:  
And thus I close my Christmas song.

*The Herefordshire Carol, collected by Cecil Sharp, printed in ' English Folk-Carols ' (1911 )*

## ***English Folk-Carols* by Cecil James Sharp**

Cecil Sharp is widely considered to be the father of the first English folk-song revival. He travelled through England in the early part of the 20th Century collecting examples of English folk music which he feared would soon be lost. 'English Folk-Carols' ( *published in 1911* ) collected twenty-one carols which were once performed in Southern England at Christmas and New Year, some of them unique survivals. Many of the texts in the collection are region-specific variations of carols, and members of church choirs will recognise some of the titles in Sharp's collection [ *listed below* ] through their inclusion in contemporary carol books.

The Preface to the folk-carol collection records that ' *The Truth from Above* ' was sung by Mr. Seth Vandrell and Mr. Samuel Bradley of Donnington Wood, Shropshire, to enable Sharp to notate and preserve the carol for posterity. In his Preface he thanks ' *those singers, many of them of great age, who, in allowing him to note down their songs, have provided him with the material for this volume; and also his many friends who aided him in his investigations.* '

The Rev H.R. Bramley defined the genre as ' *a kind of popular song associated with a special season of the ecclesiastical or natural year.* ' ' *The Moon shines bright* ', for instance, used to be sung during the Festival of Easter; but Sharp notes that ' *the carol of the present day is almost invariably connected with the season of Christmas.* '

- |  |                            |             |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. ' King Herod and the Cock '           | ( <i>Worcestershire</i> )  |             |
| 2. ' The Bitter Withy '                  | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) |             |
| 3. ' The Cherry Tree '                   | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) | 1st Version |
| 4. ' The Cherry Tree '                   | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) | 2nd Version |
| 5. ' The Moon shines Bright '            | ( <i>Warwickshire</i> )    |             |
| 6. ' God Bless you Merry Gentlemen '     | ( <i>Cambridgeshire</i> )  |             |
| 7. ' The Holly and the Ivy '             | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) |             |
| 8. ' The Sinner's Redemption '           | ( <i>Warwickshire</i> )    |             |
| 9. ' Come all you true good Christians ' | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) |             |
| 10. ' On Christmas Night '               | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) |             |
| 11. ' Come all you worthy Gentlemen '    | ( <i>Somerset</i> )        |             |
| 12. ' As I sat on a Sunny Bank '         | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) | 1st Version |
| 13. ' As I sat on a Sunny Bank '         | ( <i>Worcestershire</i> )  | 2nd Version |
| 14. ' The Ten Joys of Mary '             | ( <i>Somerset</i> )        |             |
| 15. ' The Virgin Unspotted '             | ( <i>Gloucestershire</i> ) |             |
| 16. ' Sons of Levi '                     | ( <i>Kent</i> )            |             |
| 17. ' The Little Room '                  |                            |             |
| 18. ' The Truth sent from above '        | ( <i>Herefordshire</i> )   |             |
| 19. ' The Twelve Apostles '              |                            |             |
| 20. ' New Year's Carol '                 |                            |             |
| 21. ' Wassail Song '                     |                            |             |

[ *Adapted from Sharp's Preface to ' English Folk-Carols '* ]

## Christmas Word Search

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

SHEPHERDS  
CITY  
BETHLEHEM  
MYRRH  
SWADDLING  
ROOM  
FLOCKS  
CAESAR AUGUSTUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MARY

GOLD  
ORIENT  
INN  
GLORY  
EXCELSIS  
NAZARETH  
GABRIEL  
DAVID  
CARPENTER  
FRANKINCENSE  
MANGER

JERUSALEM  
HEROD  
STAR  
DREAM  
CAMEL  
ANGEL  
OX  
ASS  
HAY  
BABE  
FIND

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

<b>Vicars:</b>	Rev'd Peter Mortimer	<a href="mailto:petermortimer@cinw.org.uk">petermortimer@cinw.org.uk</a>	<b>02920 650883</b>
	Rev'd Anna Harwood	<a href="mailto:revdannaharwood@gmail.com">revdannaharwood@gmail.com</a>	<b>07564 012412</b>
	Rev'd Andrew Highway	<a href="mailto:office@twma.church">office@twma.church</a>	<b>02920 624115</b>
<b>Assistant Curate:</b>	Rev'd Henry Grover	<a href="mailto:henrygrover@cinw.org.uk">henrygrover@cinw.org.uk</a>	<b>02920 624115</b>

**FAO those of you with internet access:**

**our website address is:**

[www.twma.church](http://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](http://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](mailto: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**

 Cardiff <b>Foodbank</b> Together with Trussell	 Bancbwyd Caerdydd Gyda'n gilydd gyda Trussell
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">TAFF WENALLT MINISTRY AREA</div>	
Many thanks for your generous donation of	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">21.3.</div>	kg of food
This will provide <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">2</div> local people in crisis with 3 days' supply of food, helping us to achieve our aim that no one in Cardiff goes hungry.	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">12/11/25</div> date	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Gill Nwilo</div> signed
<a href="http://www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk">www.cardiff.foodbank.org.uk</a>	

**FOODBANK S.O.S.!**

**Thank you for your support. Good strong carrier bags needed! Please can you help?**

## ***Reflection by John M. Evans, TSSF:***

I am not an ordained priest and may not, therefore, preach a sermon. I am, however, allowed to share a reflection with you, so here goes! (*Please feel free to take any parts from it that you like — and leave the rest!*)

I find today's psalm — Psalm 27 — really inspiring, and some of the verses particularly encouraging: '*Come, my heart says, seek His face.*' [ Verse 8 ] It is a wonderful thing to realise that our hearts are indeed seeking God. Sometimes we can be unaware of God; sometimes — perhaps most of the time? — we have other things on our minds. Yet our hearts are always seeking the face of God — the face of Jesus our Lord, Who gives Himself to us, Who looks on us with eyes of love. In Jesus, God came to earth to show His loving face to us all.

And, of course, as our Gospel reading reminds us, part of that love, that **tough** love, that Jesus gave His disciples included some hard teaching, some of which we can find in the Gospel reading from St Matthew. I am sure all of us here will have heard many sermons on these challenging verses; and will have been reminded that they were spoken to people who **wanted** to be disciples — as **we** do — telling them, and us, about the standards we are to aspire to as disciples of Jesus.

In my Bible, the first set of instructions [ *St Matthew chapter 5, verses 38 – 42* ] is subtitled **Concerning Retaliation**. Let me read those instructions again:

V.38: '*You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."*

V.39: '*But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer; but if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also;*

V.40: '*And if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well;*

V.41: '*And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.*

V.42: '*Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.'*

What are we to make of this? At the very least, Jesus is inviting His disciples — (*and us!*) — to realise that the very natural reactions of hitting back, standing up for our rights, and keeping a careful hold on our possessions . . . may not always be the best way forwards: they are not the best we can do in terms of building up the church and our relationships with other people. We are called upon to treat other people **as** people, to respect their human dignity, and to give them as much opportunity as we can for them to treat us in the same way.

'*Turning the other cheek*' has passed into everyday language, but the phrase has perhaps been misunderstood. Many writers, including the leading Biblical scholar, Tom Wright, have pointed out that to be struck on the right cheek, in the world of Jesus's time, almost certainly meant being hit with the back of the right hand. That was not just a **violent** act, but an **insult**: it implies that you're an inferior — perhaps with the status of a slave or a child.

What's the answer? Hitting back only keeps the evil circulating. Offering the other cheek, Wright says, would have made it more difficult for the assailant to strike again in the same way. It would imply: 'Hit me again if you like, but now as an equal, not an inferior.'

If we return evil for evil, then the evil continues to circulate in the system. Standing up for our rights may be at the expense of other people, and could take up all our energies. Our challenge, as Paul reminds us, **is to overcome evil with good.**

That does not mean that we are to become doormats! In St Matthew chapter 18, Jesus says:

V.15: *"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."*

V.16: *"But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"*

V.17: *"If they **still** refuse to listen, tell it to the church."*

Jesus knew that safeguarding was important!

All this is really challenging, of course — and then it seems to get even **more** difficult, as we read the next paragraph of St Matthew chapter 5, about **love for enemies**:

V.43: *'You have heard that it was said: "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy."*

V.44: *'But I say to you: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

V.45: *"so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."*

V.46: *'For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?*

V.47: *'And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?*

V.48: *'Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.'*

Jesus goes all the way – He tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. He tells us that only in this way will we act as befits the children of God, being perfect in the sense that we, like our heavenly Father, look on **everyone** with goodwill and respect.

But **how** do we love people who hurt us and do us wrong? Can we go so far as to wish for their good? Clearly in some cases that can be unimaginably difficult. But it may be an ability we should continue to **aspire** to . . . perhaps beginning with the little hurts of day-to-day living? Begin small, and work up?

Despite our good desires, however, most of us find that, if we feel hurt, it is difficult not to become angry and resentful, which makes it harder to feel goodwill. In addition, harbouring resentment is harmful to our own well-being. It has been well said that resentment is a poison we administer to **ourselves**, expecting **someone else** to die!

Let me tell you a story to illustrate this point, written by a great spiritual master:

A victim is hurt as a result of a deliberate attack by an archer. The arrow hits the victim in the shoulder. It is very painful, and the victim is hurt and angry. Then a second arrow hits in exactly the same spot. It hurts ten times more than the first, and the pain lasts a lot longer.

The point of the story is, of course, that there is no second arrow *in a physical sense*. The sensation of the second arrow arises from the victim's **reaction** to being wounded. We can imagine what his thoughts might be: resentment that an enemy could do this – desire for revenge – anger at not being able to move properly – anger at himself for not having anticipated the attack – and so on.

Often we cannot evade the **first** arrow . . . but how can we avoid the **second** one?

Jesus gives us a way forward in the words we have just heard: ' *Pray for those who persecute you . . .* ' Jesus knows that our resentment will lessen if we can find a way to pray for those who persecute us: we will become freer, and His joy will open up to us.

Jesus did not just talk, He walked the walk – He followed all the precepts we have just read about. He did not hit back – He loved everyone, even those who were killing Him. He did not retaliate – He carried the cross to the absolute limits of His physical strength: He emptied Himself, giving up all His rights.

And the good news is that the Spirit of Jesus is with us now – to help us along the path as we try to follow Jesus in the way of love. The Holy Spirit is here to help us as we acknowledge our difficulties and take strength from the presence of Jesus in our hearts – hearts that are always calling out to Him.

As we set ourselves to love as Jesus loves us, and ask for His help in doing so, surely we will find ourselves more and more able to obey these challenging commandments? For **humankind** it may be impossible, but with God **all** is possible.

Jesus is the way. He calls us to walk with Him, and find in Him our hearts' desire.

**John M. Evans, TSSF**

St Mary's Whitchurch, Mattins, Thursday 13th November.

*Psalm 27 & St Matthew 5, verses 38 -48.*

**Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of Your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love, and joy, we may place at His feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, Amen.**

*[ Anglican Franciscan Prayer Book: ' Celebrating Common Prayer ' ]*

**' Today well-lived makes every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.'**

*[ From the Sanskrit writings of Kalidasa ]*



**Outgrown toys don't need to go into landfill!** We at **Toybox Project** put them in the hands of those who need them. Our network of collection points means it is easy to donate toys to us. The service is open to everyone in need. **ToyBox Project** takes in unwanted toys, gifting them to families and organisations in need across South Wales. From our toy warehouse based in Bedwas, Caerphilly, we provide toys to children from Brecon to the Vale of Glamorgan, and from Bristol to Swansea. We work with our partners to identify families and organisations in need and give them toys and technology, toys suitable for all children from newborns to teenagers.

### ***Who we are:***

**ToyBox Project** is based in Caerphilly. Created by James Morgan ( a GP Practice Manager ) in 2020, it has three simple goals:

- 1. Gift toys to those in need.**
- 2. Keep toys out of landfill.**
- 3. Provide an affordable toy-shop experience.**

We work with many partners and take in used and unwanted new toys via a network of drop-off points. We then rehome them with families in need and organisations crying out for high-quality toys, like schools, play groups, the NHS, and various community groups across south Wales.

We cannot accept toys which are damaged or are missing pieces without which the toy won't work! We do our best to limit items going to landfill by working with the likes of [CREATE Caerphilly](#) to upcycle game pieces from incomplete games and give the toy a new lease of life. We also work with [Choose2Resuse](#) to rehome Bric-à-Brac.

### ***Corporate:***

**ToyBox Project** is a (CIC) a **Community Interest Company**, Company number: [12926947](#) No-one is paid — we are 100% volunteer-led! We rely on donations and grant-funding to pay for our running costs — defined as storage, cleaning products, general consumables, web-hosting, postage costs, vehicle fuel costs for collecting toys, *etc.* A small number of toys are sometimes sold to raise funds to help pay the bills.

<https://toyboxproject.co.uk/>

## ‘ DEC ’ WORD-ASSOCIATION QUIZ

<b>1</b>	The Ten Commandments. ( 9 )	
<b>2</b>	Duck. ( 5 )	
<b>3</b>	Not Nouveau. ( 3,4 )	
<b>4</b>	Helps erect senior officer’s tent! ( 4-2-4 )	
<b>5</b>	Not cantores. ( 6 )	
<b>6</b>	Furniture aboard the Titanic. ( 10 )	
<b>7</b>	Nothing to? ( 7 )	
<b>8</b>	Caesar Augustus’s proclamation concerning taxation. ( 6 )	
<b>9</b>	1920s. ( 6 )	
<b>10</b>	Refuse invitation. ( 7 )	
<b>11</b>	Cut it out! ( 9 )	
<b>12</b>	Guillotine. ( 10 )	
<b>13</b>	Point. ( 7 )	
<b>14</b>	Greco-Roman cities east of Jordan in Biblical times. ( 9 )	
<b>15</b>	Too many are bad for your ears. ( 8 )	
<b>16</b>	Not evergreen. ( 9 )	
<b>17</b>	Award a medal. ( 8 )	
<b>18</b>	Dead. ( 8 )	
<b>19</b>	Event for obsessive athletes. ( 9 )	
<b>20</b>	Clean and . . . . ( 6 )	
<b>21</b>	Library classification of non-fiction books. ( 5,7 )	
<b>22</b>	Unwrite music . . . or what organisms eventually do? ( 9 )	
<b>23</b>	What dentists fight. ( 5,5 )	
<b>24</b>	Change gear before synchromesh was invented. ( 6,8 )	
<b>25</b>	Latin = 5, German = four. ( 11 )	
<b>26</b>	Tea/coffee suitable for post-meridian intake. ( 13 )	
<b>27</b>	Boccaccio’s One Hundred Tales. ( 9 )	
<b>28</b>	Separate from the dregs. ( 6 )	
<b>29</b>	What Enigma did in Bletchley Park. ( 10 )	
<b>30</b>	<i>‘ Slow down, you’re going too fast . . . ’</i> ( 10 )	
<b>31</b>	Ten-faced shape. ( 11 )	
<b>32</b>	Fallen into ruin by neglect. ( 8 )	
<b>33</b>	Wastefully indulgent or extravagant. ( 8 )	
<b>34</b>	Plunging neckline. ( 9 )	
<b>35</b>	Annihilate 10%. ( 8 )	
<b>36</b>	Paint, wallpaper, furnishings. ( 5 )	
<b>37</b>	Deliberately mislead. ( 7 )	
<b>38</b>	Records. ( 5 )	
<b>39</b>	Prim and proper. ( 8 )	
<b>40</b>	Militarily mothball. ( 12 )	



**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.*



**'Jesus, good above all other . . .'**

1. Jesus, good above all other,  
Gentle child of gentle mother,  
In a stable born our brother:  
Give us grace to persevere.
2. Jesus, cradled in a manger,  
For us facing every danger,  
Living as a homeless stranger,  
Make we Thee our King most dear.
3. Jesus, for Thy people dying,  
Risen Master, death-defying,  
Lord in heaven, Thy grace supplying,  
Keep us to Thy presence near.
4. Jesus, who our sorrows bearest,  
All our thoughts and hopes Thou sharest,  
Thou to all the truth declarest:  
Help us all Thy truth to hear.
5. Lord, in all our doings guide us;  
Pride and hate shall ne'er divide us;  
We'll go on with Thee beside us,  
And with joy we'll persevere.

( Percy Dearmer — 1906 )

**Nikki Picture Quiz No.2**



1. Look at the two snowflakes towards the lower half of the picture:
  - a). What are the differences between them?
  - b). Which of the two is copied and enlarged at the top of the picture?
2.
  - a). How many Christmas trees can you see?
  - b). Where are they?
  - c). What is the difference between them?
3. How many feathers can you count?
4. How many eyes are there in the picture?
5. There are four representations of the sun.  
Do they all have the same number of rays?
6. How many diamonds can you see?
7. Which Christmas carol is suggested by the leaf in the middle of the picture?

# Cardiff Deanery Conference

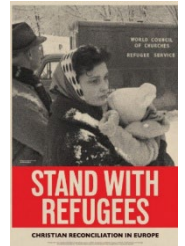
7.30pm on Thursday 6th November, 2025 in St John's Church Hall [ Danescourt ]



actalliance  
Mae Cymorth Cristnogol yn aelod o ACT Alliance.  
Christian Aid is a member of ACT Alliance.

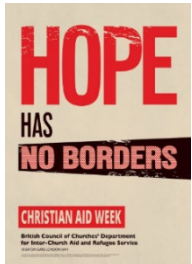
## Christian Aid at 80 – the Unstoppable Power of Hope

The Christian Aid organisation was formed in 1945 in response to the European refugee crisis caused by the displacement of millions of people during the Second World War. On the first Sunday after VE Day, British and Irish churches came together to pray for peace. A collection was taken which raised over £80,000 – the equivalent of £3M in today's money. The slogan that year was '**STAND WITH REFUGEES**'.



In 1946 the collection for refugees was repeated, boosted by a BBC Broadcast Appeal. Two years later the Mumbles Christian Aid Group was formed.

**Christian Aid Week** was launched as an annual event in the 1950s with a new slogan: '**HOPE HAS NO BORDERS**'. In 1957 over twenty communities in Wales took part in Christian Aid Week.



In the 1960s famine in Nigeria, Kenya, India, and Biafra led to the formation of the D.E.C. – the Disasters Emergency Committee, still to this day to be found wherever war breaks out or natural disasters occur. The slogan? '**DON'T LET BIAFRA STARVE.**'

During the next decade Christian Aid concentrated on determining the root causes of poverty in an attempt to begin to eradicate it. At the same time, the advent of Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King, prompted Christian Aid to turn its spotlight on racism in the USA.



The 1980s famine in Ethiopia and Mozambique brought the western world a new awareness of the impact a consumerist culture has on world poverty. Christian Aid jolted western consciences with an undeniable statement that '**FOOD IS A HUMAN RIGHT**'.

With the formation of a new Southern Africa coalition, Christian Aid made no compromise in its demand to '**END APARTHEID NOW**'. It was its starkest poster yet.

War broke out in Kosovo in 1998. Though it lasted only into the following year, its reconstruction, funded by the World Bank, plunged Kosovo into crippling debt. In posters screaming '**DROP THE DEBT**', Christian Aid campaigned vociferously for debt cancellation.

The new millennium brought the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. It also brought a growing awareness of the consequences for the poorest communities of tax havens which enable large companies and corporations to evade paying taxes. Christian Aid believes that greater transparency is key to ending tax dodging and ensure that poorer countries receive

the tax revenues which are their due. ' **GIVE TAX DODGERS NOWHERE TO HIDE** ' was the new, uncompromising message.

As the new millennium progressed, scientists became increasingly vocal about the reality of climate change, recording the rapid melting of polar icecaps and shrinking of glacier ice, and the consequent rise in sea levels threatening the habitat and livelihood of some of the world's poorest peoples. Politicians, too, began to wake up to the cause-and-effect connection between climate change and the frequency and ferocity of major incidence of hurricanes, floods, drought, and wildfires. Christian Aid pointed out that it is the richer nations whose life-styles pollute and the poorer communities who suffer.



*Our thanks go to **Mari McNeill**, head of Christian Aid Wales, for her comprehensive and authoritative account of eight decades of Christian Aid and its continuing worldwide commitment to active discipleship as followers of Jesus, Who taught us to love our neighbours and work for a more equitable world. The slogan **We believe in life before death**, first used by Christian Aid ( Taiwan ) in 1970, was adopted in the UK in 2005.*

**For more information on the work of Christian Aid, contact:**

**Mari McNeill** on 029 20844 464 / 07841 921 531 Email: [caid.org.uk](mailto:caid.org.uk)

Tabernacle Chapel, 81 Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 1DD

## CHRISTMAS SONGS

with

**Christine Purkiss**

Start your **CHRISTMAS** with us!

**2.00pm**

**Saturday 6th December**

**St Mary's Church, Whitchurch.**

CF15 2DX

**£10**

( children half price )

to include a glass of wine/soft drink  
+ mince pie

Tickets from St Mary's, or phone:

**02920**

**693755**

**658540**

**627836**

## 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**

## Armenian Nutmeg Cake

( As served in St Thomas's MacMillan Coffee Morning )

Recipe contributed by Pam Perry of St Thomas's



**Pam writes:**

*This unusual cake is a family favourite. It was affectionately known as 'Auntie Nina's cake'. My mother used to make it, and I have a memory that the recipe was cut out of 'Woman's Weekly' and pasted in Mum's recipe book.*

### Here's the recipe:

2 cups of plain flour

2 cups of dark brown sugar

2 teaspoons of baking powder

4oz of butter ( softened )

1 teaspoon of ground nutmeg

1 teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda

1 cup of milk

1 egg

**Oven 160°C ( fan )**

### Method:

**Grease a 9-inch round cake tin.**

*( I use a springform tin as it makes it easy to remove the cake. If you prefer, you can use a square tin and cut the cake into squares when it's cool. )*

Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl.

Add the butter and sugar and rub in until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Measure out just under two cups of this mixture and transfer it into the bottom of your prepared cake tin and spread it to form an even layer. Press down lightly.

Add the nutmeg, bicarb, milk and egg to the remaining mixture and beat it until you have a smooth batter. Pour it gently onto the base layer.

**Cook in the centre of the oven for about 1 hour.**

The cake should be pulling away from the sides, and firm to touch in the centre.

**Do not be tempted to check too soon as this is a cake that sinks easily if you do that.**

*( It still **tastes** just as good, though! )*

**If it looks as if it's burning, turn your oven down to 140°C for the last ten minutes.**

The one pictured above was a little over-done! It **should** be a golden brown!









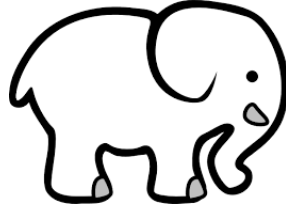




All Saints' Llandaff North



# CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 29th November

1.00pm – 4.00pm

<p><b>Raffle</b></p> 	<p><i>Name the Teddy Bears</i></p> 	<p><b>LUCKY DIP</b></p> 
<p><b>Refreshments</b></p> 	 <p>White Elephant</p>	<p><i>How many Smarties?</i></p> 
 <p>Plants</p>	<p><b>Cake Stall</b></p> 	<p><b>Bird Boxes</b></p> 

Proceeds in aid of Church Hall improvements

Support YOUR local church!

Admission £1  
Children 50p



## Dates for your Diaries: Christ the King 2025 – Candlemas 2026

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Event:</b>
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	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 27.11.25	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle
<b>Saturday 29.11.25</b>	<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>All Saints' LN Hall</b>	<b>Christmas Fair / Gift Day</b>
<b>Sunday 30.11.25</b>	<b>First Sunday in Advent – Feast of St Andrew</b>		
Sunday 30.11.25	<b>Normal Sunday Services</b>		
<b>Sunday 30.11.25</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>St Thomas's</b>	<b>' Darkness to Light '</b>
Monday 1.12.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Monday 1.12.25	7.20 pm	St Thomas's	Guild of Servants of Sanctuary
Wednesday 3.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 3.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 4.12.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Friday 5.12.25	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Cardiff Male Choir
Saturday 6.12.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Christmas Songs
<b>Sunday 7.12.25</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent – Normal Sunday Services</b>		
<b>Sunday 7.12.25</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Copleston Methodist</b>	<b>Llandaff North Messy Church</b>
Monday 8.12.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Mothers' Union
Monday 8.12.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
Tuesday 9.12.25	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Friends of St Mary's
Tuesday 9.12.25	6.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
Wednesday 10.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 10.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 11.12.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 11.12.25	7.30 pm	St Thomas's Hall	St Thomas's Ladies' Group
Friday 12.12.25	7.00 pm	St Mary's	Pendyrus Male Choir
Saturday 13.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	ASR Working Party
<b>Sunday 14.12.25</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>		
<b>Sunday 14.12.25</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>All Saints' LN</b>	<b>Mattins</b>
<b>Sunday 14.12.25</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>All Saints' Rhiwbina</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Monday 15.12.25	3.15 pm	St Mary's Hall	Whitchurch Youth Group
<b>Tuesday 16.12.25</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>St Mary's Hall</b>	<b>Christmas Bingo</b>
Wednesday 17.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 17.12.25	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 18.12.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
<b>Sunday 21.12.25</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b>		
Sunday 21.12.25	3.00 pm	Llandaff Cathedral	Taizé
<b>Sunday 21.12.25</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>All Saints' Rhiwbina</b>	<b>TWMA Nine Lessons &amp; Carols</b>

## Dates for your Diaries ( Continued )

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
<b>Wednesday 24.12.25</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>		
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.00 pm	All Saints' LN	<b>Crib Service</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	<b>Christingle</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	8.00 pm	All Saints' LN	'Midnight' Mass
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	11.30 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Midnight Mass
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	11.30 pm	St Mary's	Midnight Mass
<b>THURSDAY 25.12.25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY – THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY</b>		
<b>Thursday 25.12.25</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>All TWMA Churches</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist</b>
Friday 26.12.25	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist - St Stephen's Day
<b>Sunday 28.12.25</b>	<b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>		
<b>Sunday 28.12.25</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>All Saints' LN</b>	<b>TWMA Combined Service</b>

**Please note that there will be no Eucharist services in the Ministry Area on  
Wednesday 31st December 2025 or Thursday 1st January 2026**

<b>Sunday 4.1.26</b>	<b>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</b>		
<b>Sunday 4.1.26</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>All Saints' Rhiwbina</b>	<b>TWMA Combined Service</b>
Sunday 4.1.26	2.30 pm	All Saints' LN	<i>Sine Nomine</i> Rehearsal
Wednesday 7.1.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 7.1.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 8.1.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 8.1.26	2.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Ladies' Circle Eucharist
Saturday 10.1.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	ASR Working Party
Sunday 11.1.26	<b>Baptism of Jesus — normal services resume</b>		
Sunday 11.1.26	3.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	<b>Messy Church</b>
Tuesday 13.1.26	6.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
<b>Sunday 18.1.26</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
Sunday 18.1.26	2.00 pm	All Saints' LN	<i>Sine Nomine</i> Rehearsal
<b>Sunday 25.1.26</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>		
<b>Sunday 1.2.26</b>	<b>Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</b>		
<b>Sunday 1.2.26</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Combined TWMA Eucharist</b>
Monday 2.2.26	<b>Feast of Candlemas – forty days after Christmas Day</b>		

**Warm Welcome Spaces at All Saints' Rhiwbina – Wednesdays 11.00 am to 12.30 pm**

**Free                  Warm                  Welcoming                  Safe**

All Saints' is a registered **Warm Welcome Space**, offering warmth and local connection. Everyone is invited to join us for a warm space, warm welcome, and a place to belong. Soup and hot drinks are provided. Spread the word so that people in our community know there's a warm welcoming space waiting for them just around the corner.

**'DEAR TRUE LOVE . . .'**



Leaping and dancing  
Means to-ing and fro-ing;  
Drummers and pipers —  
Loud banging and blowing;  
Even a pear-tree  
Needs space to grow in.



Goose eggs and gold top  
When I'm trying to slim?  
And seven swans swimming?  
Just where could they swim?



Mine is a small house,  
Your gifts are grand;  
One ring at a time  
Is enough for this hand.



Hens, colly birds, doves —  
A gastronome's treat.  
But, love, did I tell you  
I've given up meat?

Your fairy-tale presents  
Are wasted on me.  
Just send me your love  
And set all the birds free.



*U.A.Fanthorpe: 'Christmas Poems'*



*May He, who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,  
fill the whole world with His joy and His peace at Christmastime and always.*

