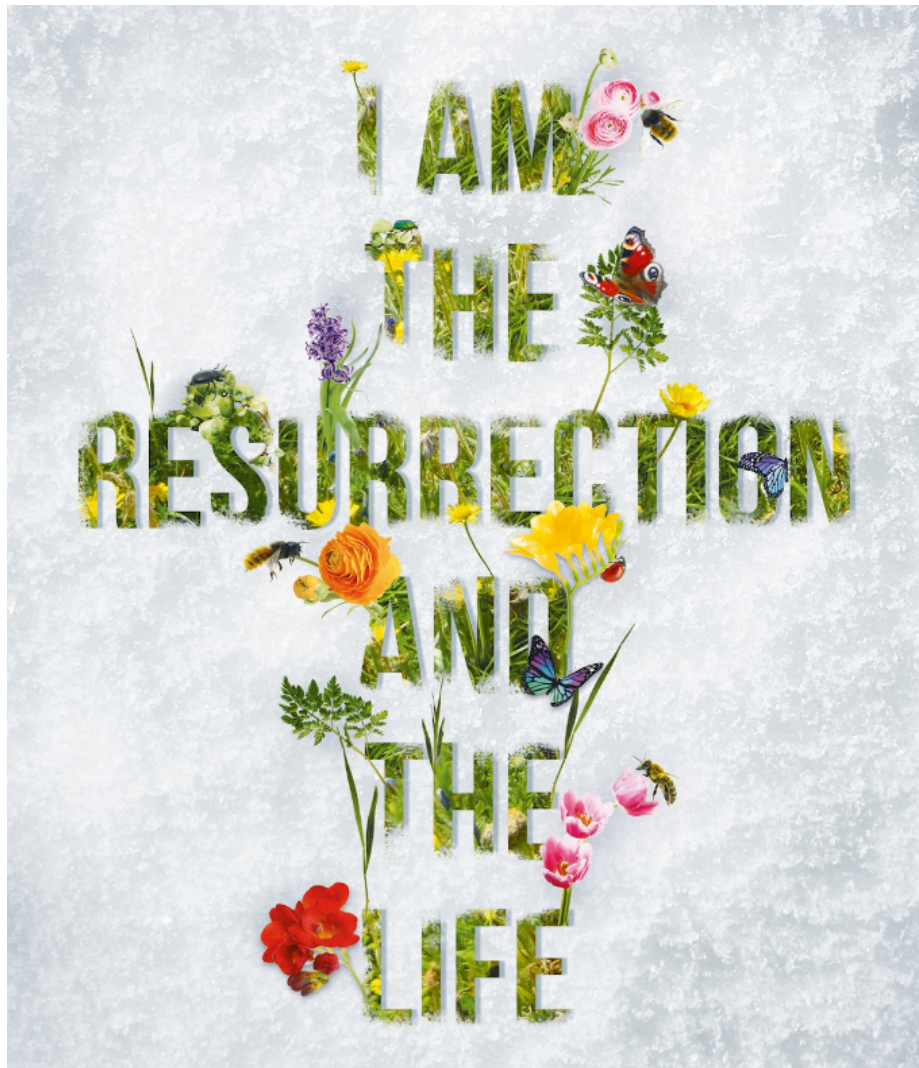


CHURCH Magazine

St Hilary's Church, Killay • St Martin's Church, Dunvant



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St Hilary's & St Martin's - Who's Who

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Swansea SA5 4SY
☎ 01792 410488 Mobile: 07414 268163
Email: LayfettaMasih@cinw.org.uk

St Hilary's

St Hilary's Church & Church Hall
481a Gower Road, Killay, Swansea, SA2 7DZ

Lay Worship Leaders:

Simon Davies, Gareth Lewis,
Mike Powell, Barbara Roberts.

Eucharistic Assistants:

Roy Chapman, Alan Pickard, Mike Powell, Catherine Swain.

Subwardens:

Mike Powell ☎ 208955
Marian Williams ☎ 204175

Treasurer:

Diane Holohan ☎ 296272

Sacristan:

Mike Powell ☎ 208955

Church Committee Secretary:

Marian Williams ☎ 204175

Hall Booking Secretary:

Diane Holohan ☎ 07770 788465 (texts preferred)
or 296272

Envelopes/Gift Aid Scheme:

Geraldine Rees ☎ 207916

Organists:

Huw Thomas † R.I.P.
Martin Draisey (St.Martin's)

St Martin's

St Martin's Church
Fairwood Road, Dunvant, Swansea SA2 7PE

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Gareth Lewis, Susan Dimblebee

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www.eastgower.org

Dear Friends

Looking for the Resurrection

An old couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. *'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!'* The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: *'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!'* What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say: *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'* In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him'* (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.



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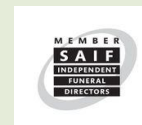
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The deadline for articles for April 2024 magazine is Friday 29 March

St Hilary's Church, Killay

Sidespersons

March Geraldine & Roger Rees
April Diane Holohan, Chris Regan

Elements

3rd Lay led service
10th Jan & Jim Proudfoot
17th Glenys & Lyndon Hall
24th Sue & Bob Mapp
31st Val Beynon, Roy Chapman
Apr 7th Lay led service

Readers

3rd Lay led service
10th Sheila Betts
17th Sandra Banks
24th Glenda Penzer
31st Alan Pickard
Apr 7th Lay led service

Eucharist Assistants

3rd Lay led service
10th Alan Pickard
17th Cath Swain
24th Roy Chapman
31st Mike Powell
Apr 7th Lay led service

Altar Flowers

3rd Lent
10th Lent & Mothering Sunday
17th Lent
24th Palm Sunday
31st Easter Day
Apr 7th Lay led service

Coffee

3rd Pam Davies, Gillian Hutchinson
10th Christine Williams, Val Beynon
17th Pam Davies, Gillian Hutchinson
24th Sue Mapp, Sally Bowen

31st Diane Holohan, Chris Regan
Apr 7th Geraldine & Roger Rees

St Martin's Church, Dunvant

Sidespersons

3rd Roger Draisey
10th Sue Dimblebee
17th Gareth Dimblebee
24th Ian Dimblebee
31st East Cluster Service @ St Hilary's

Readers

3rd Margaret Draisey
10th Carol Lewis
17th Ann Stone
24th Lynne Lewis
31st East Cluster Service @ St Hilary's

Altar Flowers

3rd Lent
10th Lent & Mothering Sunday
17th Lent
24th Lent & Palm Sunday
31st East Sunday

Holy Dusters

Sue & Ian Dimblebee

All enquiries:

Christenings, Weddings & Funerals

Please contact:

Rev'd Layfetta Masih

☎ 01792 410488

Mobile: 07414 268163

Email: LayfettaMasih@cinw.org.uk



News

We pray for those who are ill at home, in hospital or nursing homes.



Our thoughts are also with those who lovingly care for them by day and night.

Julie Cole, Barbara Davies (Derlwyn), Miriam Evans, Enid James (St. Nicholas Court), Doll Lee, Don Lewis (Cynthia's husband), Eunice Miron, Diane Lewis (Hillside Nursing Home), Diana Mowat (Hengoed Court Residential Home), Olwen Nicholas, Betty Nutt, Mary Osborne (Hillside Nursing Home), Rev'd Judith Phillips, Gwynneth Prestwood (Hengoed Court Residential Home), Rita Trew, Gloria and Brian Wilkins and all others known to Him who need our prayers.

We send our thoughts and prayers to many this month: Kay and Julie Phillips on the death of David a much loved husband and father.

To Keith, Linda and Alison on the death of their much loved father Noel Davies. Noel was a faithful member of St. Hilary's Church and sang in the choir for some years.

Last month we prayed for Janie Thomas as she mourned the death of Huw. Sadly we ask for prayers for the family of Janie who has now joined Huw in their heavenly home.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
May David, Noel, Huw and Janie Rest in Peace.

We must also pray at this time for our choir — they too have lost three choristers from their church family - so our love and our thoughts are with them all.

Rev'd Judith Phillips had to return to hospital two weeks ago - Happy to report that Rev'd Judith is not only home from hospital but has also returned to church. You are special to us in St. Hilary's and St. Martins and All Souls Judith.
Mary and Haydn Osborne celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary on the 31 March.

Jan Lewis thanks everyone for their good wishes after her successful hip operation.



Gower Ministry Area
CHURCH SERVICES

gowerma.org
07944056335



Holy Week & EASTER

Palm Sunday 24 March

Usual Sunday services: phone/check our websites for details

Monday 25, Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 March at 6.30pm

Bible on the beach creative reflections: **Port Eynon Lifeguard Station** for walkers or **St Cattwg's Church** to stay inside (or if wet)

Maundy Thursday 28 March

9.30am Lamplighter, *Bishopston*

6.30pm All Souls Tycoch also **6.30pm** St Mary Rhossili

7.00pm Ss Rhidian & Illtyd Llanrhidian also **7.00pm** St Illtyd Ilston



Good Friday 29 March

10.30am St George's: Stations of the Cross *around Reynoldston*

2.00pm St Hilary's Killay, St Teilo Bishopston, St John Penmaen

2.00pm St David's Gwernffrwd, St Cenydd Llangennith

3.00pm St Illtyd Oxwich Taizé music for Good Friday

Easter Eve Saturday 30 March

2.00pm Easter Wild Church at St Illtyd Oxwich

6.30pm Easter Vigil at St Madoc Llanmadoc

Easter Day

6.30pm Sunrise Gathering on Cefn Bryn (*opposite car park*)

8.30am St Andrew Penrice

9.15am St Mary Rhossili

9.30am St Illtyd Ilston, St David's Wernffrwd, St Cadoc Cheriton

10.00am St Teilo Bishopston, St John Penmaen

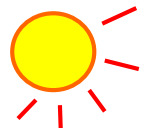
10.45am St George Reynoldston

11.00am St Illtyd Oxwich, St Hilary's Killay

11.15am St Gwynno Penclawdd, St Nicholas Nicholaston

11.15am Ss Rhidian & Illtyd Llanrhidian

5.00pm St Cattwg Port Eynon



Ministry Area Update February 2024

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, and Power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We're in a time of new members coming to the team. In January we were delighted to find that all the funding came in for our ministry area wellbeing project:, from a Swansea based fund and a legacy to Oxwich church. Chloe Thomas was the successful candidate (see p.12) and the project was launched at St Illtyd's on Ash Wednesday. The project has three strands to create: secular sessions with creativity, walking and space to enjoy Nature; discipling sessions to explore the Christian faith and prayerfulness; and build on the spiritual tourism of The Gower Pilgrimage Trail. Holy Week Monday to Wednesday and Holy Saturday have the first events. You can contact Chloe on chloegowerwellbeing@gmail.com.

On Monday 26th Feb we are interviewing for the role of ministry area administrator.

We're also coming into a time of getting to know each other better with the ministry area. This month clergy in our usual clusters led and preached in congregations in other clusters. Our LENT GATHERING on Thursdays is moving around different churches (Feb 29th St David's Wernffrwd; Mar 7th St

Mary Pennard; Mar 14th St Hilary, Killay; Mar 21st St Hilary, Killay). In the week leading up to Easter, Holy Week, we'll be having a joint evening service on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; we'll be in our own cluster/churches for Maundy Thursday; Good Friday has a united Stations of the Cross at 10.30am around Reynoldston village; Holy Saturday we're together in Llanmadoc church for Easter Vigil Mass; with the invitation to come up to Cefn Bryn for a sunrise service early Easter Day. Also in the diary is an evening Celebration Service to be held in the Marquee at Oxwich Bay Hotel on June 3rd, with the bishop attending and a chance for us to create a celebration of a year as a ministry area.

Going into 2024, the MAC are getting to understand our new relationships and connections as individual congregations and Mission Action Plans are being drawn up as we listen to what we feel God is leading us into. We are also putting together a working agreement that describes how our Ministry Area approaches aspects like managing Gift Aid, Communication, overseeing representation in our churches and going for Growth. These will be available

on our website gowerma.org We're finding it easier to support one another as time goes on. Our MA Property group has started to be a focal point of assistance for our buildings and we have a list of contractors that other churches are using that you might find helpful for any future works in your church. The MA Eco group has started up and is offering help as we all undertake an Eco church audit. Churches are already starting these which you access on the website ecochurch.arocha.org.uk, the whole process takes under 2 hours. The Eco group is also our contact with Swansea Council on projects for Biodiversity which is being undertaken on church buildings in the AONB, Port Eynon is the latest church to join those having swift boxes installed.

Please contact the ministry area lead if you have an interest or skills to join either group.

A BIG thank you to Peter Townsend the MA Treasurer and all our congregational treasurers who've been getting our finances ready for our joint 2023 financial report. Thank you too to everyone who gives via Direct Debit, or collection, or in kind to support our ministry. Remember that the ministry share we send to the diocese is down by about £20,000 for the ministry area this year. As congregational committees make arrangements about using money in their accounts, we need to prioritise payments for the ministry share over

other projects if we have funds available. This Lent, the Ministry Area is asking all our congregations to raise money for abcd, to help restock a support centre in Bethlehem that had its equipment for children with disability destroyed by the IDF.

We're encouraged to bless the Lord as we see God's blessings around us, and its been lovely to have our ministry area prayer list available to pray over our Church Life together. This March we celebrate 30 years of the Lamplighter Shop being with us in Bishopston. Every cluster enjoyed encouraging attendances over the Christmas services, especially building up our connections with children and families. New 'Open the Book' teams are going into our schools and we're finding out more about the ministry area through our Daily Prayer published on social media. At the end of January, Welsh speakers met to consider how we can be more effective in using the Welsh Language for worship, discipling and outreach, which will start with a St David's Day bilingual service at Llanddewi March 1st 11am.

Next MAC meets: March 4th 2024 7pm Village Hall, Reynoldston

Please let your rep bring any issues or good new stories to share.

Peter Lewis MA lead
07944056335
peterlewis@cinw.org.uk

Gower's Wonder of Wellbeing project launched



A project to help connect people to a sense of God's peace and presence around Gower's historic churches and surrounding landscape has been launched.

The Wonder of Wellbeing: Renewal and Hope through Gower's Beauty and Adventure project will offer creative activities and reflective sessions, including a new Wild Church.

Rev'd Peter Lewis, Gower Ministry Area leader, said: "We feel God's direction in this venture. I arrived in post here last June already having been prompted to better relate Gower's beauty and adventure to faith in ways to encourage folk that God's blessing is for all.

"Oxwich congregation had a legacy that they wanted to use and we successfully match-funded this with Swansea's levelling-up fund, Rural Anchor, which allows us to now employ a project co-ordinator for a pilot year before we look for a sustainable future.

"Along the way we've networked with many organisations and individuals who feel inspired to join in. I'm particularly looking forward to starting up both Wild

Church - worship & wonder activities outside - and school holidays children's work as we link up with families."

The project will be co-ordinated by Chloe Thomas, who said: "This is a dream post for me, as I'm a fine artist finishing a MA in Arts Practice (Arts, Health & Well-being). I'm from Swansea and, although not from the Church in Wales, I'm a church leader in Skewen and have a passion for both Gower communities and to see people encounter God through creativity.

"We'll be offering three aspects of wellbeing in our walks, creative sessions, mini-retreats, and workshops: a secular stream that follows an NHS approach for five aspects to wellbeing that we're planning offer in partnership with local health groups; a discipling stream that explores Christian expressions of prayer and spirituality; and spiritual tourism based on our recently established Gower Pilgrimage Way that links our 17 historic Gower churches."

The project was launched at St Illtyd's Church in Oxwich, which will serve as its base.

Fr Tim Ardouin, priest in Gower Ministry Area, said: "There is a deep sense of spirituality in the land here, with the rugged marshes of the north and our local Celtic saints. We aspire to be faithful to their tradition in ways that can open people's hearts to the mystery of God's love for each of them."



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Mothers' Union

Our Archidiaconal Eucharist at St Mary's, Swansea, in February, was organised by Gowerton MU Branch and led by Rev Sue Rumblelow. It was a very friendly occasion and many people stayed for a chat and refreshments. We would like to thank Marian Williams for chairing our AGM in February. The accounts presented by Alan had been inspected by Ken Ellis from All Souls Church. Carole agreed to lead the branch for another year, her 16th. The committee were thanked for always being ready to help in so many ways.

Our "Wave of Prayer" service in February was a very calming occasion. We listened to music, lit candles and prayed for our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, our links with members in Argentina; Bondo, Kenya; Free State, S Africa; Offa and Ogbia, Nigeria; Uruguay and Swansea & Brecon. Prayers were said for our MU President, Ruth Roberts, Vice Presidents, former Presidents and MU Trustees.

Carole read about our MU founder, Mary Sumner and how in 1876 she formed a group of mothers drawn from all social classes to meet together to discuss Christian faith and family life. The movement grew rapidly and is now active in 83 countries worldwide with 4 million members. It was interesting to learn about the origin of the "Wave of Prayer" which began in 1921. In 1926 Home & Overseas Dioceses were paired together and this method has been in use since that time. (*see inside back cover*)

Yet again, we have been thanked for our donations to the Safe Houses supported by our branch with a collection of toiletries, pants, socks, tights for women and children, sanitary products, wet wipes etc Please NO nappies, toys, books or knitting, thank you.

We are pleased to say that our membership is 27 and we have some very generous and faithful members.

Future dates: -

Friday 1st March 11 am St Mary's, Swansea – Archidiaconal Eucharist, arranged by our Diocesan members.

Tuesday 5th March 2 pm Church Hall, "Prayer, Poems & Worship" – Mike Powell (Sub Warden, Sacristan, Lay Worship Leader).

Tuesday 12th March 2 pm, St David's, Loughor – Lenten Reflective Afternoon led by Rev Tim Ardouin.

Tuesday 19th March 2 pm, Church Hall – Lent speaker Rev Layfetta Masih.

Tuesday 2nd April 2 pm, Church Hall – Royal Memorabilia, Sally Bowen.

All are welcome at any meeting or service.

Alan & Carole Pickard.

Music Society

The music society held its AGM on Monday 12th February. Twenty four members were present.

Our chairperson, Barbara Roberts, started by speaking about members who had passed away during the year. Huw and Janie Thomas were faithful members of our society and they will be a great loss to our church. Who can forget the wonderful organ recital he gave for us. We stood for a moment to remember them. We also remembered those faithful members who cannot be here today. Gwynneth Prestwood who is in Hengoed Court, Julie Cole who is still not too well and Eileen Wilson. Apologies were received from Colin and Margaret.

Chairpersons report.

Barbara spoke about the future programme. "Every year we try to present a programme of varied music and entertainment, which I have to say is getting a bit more difficult every year. I would love to present a different programme each year but I now need your help.

If you know of any music teachers who would be willing to bring along a few pupils or any singers or musical entertainers who are available, please let me know. Of course our old visitors are always welcome back".

Barbara went through the programme from 2023, which was varied and interesting as usual. The year began with the usual Black Boy lunch which was very enjoyable and we were joined by a few non-members. The programme included a talk on Dolly Parton by Barbara; Peter and Judith Phillips who presented Desert Island Discs; Rev Clive Williams on Rossini; Rev Tim Ardouin making his first visit, with didgeridoos; Saxology; Lleisiau Gwyr Ladies choir; Martin Lloyd and accompanist Chris Beynon, on his extremely interesting life and wonderful voice. For our final meeting we welcomed the Rockaleles for our pre-Christmas celebration with mulled wine, Stollen and mince pies which was a lively and joyous occasion.

Election of officers.

No Change.

Treasurers report.

Angela Reed went through our finances and we are solvent.

Barbara thanked everyone for supporting the committee during the last year. "Also thanks for the raffle prizes which are vital as Angela will tell you. This society is a joint effort and I want to say a personal thank you to Angela for her much needed advice and support, to Sandra and Nansi who provide

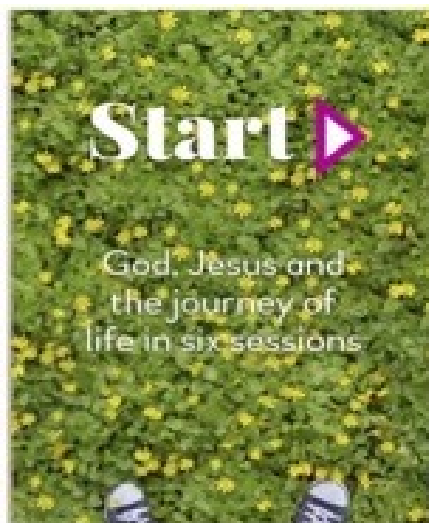
refreshments under difficult circumstances, Phyllis who produces the reports for the magazine, Gillian and Margaret who help when needed.

Angela then gave the vote of thanks.

We enjoyed wine and cheese and a quiz together.

We look forward to another year of a variety of talks and musical performances.

START Lent Course



Each session lasts about 90 minutes and is based around short, lively DVD programmes - two per session, down-to-earth 'vox pop' interviews and settings including Blackpool beach, a fun fair, a station platform, shopping centre and a junk yard to prompt lively discussion. There's time to chat and get to know others in our Ministry Area over tea and biscuits, interactive exercises and space for reflection - all in a style which aims to be honest and enjoyable. We are encouraged to reflect on our own faith and how this can enable us to become more energised to live out more spiritual lives in day-to-day situations. It was interesting to

listen to the perceptions of others when looking at the same pictures, but there were no right or wrong answers.

The meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. The next session will be held at St. David's, Wernffrd on February 29th, St. Mary's, Pennard on March 7th and the last two at St. Hilary's, Killay on March 14th and 21st. It doesn't matter if you haven't been to the first two sessions, we'd love to see you if you are able to join us at the others.

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Where is the most generous place in the UK?

The fundraising website GoFundMe has praised the British public, as recent figures show that it receives a donation every second of every day.

The generosity of the British can even be broken down into regions.

Last year Manchester was the most generous place in the UK, with 43,135 donations, while Liverpool (36,739), Brighton (19,641), Lisburn (11,122) and Saint Albans (10,474) came in second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

This past year, many British donors have given to the victims of conflicts and natural disasters, from Ukraine to Syria, Turkey to Morocco, not forgetting those impacted by the various storms that battered the UK itself.

One notable success was for victims of Storm Babet, whose homes were flooded in Chesterfield. The fundraiser, organised by a team at Lifehouse Church in the town, raised more than £92,000, from a total of 1,600 donations.

All in all, the UK was ranked as the third most generous country in the world per capita, with more than four million donations made last year.

Tim Cadogan, chief executive of GoFundMe, said the organisation has now celebrated its "billion-pound milestone" of donations raised from the UK since its inception in 2017, and he estimates a quarter of a billion pounds was raised on the platform in 2023 alone – which he said were "incredible numbers".

"St Hilary's Church Tots"
Mondays termtime @ 9:15 to 11am

A colorful poster for 'St Hilary's Church Tots'. It features a central photo of two babies playing with toys. Surrounding the photo are various colorful illustrations: puzzle pieces in the top corners, a rocking horse on the right, a colorful circular pattern on the left, and a colorful spiral on the bottom left. The text 'Join us in the rear church hall For fun and play' is at the bottom right.

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For fun and play

Rhoi Gwaed | Achub bywydau

Cila | Killay

Neuadd Yr Eglwys St Hilary
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Friday 12 April 2024

Friday 3 May 2024



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Parish of Killay Magazine, 50 years ago - March 1974

BROADCAST SERVICE

The Swansea Hospitals Radio Service have invited us to broadcast our evening service from St Hilary's on Easter Sunday night. This is relayed to the hospitals in the area, namely Singleton, Cefn Coed, Hill House and Mount Pleasant. The service will be recorded and at 8pm that same night it will be relayed to the patients and staff of the hospitals. Therefore, it will be necessary for us to re-arrange the time of our evening service on Easter night so that the engineers will be given time to do this. Thus, we propose to hold our service at 6pm rather than 6:30pm on Easter night. We do hope to have a full church for that service in order to help with the singing of the service but also that the accoustics of the building may be at its best for the broadcast.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

24th February

Carolyn Marie Faulkner, 47 Goetre Bellaf, Dunvant

Simon Robins, 47 Pen-y-Fro, Dunvant

Anthony Steven Craig Robertson, 45 Pen-y-Fro, Dunvant

Sally Jane Norris, 20 Hen Parc Avenue, Upper Killay

Darren John Tuckett, 86 Howells Road, Dunvant

Holy Matrimony

23rd February

Peter Selwyn Jones and Ruth Elizabeth Evans

William Henry Moore and Audrey Myra Stoker

Steven Short and Janice Jones

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

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Emily Long (Soprano)
Keiron-Connor Valentine (Countertenor)
Gareth Meirion Edmunds (Tenor)

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Reflecting Faith: Lychgates

On the moors near to where I used to live in West Yorkshire, there were a couple of large stones with crosses marked on them. Many people thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area they were. To be more exact, they were on the route towards the oldest churchyard.

In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.



When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So, a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church.

The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

Because of typical British weather - rain and wind - it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the anglo-saxon word lich or lic, related to the modern German word leiche, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today, as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed. In the eighteenth century, when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined, many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continues to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties.

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Easter faith in atheist Russia

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: '**Christ is risen!**'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, '**He is risen indeed!**' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

Easter Prayer 2024

Almighty, God,

You hold all things in Your hands. You make sense of everything!

So often we only see where we are now, what we feel now, in this moment - but You know the end from the beginning.

In all our troubles, our assurance is in Your sovereignty, in Your mighty act of salvation.

Thank you that, just as after winter comes spring and after night comes morning, so, most gloriously, after death on Good Friday, comes resurrection on Easter Day!

Christ is Risen - and we can know, by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, that **He is risen indeed!**

We can know, in our real and every-day lives, where our help comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank you, living Lord,

In Jesus name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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Give the gift of **DIGNITY** this Mothering Sunday

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Give a Gift of Dignity this Mothering Sunday

www.makeamothersday.org

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

This Mothering Sunday, could you give the Gift of Dignity?

The Mothers' Union has launched 'Make A Mother's Day', its annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign. It hopes to raise funds to support the MU's global community projects, which "transform lives every day."

The MU says: "We know how important mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are, and how much they do to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks."

And so, for Mothering Sunday (10th March) the MU is asking people to buy a 'Gift of Dignity', to help empower women in developing countries to transform their lives, and to reach their full potential.

"When buying these life-changing gifts, you will receive a card that explains your gift along with a Mothering Sunday greetings card, which you can give to a loved one. You are also able to give a gift in memory of someone special."

The Mothers' Union also says: "We look forward to hearing about the events, coffee mornings and church collections you hold to fundraise for our **Make A Mother's Day 2024** campaign." You can tag any posts using #MAMD24 or #MU

The Mothers' Union has been running the 'Make A Mother's Day' campaign since 2006, to celebrate all mothers and caregivers - how they nurture, love and help us to flourish.
<https://mueshop.org/collections/make-a-mothers-day-2024>

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere,
and therefore He made mothers.

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St Hilary's Church Hall, Killay:	Tues	9:45am & 11:00am	Ladies
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St James the Least of All

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'

The Rectory, St James the Least of All

On why pews SHOULD be uncomfortable

My dear Nephew Darren

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

*Pews are **meant** to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 11am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring sub-zero temperatures and damp, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.*

Our pews were built 500 years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter, and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near ears at least helps to keep minds focussed – apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout Mattins every Sunday.

I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible – although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing “let us pray” from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Accession.

I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward-thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick, and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to be brought before they can climb out.

If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation’s religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle
Eustace



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Church Groups

Mothers' Union – fortnightly on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
Tots group – weekly on Monday in term-time
Bowls Club – weekly on Friday evening or Saturday when there is a clash with WBS
Music Society – monthly on 2nd Monday evening of the month
Luncheon Club – monthly on 1st Wednesday

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*Everyone is welcome to our
services, full details of which
are on the back page*

The deadline for articles for the April magazine
is on **Friday 29 March 2024.**

The magazine is printed and published by St Hilary
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The views in the articles reflect the views of the
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*If you have any news or photos you would care to share
please contact Roger Rees*



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Easter Eve or Holy Saturday

Easter Eve is the last day of Lent. It is the day between Good Friday and Easter Day, and represents the one full day that Jesus was dead. It is a day of quiet reflection and anticipation for Christians worldwide.

In various church traditions it is known as Easter Eve, Holy Saturday, the Great Sabbath, Hallelujah Saturday, Saturday of the Glory, and Black Saturday.

Easter Eve is sometimes incorrectly called Easter Saturday. But Easter Saturday is the Saturday following Easter Sunday.

Most churches do not have any services on Easter Eve. In the Catholic Church, the altar remains stripped completely bare. Many Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, and other churches observe many of the same customs as the Catholic Church; however, their altars may be covered in black instead of being stripped.

In the Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Methodist traditions, Easter Eve lasts until nightfall, after which the Easter Vigil is celebrated, marking the official start of the Easter season.

What did Jesus do on that one full day in the grave? Christian understanding varies on this.

The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and most mainline Protestant churches teach that Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday, to save the righteous souls who died before His crucifixion.

The catechism of the Catholic church calls the descent "the last phase of Jesus'

messianic mission," during which He "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before Him."

Often called "the Harrowing of Hell," the dramatic image of Jesus breaking down the doors of Hades has proved almost irresistible to artists, from the painter Hieronymus Bosch to the poet Dante to countless Eastern Orthodox iconographers.

But some Protestants say there is little scriptural evidence for the detour to hell, and that even Jesus' own words contradict it. For on Good Friday, Jesus told the Good Thief crucified alongside Him that "today you will be with Me in Paradise," according to Luke's Gospel."

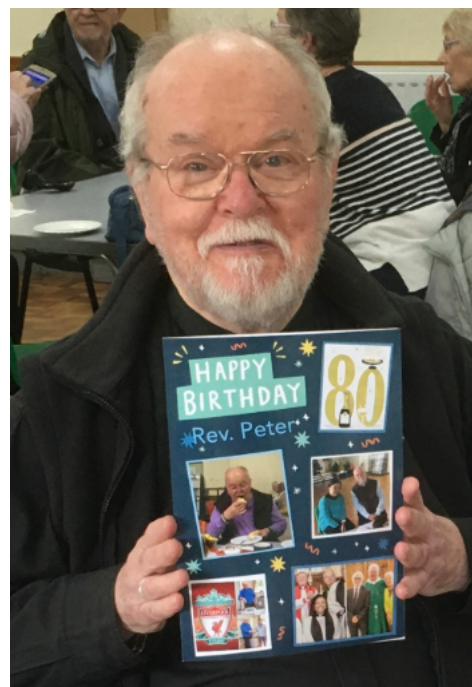
"That's the only clue we have as to what Jesus was doing between death and resurrection," John Piper, a prominent evangelical author and pastor from Minnesota, has said. "I don't think the thief went to hell and that hell is called paradise."

The Bible says little about the interlude between Jesus' death and resurrection. Churches that teach He descended to the realm of the dead usually quote 1 Peter 3:18-20. "Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit," Peter writes. "And it was by the Spirit that He went to preach to the spirits in prison."

The descent might not have become a doctrine if not for a fourth-century bishop named Rufinus, who added that Jesus went ad inferna - to hell - in his commentary on the Apostles' Creed. The phrase stuck, but it was officially added to the influential creed only centuries later.



Mothers' Union "Wave of Prayer" service in February



Celebrating Rev Peter Phillip's 80th Birthday



Ministry Area pupil swap: Tim Ardouin, Peter & Judith Phillips and Mike Powell



Church Services: *St Hilary's & St Martin's*

MARCH	ST HILARY'S KILLAY	ST MARTIN'S DUNVANT
3 Third Sunday of Lent	11.00am Service of the Word <i>Followed by coffee</i>	9.00am Eucharist
7 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
10 Mothering Sunday	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	10.00am Family Worship Lay-led
14 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
17 Passion Sunday	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	9.00am Eucharist
21 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
24 Palm Sunday	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>
28 Maundy Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	6.30pm Service at All Souls Tycosh
29 Good Friday	2.00pm Good Friday Service	
31 EASTER DAY	11.00am East Cluster Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	◀ East Cluster Service

*The magazine of St Hilary & St Martin churches
in the Gower Ministry Area, Diocese of Swansea and Brecon.*

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