



THE MESSSENGER

FEBRUARY 2016



worshipping, sharing, serving, caring ::

Bethany Baptist Church

RBS



NATIONS®

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The live games available here

Saturday 13th February at 5pm

Wales vs Scotland

Friday 26th February at 8.05pm

Wales vs France

Saturday 12th March at 4pm

England vs Wales

Saturday 19th March at 2.30pm

Italy vs Wales

Food and refreshments (non- alcoholic) will be served each time

Donations invited for Church Charities

Live Rugby at Bethany

Show your Passionate Support

Here in Bethany we are always looking for new opportunities to engage with the community, and encourage you to meet with us and use our buildings in Heol Llanishen Fach. Our latest, and hopefully enjoyable, initiative is to install TV equipment in our Church and Hall, as well as purchasing a TV licence for our buildings.

And we will open in February and March to enable you to watch Wales Live here in the Rugby 6 Nations Championship — serving refreshments and rugby style food along the way (inviting donations to our Church charities).

One of the things that has always impressed me about living in Cardiff is the *unbridled passionate support* that the Welsh give to your rugby team, in good times as well as when things are more difficult. There is also no shortage of opinion locally about what Mr Gatland should be doing in terms of team selection and tactics.

Certainly in the Church we want to somehow embrace and nurture this sort of passion, because we also know from our worship and practice that God is passionate about us, and wants us to recognise him in our lives. Bethany exists to both recognise and affirm God's passion to us, and our passionate support back to him.

As you enjoy the Rugby this year — cheering every try and booing every foul — I hope too that you will recognise God's ultimate passion for you, and direct some of the passion in your life toward him in return. The Lord bless you

Phil Dunning (Rev)

The familiar names are there — Captain Mainwaring, Corporal Jones Sergeant Wilson Private Godfrey and that ‘Stupid Boy’ — only the faces are ever-so-slightly different. The comedy TV classic moves to the Silver Screen with Toby Jones, Bill Nighy, Tom Courtenay, Michael Gambon and the bonus of Catherine Zeta Jones



Who are they kidding . . .

Hi and a Happy New Year for 2016 and many exciting and thrilling visits to the movies. Christmas is over. The TV programmes for better or worse finished so it's time to rekindle the flame of desire to go to the cinema. This month I have three movies to wet your appetite

Dad's Army moves from the small screen which has entertained us for many years to the Silver Screen of the cinema. It is 1944 and World War II is reaching its climax. In Walmington-on-sea the Home guard morale is low. Then MI 5 discovers there is a spy on the loose and, therefore, the outcome of the war is suddenly at stake. It falls to our unlikely heroes to stand up and be counted.

Here then begins the next part of the story of *Dad's Army* on the Silver Screen. This production stars Bill Nighy, Toby Jones, Catherine Zeta Jones and on all-star cast which also includes the Michael Gambon Tom Courteney.

Speaking personally, I have always found a re-make is not as good as the original. In this case I leave you to come to your own conclusion. As for me it is a great visit to the cinema visit to be enjoyed by all the family.

The Revenant is a movie that has been inspired by the true story of an American legendary explorer Hugh Glass. In this story Glass is attacked by a bear and left for dead by his own team mates. In a quest for survival Glass endures unimaginable dangers in this thrilling adventure. Leonardo Dicaprio is cast as Hugh Glass

and his performance has been nominated for an Academy Award.

Brooklyn is a romantic period drama based on an award winning novel by

Initial feelings of homesickness soon fade when she falls in love with an Italian-American named Tom. She is soon brought back to earth when a family tragedy calls her back home to Ireland. On her return to Brooklyn Eilis has to make a choice between two men and two countries. Keep the tissues handy ladies. It's a movie well worth two seats on the back row. It stars Saoirse Ronan — Julie Walters and Jim Broadbent.

As I wrote this review my Christian faith reminded me of:

- The futile act of war.**
- The need to choose loyal and faithful friends.**
- That making the right choice in the affairs of the heart is vital.**

A SEAT AT THE MOVIES



with Rev Sam Highway

Colm Toibin. Eilis Lacey moves from a small town in Ireland to Brooklyn America in the hope of a brighter future.

Take care

Sam Highway (Rev)

Noon day prayer for our leaders

Earlier this year the people at Lime Walk Methodist Church, Headington, Oxford, committed themselves to pray daily at 12 noon and or 8pm, for World Leaders that they may be guided to make wise decisions as they struggle with increasing violence in the Middle East. The situation regarding the self-styled Isis state and refugee crisis poses major problems for the World Leaders as they discuss how to proceed.

Following the terrible violence in Paris, which has shocked all of us and reminded us of our own vulnerability, will readers of the Messenger, of all faiths and none, join in this discipline, and either pray for World Leaders, or reflect on the situation daily at 12 noon or 8pm.

Inspired by Morfydd Saunders

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CARDIFF

Tools for Self Reliance



The Club are collecting old or broken garden / carpentry / sewing / builders tools which will be refurbished at workshops in Crickhowell and sent to artisans in Tanzania and other African countries.

If you can help us with this very worthy cause please e-mail dafyddthomas1@googlemail.com or phone Cardiff 2061 4242

Members will be pleased to collect tools or they can be delivered to premises in Rhiwbina. We are also now collecting spectacles and hearing aids for recycling and forwarding to needy communities abroad.

We are also seeking 'readers' for Herbert Thompson Primary School in Ely in order to improve children's reading skills. Non Rotarians welcome

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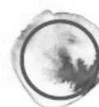
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FEBRUARY SERVICES

- 7th:** 10.30am: Morning Service including Holy Communion. Led by our Minister Rev Phil Dunning
6.00pm Joint Ecumenical Communion Service at Beulah URC
- 14th:** 10.30am Morning Service for the First Sunday of Lent, including Holy Communion
Led by Rev Sam Highway
4.00pm **Lighthouse Service for Children and Youth and the young at heart**
- 21st:** 10.30am: Morning Service including Holy Communion.
6.00pm Evening Service in the Main Hall.
Both services conducted by our Minister
- 28th:** 10.30am: Morning Service including Holy Communion.
6.00pm Evening Service in the Main Hall.
Services conducted by our Minister
.....

Every Blessing to the two Peters

We in Bethany wish **Rev Peter Cruchley-Jones**, Minister at Beulah URC, every blessing with his impending marriage to Lena Borges and their move together to Singapore. We also wish a speedy recovery to **Rev Peter Mortimer**, Vicar at All Saints, following his recent stroke.

CHURCH HOLIDAY

Rev Phil Dunning and Cliff Vincent are again organising a Church holiday, travelling this year to Great Yarmouth and the Norfolk Broads on June 13. Cost will be £289.99 a person. Booking forms are now available.

BETHANY FELLOWSHIP DINING GROUP,

which has grown out of the bi-monthly evening Fellowship that has now ended, will hold its first meal at the new Ty Glas Harvesters restaurant, Ty Glas Avenue, Llanishen on Wednesday, February 10. For further details and booking contact Duncan Hockridge 02920626111 or 07870362607, e-mail: duncan3@hotmail.co.uk We are grateful to Duncan for organising this initiative.

VALENTINE VIEWPOINT

A Message from a guest writer
Rev Chris Burr
of St Denys' Church, Lisvane

What is Love?

AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN ANONYMOUS GREETINGS CARD FOR SOMEONE YOU LOVE ...

It is almost Valentine's Day once again but I wonder how many know where its roots lie?

In the English language there is but one word for love but in Greek — the language of the New Testament — there are actually four and each means something quite different.

'*Philia*' portrays the often powerful bond of love and loyalty shared between friends and family.

'*Storge*' meanwhile describes the arguably unique love and natural empathy of a parent towards their children.

Most of us, however, would imagine that St Valentine's Day is a celebration of a rather different type of love — something more romantic or passionate.

But actually if we look at St Valentine himself, the patron of this particular day, we find that our celebration is grounded in something else altogether.

St Valentine — although we don't know much about him — was a Christian martyr who helped Christians during the persecution under Claudius II. Valentine would perform marriages for Christians, which was totally forbidden, and generally worked to protect and help followers of Christ. For this he was duly arrested, clubbed, stoned and ultimately beheaded. For this he was ultimately canonised and became known as 'St Valentine of Rome'.

Valentine comes from the term *valens* meaning *worthy, strong, powerful* and St Valentine certainly proved a brave follower of Jesus, who stood up for love and truth and gave his life for the gospel.

And that rather better represents the Biblical image of God's love for us and our call to similarly love him. The Greek word often used to portray God's love is '*Agape*' which is born out of commitment and sacrifice most evident, of course, in Jesus' sacrificial death on the Cross.

Arguably the most famous Bible verse (John 3 v 16) depicts this amazing and committed love that God has for us:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

Every blessing

Rev Chris

LOVE is patient
is kind

It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres

LOVE NEVER FAILS — 1 Corinthians 13 v 4,7-8

Punctuate your life — full stop

What was it my wife said the other day? It was something unusual. "If I don't go to church on Sunday then my week is without punctuation."

What she meant I had no idea. Is there a link between time and controlling the ways in which we speak and write and give meaning and significance to the words we use? Punctuation has to do with speaking and writing but it can be changed in a passage and meaning and understanding is altered.

Has this anything to do with what my wife said? There are many punctuation marks. Could she have been referring to each one? Surely not. What does going to church have to do with apostrophes, hyphens, asterisks, ellipses?

Nothing surely. Following a brief period for silent meditation I realised what she had meant: the punctuation marks indicating a pause in a passage. She meant the full stop, a colon: the semi-colon; the comma,

Going to church was a break in the weekly time-line; a pause in the way she lived her life day after day. Many people complain that life's repeating patterns are

boring and they need a break. Does my wife feel like that? Is so, then church on Sunday is the day of change. What is the old saying? *A change is a good as a rest.* There's a break in the routine. There's newness, renewal, refreshment. Dare I say it? Variety is the spice of life.

God knew what he was doing when, on the seventh day of creation, he rested. In Exodus 20 v 8 we read, "Observe the Sabbath and keep it Holy. You have six days in which to do your work but the seventh day is a day of rest dedicated to me."

So my wife has put a vivid personal interpretation on the Fourth Commandment. Keeping the Fourth Commandment refreshes her life as a whole and inspires each and every day. The pause punctuates her life. The day of rest refreshes and invigorates all of life around her.

Praise God for the full stop — and the comma of Thursday also (such as for our 30-minute service in Bethany). A break and a rest are not just a brief cessation of work but are a spur to carry on — renewed.

To lay aside your work for a brief period is helpful but remember it is a time

to worship the Lord. Worship breaks do matter; they replenish life. Rest in the Lord — wait patiently for him. Review your Punctuation. Full stop.

*Master speak! Your servant's listening,
Waiting for your gracious word,
For your gladdening voice I'm longing;
Master, let it now be heard.
As I listen, Lord I pray,
Speak your word to me today!*

*Master, speak! and make me ready,
When your voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.
As I listen, Lord, I pray:
Master, speak to me today!*

Francis Ridley Havergal 1856-79
Baptist Praise and Worship hymn book
alt 536

The Lord be will you all

J Randall Morgan (Rev)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

EVERGREENS have a varied programme of speakers plus outings and, of course, time for the all-important cup of tea, biscuits and a chat. You will find the programme every month in the *Messenger* or you can contact Viv Francis on 2088 5389. Evergreens starts at 2.30pm.

February 2: Other peoples gardens with Sheena Crossley. **9:** Entertainment with the Ukulele Band. **16:** No meeting half-term. **23:** What does she do in that Shed? with Pat Johnston.

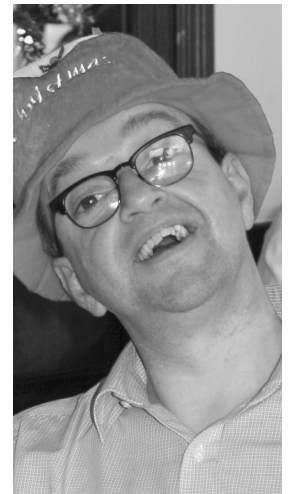
March 1: St David's Day with Wyn Calvin.

THURSDAY MORNING SERVICES

10am-10.30am. Members of all denominations — or none for that matter — are welcome to listen to talks, messages and music in this informal mid-week interlude:

February 4: Rev Randall Morgan. **11:** Rev Phil Dunning. **18:** Rev Phil Dunning. **25:** Miss Margaret Wensley, of Park End Presbyterian Church. **March 3:** Rev Randall Morgan. **10** to be confirmed. **17:** Rev Phil Dunning. **24:** Rev Randall Morgan. **31:** Rev Sam Highway.

WHITCHURCH, RHIWBINA & BIRCHGROVE MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP Meet at 10.15am-10.45am the last Saturday of every month. February 27, meeting in Bethel Baptist Church, Penline Road, Whitchurch.



Despite the stormy conditions with waves battering the now well photographed lighthouse and sea foam covering the road like a heavy snowfall, Bethany's Evergreens finished the year in style with their Christmas lunch at the Atlantic Hotel in Porthcawl. We even had some men along to join in the festivities.

We enter 2016 looking forward to our Golden Anniversary celebration in the Autumn and we would invite any ladies — or gentlemen — who find they have a free Tuesday afternoon to join us.

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