



Taff Wenallt Ministry Area

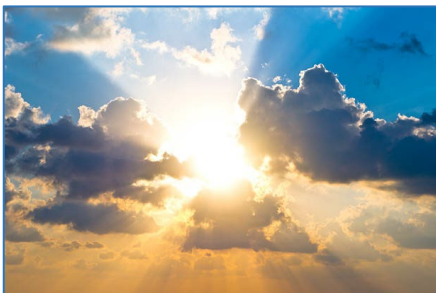
August 2026 Newsletter

'If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea . . . even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.' [Psalm 139]



Summer suns are glowing over land and sea;
Happy light is flowing, bountiful and free;
Everything rejoices in the mellow rays;
Earth's ten thousand voices swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth over all the world,
And His banner gleameth, by His church unfurled;
Broad and deep and glorious, as the heaven above,
Shines in might victorious His eternal love.



Lord, upon our blindness Thy pure radiance pour;
For Thy lovingkindness we would love Thee more;
And when clouds are drifting dark across the sky,
Then, the veil uplifting, Father, be Thou nigh.

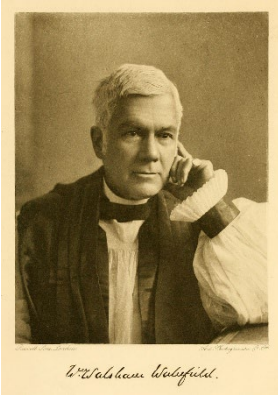
We will never doubt Thee, though Thou veil Thy light;
Life is dark without Thee, death with Thee is bright;
Light of light, shine o'er us on our pilgrim way;
Go Thou still before us to the endless day.

(William W. How 1823–1897)



William Walsham How

(1823–1897)



W.W.How was an Anglican clergyman who ultimately became the first Bishop of Wakefield, refusing, when offered, the Bishopric of Durham which is counted as one of the great offices of the English Church. He was probably best known as Bishop of Bedford, a diocese which included the spiritual oversight of the teeming millions of East London. Here he was known as the ' Poor Man's Bishop ' or ' The People's Bishop ' in recognition of his affinity with the people of the area; and as ' The Omnibus Bishop ', a reference to his favoured mode of transport when travelling around the diocese. On his staff of office was engraved a favourite quotation from St Bernard: ' *Pasce verbo, Pasce vita* '. ['Feed with the Word, feed with the life ' .] Bishop How wrote over sixty hymns. When asked ' *What constitutes a good hymn?* ' he replied: ' *A good hymn is something like a good prayer — simple, real, earnest, and reverent.* ' His output includes: ' *It is a thing most wonderful* ', ' *O my Saviour, lifted from the earth for me* ',* and ' *For all the Saints* ' which has become an essential part of the standard repertoire in virtually every Service of Remembrance.

* [Quoted in a previous Newsletter]



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

<i>TWMA Leader:</i>	<i>Rev'd Theresa Parker</i>	<i>theresalparker@cinw.org.uk</i>	<i>07949 769580</i>
<i>Vicars:</i>	<i>Rev'd Peter Mortimer</i>	<i>petermortimer@cinw.org.uk</i>	<i>02920 650883</i>
	<i>Rev'd Anna Harwood</i>	<i>revdannaharwood@gmail.com</i>	<i>07564 012412</i>
<i>Assistant Curate:</i>	<i>Rev'd Henry Grover</i>	<i>henrygrover@cinw.org.uk</i>	<i>02920 624115</i>

***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 information about the calling of Banns,
Weddings, Baptisms, and Church Hall Bookings, contact:***

***Barbara Harding, the TWMA Administrator,
by email:***

office@twma.church

or by telephone:

02920 624115

or you can write to

The TWMA Office, The Rectory, 6, Penlline Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff. CF14 2AD

A Challenge Issued and Accepted

St Matthew, chapter 9, verse 9:

‘And as Jesus was walking along, He saw Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and He said to Him: ‘Follow me’. And he got up and followed Him.’

If ever there was an unlikely candidate for the office of apostle, it was Matthew! Matthew was what the Authorised Version of the Bible calls ‘a publican’ — a tax collector — who dealt with public money and public funds. They were Jews who collaborated with and collected money for the occupying Roman forces, and as such they were widely despised as extortionists and traitors to their own people.

The Roman government had devised a system whereby taxes could be collected as cheaply and efficiently as possible by auctioning among the local Jewish population the right to collect taxes in a designated area. Tax collectors bought the right to collect taxes within their allotted districts. They had to pay an agreed sum to the Roman government — but anything they could raise over and above that sum they could keep as commission.

Obviously this system was open to abuse! Ordinary Jews had no idea what they were supposed to pay in taxes — no official documents were sent out, and newspapers, radio, television, internet and social media had not been invented. There was no right of appeal against the tax collectors, and many of them like Zacchaeus (*St Luke chapter 19*) became very wealthy by their illegal extortion. This system had led to so many abuses that it had been brought to an end in Palestine before the time of Jesus, but taxes **still** had to be paid, and ingenious tax collectors could always devise ways and means to circumvent the rules.

We might complain about taxation nowadays, but it was nothing in comparison with the Roman system at that time: the occupying Romans tried to squeeze every penny they could out of subservient Jews.

- There was a **ground tax**: this forced you to pay a proportion of your crop — grain, fruit, and wine — either in cash or in kind;
- **Income tax**: 1% of your income;
- Every adult had to pay a **poll-tax**.

These were **statutory** taxes which had to be paid to the government and could not be abused by tax collectors for private profit.

But there were others, because virtually everything could be taxed:

- There was a **duty tax** on all goods imported or exported, or transported across districts;
- A tax had to be paid to travel on **main roads**;
- to cross **bridges**;
- to enter **market-places, towns and harbours**.
- There was a tax on **pack animals**;
- a tax on the **wheels and axles** of carts.
- There were **purchase** taxes on goods bought and sold.

Tax-collectors were notoriously dishonest, and were universally hated for amassing their fortunes at the expense of their country's misfortunes. In more modern times they would be known as quislings. They fleeced their own countrymen, did their best to swindle the government, and were open to taking bribes from rich would-be tax-avoiders.

The Jews were fanatical nationalists. It was their religious conviction that God alone was their King, so paying taxes to any mortal ruler was an infringement of God's sovereignty and an insult to His majesty. By Jewish law, tax-collectors were debarred from the synagogue. They were forbidden to be witnesses in any legal case. Together with robbers, murderers, and sinners, they were classed as outcasts.

So when Jesus called Matthew, He called a man who was universally hated and despised. This is one of the greatest New Testament instances of Jesus's power to see, not only what an individual **was**, but what that person could **become**. No-one ever had such faith in human potential as Jesus had.



Matthew was a tax-collector in Capernaum, a town in the territory of Herod Antipas. It was a great meeting-place of roads — in particular, the Way of the Sea, the main road from Egypt to Damascus, passed through Capernaum. It was there that it entered the dominion of Herod for business purposes. No doubt Matthew was one of the customs officers who exacted the duty on all goods and commodities as they entered and left Herod's territory. In all probability as a member of Herod's civil service, he was not **directly** in the service of the Roman government.

It is quite probable that Matthew had seen Jesus before because He was a young Galilean living in the region where Matthew worked. Jesus came with a message that was breathtakingly new: He spoke with an authority the like of which no one had never heard before. And He even counted among His friends and acquaintances society's outcasts, the sort of people members of the

so-called orthodox, 'righteous', community would despise and avoid like the plague. No doubt Matthew had listened from the outskirts of the crowd, and had felt his heart stir within him. Perhaps he had often wondered whether it was not too late to set sail and seek a newer world, to leave his old life, his old shame and social rejection, and begin anew? Now here was Jesus standing in front of him, and he heard Jesus issue His challenge: 'Follow me!' And Matthew accepted that challenge, stood up, left everything, and followed!

We should note what Matthew *lost* — and what he *found*.

He lost a secure job, but found his destiny.

He lost a lucrative income, but he found honour and self-respect.

He lost an established position, but he found adventure the like of which he had never dreamed.

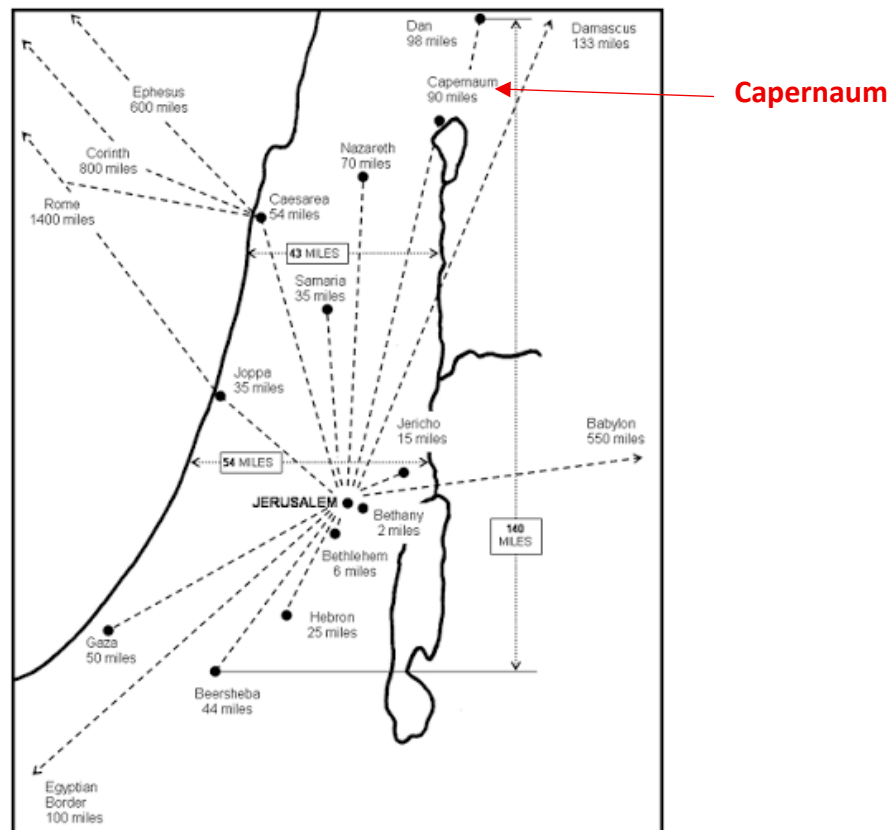
It may be that if **we** accept the challenge of Christ, we shall find ourselves poorer in material things. It may be that worldly ambitions will have to go. But beyond doubt we will find a peace and a joy and a thrill in life that we have never known before. In Jesus Christ we find a wealth beyond anything we need to abandon for the sake of Christ.

We should note what Matthew *left* — and what he *took with him*:

He left his tax-collector's desk, but he took **with him** a very important thing — ***his pen***.

Here is a shining example of how Jesus can use whatever gifts we have and use them for His glory. It is not likely that any of the other disciples were at home with a pen — Galilean fishermen were unlikely to be skilled in writing or putting words together — but Matthew had that accomplishment. And this man whose trade had taught him to use a pen, **used** that pen to compose the first handbook of the teachings of Jesus, which must rank as one of the most important books that the world has ever read. When Matthew left that tax-collector's desk he gave up much in the material sense; but in the spiritual sense he became the heir to a fortune.

*[Sermon by Dr Geoff Foot on the Feast of St Matthew, 15th May,
in All Saints' Llandaff North.]*



The Twelve Tribes of Israel

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

Judah
Levi
Benjamin
Reuben
Simeon
Zebulun
Issachar
Dan
Naphtali

Gad
Asher
Joseph
Ephraim
Manasseh
Lion
Crown
Breastplate
Ephod

Temple
Tabernacle
Sacrifice
Covenant
Shekel
Jericho
Ark
Wheat
Olive

Grapes
Palm
Almond
Staff
Blessing
Inheritance
Tribe
Banner
Promise

(Composed by Nicholas Ashford)

Why August?

(And why is October our tenth month???)

‘ And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed . . . ’ [St Luke 2, v.1]

Who was Augustus?



This Byzantine mosaic, c. 1315 AD in the Chora Church, Istanbul, depicts Syrian governor Quirinius, seated on the left, overseeing the census registration of Mary and Joseph, standing on the right.

Caesar Augustus was the first emperor of ancient Rome. Julia, his grandmother, was Julius Caesar's sister, so Atia, Augustus's mother, was Julius Caesar's niece. Because Julius Caesar had no legitimate male heirs, he formally adopted Augustus in his will, making him his legal son and principal heir. Born Gaius Octavius [23rd September 63BC] Augustus took the name Gaius Julius Caesar after his great uncle's assassination. He seized power as Rome's first emperor, defeating his political rivals, including Mark Antony and Cleopatra. Instead of declaring himself dictator, he restored Rome as a Republic — though he kept all real power for himself; and transformed Rome from a scattered republic into a vast, powerful empire, ushering in the **Pax Romana**, a 200-year period of relative peace and stability across the Mediterranean.

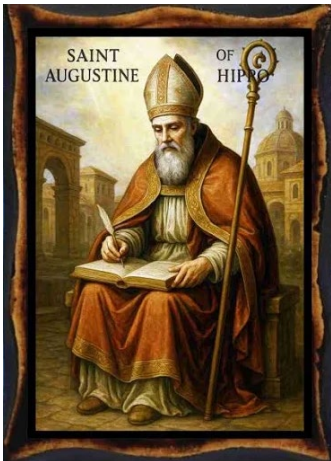
Augustus ended decades of brutal civil war, initiating a massive programme of building and renovation. He stabilized the economy, reformed the tax system, and vastly expanded* the borders of the Roman Empire into Egypt, parts of Spain, and the Alps. He created the first standing Roman army, established the Praetorian guard, and instituted the first organized police and fire brigades for the city of Rome. His name was given to the eighth month of the year in honour of the major military victories achieved during his reign. The exact date of his 'decree' is the subject of debate among Biblical scholars, but most put it between 5 BC and 2 BC in the reign of Herod the Great. [Source material: Wikipædia.]

Augustine of Hippo

[I knew that 'hippo', as in 'hippopotamus' translates as 'river horse'!]

According to Wikipædia, **Hippo** was first settled by Phoenician merchants from Tyre as a coastal trading post. The Phoenician root 'pwn' is believed to translate as 'harbour'. The Romans knew the city as '**Hippo Regius**'.

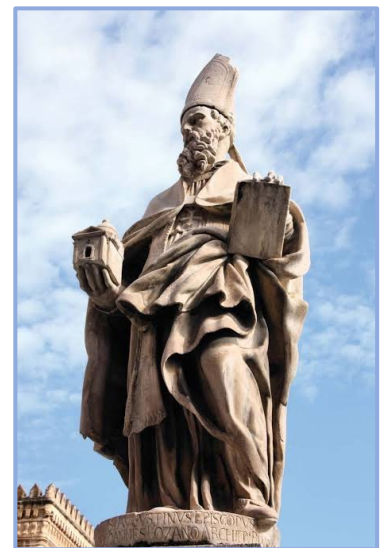
Wikipædia adds: the animal ‘hippopotamus’ (*Greek for ‘river-horse’*) is entirely unrelated and coincidental! [So now I know! Isn’t language fascinating?] *Read on!*



Augustine of Hippo, one of the Early Church Fathers, served as the **Bishop of Hippo Regius**, present-day Annaba, Algeria, in the Roman province of Africa. Born in the nearby town of Thagaste, and influenced by St Ambrose of Milan, Augustine was ordained priest in 391 AD and consecrated Bishop of Hippo about four years later, a position he held for thirty-four years until his death in 430 AD. He defended and clarified Christian doctrine against heresies like Pelagianism. His *Confessions of Augustine*, written [in Latin] between AD 397 and 400, an autobiographical work consisting of a series of thirteen books composed to be read out loud, is one of Augustine's most inspirational texts, widely regarded as one of the earliest and most influential works of spiritual autobiography in Western literature. It became an influential model for Christian writers throughout the Middle Ages. We are indebted to Augustine for the prayer: ‘*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you*’.

Saint Augustine of Canterbury.

Augustine of Canterbury was a Benedictine monk originally from Rome sent by Pope Gregory the Great to Britain on a mission to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons. The entourage landed in the spring of AD 597 on the Isle of Thanet off the southeast coast of England. **King Aethelberht (Ethelbert)** of Kent, allowed the missionaries to settle in Canterbury and preach in the old St. Martin’s Church. Their work led to many conversions, including that of the king himself, and Augustine baptized thousands on Christmas Day 597. The following autumn, Augustine was consecrated bishop of the English by St. Virgilius at Arles. Canterbury Cathedral was established as the centre of the Roman church in England, and Augustine became its first archbishop. He organised two conferences with British bishops in AD 604 and 605, in which he tried, unsuccessfully, to unify the Celtic churches of North Wales with the Roman churches he had founded in Kent.



[* *Etymology of Augustus — related to ‘augēre’ — to increase.*]

[*Editor*] Needless to say, I was unable to resist the temptation to follow the ‘hippo’ trail! It led to Hippolyta, the Amazon Queen, celebrated as Duke Theseus’s bride-to-be in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*; and then on to Hippolytus of Athens, her son, who was, apparently, destroyed by horses! [*At last! A connection with horses!*] But perhaps that’s for another Newsletter? Meanwhile, those readers with internet access **may** like do their own researches? [*Or not!?*]



All Saints' Church Rhiwbina

Ladies' Circle Autumn Programme 2026

3rd September	2 pm	Eucharist, followed by refreshments in the Church
10th September	2 pm	' And so to Cardiff . . . ' Rev'd Theresa Parker (our new Ministry Area Leader) — <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
<i>NB: There is a three-week gap before our next meeting</i>		
1st October	2 pm	' Sea Shells of the World ' — Jan Butler <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
15th October	2 pm	Carole and Julie introduce their Guide Dogs, Jason and Dane <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
29th October	2 pm	' Boosting Confidence with Colour and Style' — Charlotte Leeke <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
12th November	2 pm	' Our Life on St. Helena ' — Jane Fenwick <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
26th November	2 pm	In-House Entertainment with the Ladies' Circle Committee <i>Charity Table: Bring and Buy: sundry items, books, jigsaws</i>
10th December	12.30 for 1.00 pm:	Christmas Lunch at Whitchurch Golf Club

Our objective is to maintain a circle of Christian friendship for the ladies of All Saints' Church Rhiwbina and the wider community.

*' Friendship bears all things,
Believes all things,
Hopes all things,
Endures all things . . .
True friendship never ends. '*

CHAIRPERSON : KATHLEEN JONES : TELEPHONE 07768 272702



WORD-ASSOCIATION QUIZ

[Didn't we have an 'AUG' Quiz in August 2025? So here's a **HOL** for 'Holiday' Quiz]

1	Stanley in Prison! (8)	
2	Single malt whisky — Tony's favourite? (5,6)	
3	Usually black and white cow, but not necessarily Friesian. (8)	
4	Television series based on Shakespeare's historical plays. (3,6,5)	
5	He painted Marilyn Monroe and Campbell's Soups! (4,6)	
6	Jools — <i>is</i> he Dutch?! (7)	
7	Bird's throats? Where rivers disappear in limestone country! (7,5)	
8	Acute diarrhoea caused by water-borne bacteria. (7)	
9	Composition by Grieg based on 18th Century dance forms. (7,5)	
10	He painted Henry V111 and Anne Boleyn. (4,7)	
11	Otter's underground den. (4)	
12	Lindisfarne. (4,6)	
13	Assyrian general decapitated by Judith. (10)	
14	Learning, or bursary to support it. (11)	
15	Series depicting somnolent New York village! (6,6)	
16	' <i>The Light of the World.</i> ' (6, 4).	
17	Fast-eroding East Yorkshire coastline. (10)	
18	Where the cat waits in a Cornish village. (9)	
19	Frankie goes there, we're told! (9)	
20	Soft sandstone used to scrub ships' decks. (9)	
21	Arthur Conan Doyle. (8,6)	
22	Sauce. (11)	
23	<i>aka</i> Chumley! (12)	
24	C ₂ H ₆ O! (7)	
25	Traditional sausage in batter. (4-2-3-4)	
26	' <i>The Threepenny Opera</i> ' playwright. (8,6)	
27	Caves in the Mendip Hills. (6,4)	
28	Traditional cottage garden plants. (10)	
29	Nasal decongestant. (7)	
30	Herefordshire College of Agriculture. (5,4)	
31	RAF station used by VIPs' private jets. (8)	
32	UK television medical drama series. (5,4)	
33	Felix Mendelssohn. (9)	
34	Furtive assignation. (4-2-3-6)	
35	Soap! (9)	
36	Author of 16C Chronicles of England, Scotland & Ireland. (10)	
37	Billie. (7)	
38	Moses! (4)	
39	Universal, not uniquely Roman! (8)	
40	St Winifride's shrine in Flint. (8)	

St. Mary's Church, Whitchurch

St. Mary's Church Hall

Church Road, Whitchurch

High-Tea BINGO — 2026 - 2027



Every 3rd Tuesday in the Month

(NB No Bingo in August)

15th September 2026

20th October 2026

17th November 2026

CHRISTMAS BINGO 15th December 2026

19th January 2027

Pancake Bingo (Shrove Tuesday) 9th February 2027

LENT

(NB No Bingo in Lent)

20th April 2027

18th May 2027

15th June 2027

20th July 2027

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!

Dates for your Diaries

July/August 2026

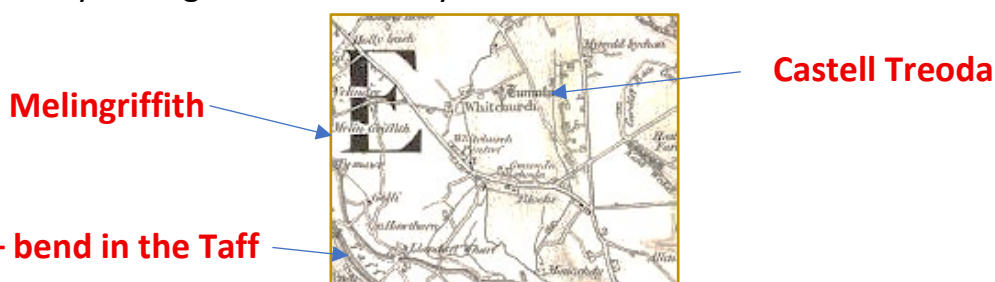
Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 26.7.26	Eighth Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 26.7.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 26.7.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Holy Communion
Sunday 26.7.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Holy Communion
Sunday 26.7.26	10.00 am	St Thomas's	Holy Communion
Sunday 26.7.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Mattins
Sunday 26.7.26	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Choral Evensong
Wednesday 29.7.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 29.7.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 30.7.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Sunday 2.8.26	Ninth Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 2.8.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 2.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Mattins
Sunday 2.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Holy Communion
Sunday 2.8.26	10.00 am	St Thomas's	Holy Communion
Sunday 2.8.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Wednesday 5.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 5.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 6.8.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Friday 7.8.26	1.00 pm	St Mary's	Wedding
Saturday 8.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Working Party
Sunday 9.8.26	Tenth Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 9.8.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 9.8.26	10.00 am	All TWMA churches	Holy Communion
Sunday 9.8.26	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Celebration Service
Monday 10.8.26	2.00 pm	St Mary's	Mothers' Union Meeting
Tuesday 11.8.26	6.00 pm	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Evening Eucharist
Wednesday 12.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 12.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 13.8.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Sunday 16.8.26	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity		
Sunday 16.8.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 16.8.26	10.00 am	All TWMA churches	Holy Communion
Sunday 16.8.26	12.30 pm	St Mary's	Baptism
Sunday 16.8.26	3.00 pm	Llandaff Cathedral	Taizé Prayer
Wednesday 19.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 19.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 20.8.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning

Date:	Time:	Venue:	Event:
Sunday 23.8.26	Twelfth Sunday <i>after</i> Trinity		
Sunday 23.8.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 23.8.26	10.00 am	All TWMA churches	Holy Communion
Sunday 23.8.26	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Choral Evensong
Wednesday 26.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' LN	Eucharist
Wednesday 26.8.26	10.00 am	All Saints' Rhiwbina	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Thursday 27.8.26	10.00 am	St Mary's	Eucharist & Coffee Morning
Sunday 30.8.26	Thirteenth Sunday <i>after</i> Trinity		
Sunday 30.8.26	8.00 am	ASR & St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sunday 30.8.26	10.00 am	All TWMA churches	Holy Communion

900 Years!

Album Monasterium / Blancminster / White Church

From archaeological evidence we can deduce that the fertile lands of Glamorgan were cultivated by the Romans — remains of Roman villas have been found and explored at sites such as Ely and Llantwit Major. In the 'Dark Ages' following the Roman evacuation of Britain, it seems certain that Glamorgan became a stronghold of the Christian faith. We know that in the 6th Century there were important monasteries at Llantwit Major and Llancarfan; and a monastic centre established by Teilo, a disciple of St Dyfrig, grew up at Llandaff, nowadays recognised as virtually the oldest ecclesiastical See in the British Isles.



Before the arrival of the Normans, Llandaff had become a wealthy land-owning institution, its lands including the village of Whitchurch, whose inhabitants' ecclesiastical needs were served by the Cathedral. That the Normans variously referred to the manor of Whitchurch by the names **Album Monasterium / Blancminster / White Church** may hark back to an earlier Welsh religious settlement established by a group of monks from Llandaff on the banks of the Taff at **Ystum-Taf**,* [*bend in the Taff*] now known as Melingriffith.

The 12th Century Book of Llandav records a 1126 settlement between Urban, Bishop of Llandaff, and Robert, Duke of Gloucester, Lord of Glamorgan, by which funds were allocated to maintain a priest to serve a chapelry at **Stuntaf** (Ystum Taf) whose residents were required to attend the Cathedral at Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, and given the right of burial at Llandaff.

A small [Norman] motte-and-bailey castle, **Castell Treoda**, existed on the site opposite the Fox and Hounds now known as Treoda Court, and it seems likely that the site had been chosen for a church due to its proximity to the castle. The current St Mary's Church was opened in 1885 after a much older church in the now-disused burial ground on Old Church Road had been demolished in 1904.

Celebration Service

900

Whitchurch



years

Mothers' UNION
150 years

Sunday 9th August

2.00pm

St. Mary's Whitchurch

This year marks 900 years since a decision was made to found
a religious establishment in Whitchurch.

It is also the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union.

These seem like great reasons to celebrate!

In our celebration service, focusing on the theme '*This is our Story*', we will celebrate
the many changes that have taken place since the founding of both
the parish and the Mothers' Union,
including the development of the Taff Wenallt Ministry Area;
and we will look forward to all that lies ahead.

Everyone from across the Ministry Area - and beyond - is welcome.

There will be refreshments after the service.