



## Our Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-38

## Sunday Podcasts

of each Morning Prayer are available after the service on YouTube. The address is at the bottom at the page.

## A time to speak

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel - see bottom of main page.

## Swansea Asylum Seeker Support - SASS

Throughout the pandemic we have continued to support our asylum seeker and refugee friends. We are grateful for your positive response to appeals we have made over the years.

Several families have recently arrived in Swansea. If you have plates and mugs, blankets and men's jumpers, in good condition, we would be pleased to receive them.

Please contact Sandra Morton (01792 473569) or Margaret Lamb (07719916704) if you can help.

Thank you

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH IS OPEN AGAIN THIS SUNDAY.  
BE SURE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Martin Luther the great Reformer once said:

“People go through three conversions: The conversion of their head, their heart, and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time.”

He was of course referring to the fact that true and full Christian conversion, in its fullest sense, involves the whole person and the whole life. Each part of the process—or ‘conversions’—has its own particular challenge but I suspect in this materialistic age in which we live that the last part is the most difficult for some. And in hard times—such as the ones we are living in—it is even greater. But I have to say that in terms of the response of the good people of St. James to our own financial situation, especially of paying the Parish Share, a large number of you have risen to the challenge and are giving regularly to God’s work. As a result, despite the closure of the Church and Church hall, and the income that comes with both, you have responded magnificently to the request to give by direct debit or standing order and other ways. And I thought it important to thank you for your continuing commitment.

St. James has to find over £31,000 every year—and rising—just to have a Vicar, maintain the Vicarage and support the work of the Church in Wales. This is without bills, insurance, ground maintenance and other ongoing expenses. Prior to the lockdown a committed team of volunteers helped supplement giving and hall hire with all kinds of imaginative fund-raising events which were also aimed at encouraging the social cohesion and community of the church as well as outreach to the community. That has all gone by the board for the moment and so we were concerned how the year would pan out financially. But thanks to you we look like reaching the end of 2020 free from debt and having paid—with generous discounts from the Church in Wales—the full Parish share.

We do not know what the New Year will bring—although thanks be to God He knows—but for now we are in the black and that is in no small measure down to you.

Keep it up and God bless you all.

Mark

## Collect and Readings for the Second Sunday before Advent:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Zephaniah 17: 12 - end Psalm 90: 1 - 8 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11 Matthew 25: 14 - 30

**Thank you** for the extra donations received this week for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal, enabling another 5 boxes to be added to the 20 already ordered online. Operation Christmas Child have sent this message in response:

“Thank you on behalf of the children who will receive shoebox gifts this year. You’ll bring a big smile to a child’s face, and let them know that they are loved and not forgotten”.

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:**

**[www.stjamesswansea.org.uk](http://www.stjamesswansea.org.uk)**

**St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:**  
**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr\\_KnOkSv6qQA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoNVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/)**

**The Vicar’s New blog can be found here:** [sonofzebedee.blogspot.com](http://sonofzebedee.blogspot.com)

## Eco Church

Ecochurch has been very quiet for the last few months. There seems to have been a lot else to think about.... However, last Saturday I attended my first Living Streets (Uplands) zoom call and I got very enthused with things which are under discussion in the Uplands / Brynmill area, much of which is in our parish. I hope to share more of these with you over the coming weeks. But in the meantime, what is Living Streets?

Living Streets is a National Organisation working at grass roots level looking at issues from the point of view of pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife/ biodiversity. At the local area meeting we discussed issues ranging from cycle routes between Uplands and the City centre; crossing Sketty Road; wildlife corridors in Primrose Hill; the triangular green at the bottom of Cwmdonkin Park; walking routes between Townhill and Uplands; mapping and making safer/ more accessible the back lanes of Uplands; food growing/ works of art in the back lanes; Childrens' play within parks; and the Room to Grow scheme being rolled out in HMO's in the Brynmill area. There are so many ideas of how to make our area better and greener. More information to follow in the coming weeks! Meanwhile if you'd like to get involved please message me.

Jenny Wyatt

## Five Questions

This week we welcome another contributor to Five Questions:

1. What is your name? - Tom Connor (Professor Thomas Connor at work)
2. Where were you born? - Harlow, Essex
3. What is your earliest memory of Church? - Probably one of my younger brothers' christenings, although probably my main memory of this was standing up to do a short speech, aged 4, after the service.
4. When did the Christian faith become important to you? - So I can't remember not believing in God, but I wouldn't say the Christian faith became important to me until I was in my teens. My father died suddenly when I was 8, and I remember praying (and, literally, crying out) to God to undo what had been done, and it took quite a while to get over that loss, and that pain, which I certainly partly blamed God for. Towards the end of my time at senior school, I felt moved to 'become a Christian' as it were, and we had a new chaplain join the School. It was through that - talking with him and through confirmation lessons that he ran for a small group of us in my year - that I finally accepted what I believe, and became a Christian.
5. What is your favourite Bible verse and why? - Has to be:

*"But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31

As for why, well, for me this verse is enormously uplifting and speaks to the promise and relationship that we have in the Lord, all rendered in one beautiful verse.

Like everyone I face (and have faced) difficulties in life. And this verse speaks to the promise that the Lord is with us, and that if we turn to Him and trust in Him, then He will provide what we need. I remember hearing the footprints in the sand poem when I was in primary school, and that image has always really resonated with me. When I look back on my life to date, I can reflect on those times when the Lord has carried me, and when He has laid a path out for me. This verse, to my mind, both reflects that lived experience, and brings me solace and encouragement for the future.

## Contact information

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark, at: [stjamesuplands1@googlegmail.com](mailto:stjamesuplands1@googlegmail.com)  
Home phone number: (01792) 470532  
The Parish Website can be found at: [www.stjameswanssea.org.uk](http://www.stjameswanssea.org.uk)

## Acts of the Apostles

Every Tuesday for an hour we are looking at the Book of Acts via Zoom. Interested? Email the Vicar at the address below.

**Please let him know if you want to join anytime and he will send you an invite.**

## Important dates

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
7pm Zoom Bible Study  
The Book of Acts

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
7pm Zoom  
congregational meeting

## Quick quotes

"If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life". *Billy Graham*

"Water is useful to the ship and helps it to sail better to the haven, but let the water get into the ship, if it is not pumped out, it drowns the ship. So riches are useful and convenient for our passage. We sail more comfortably with them through the troubles of this world; but if the water gets into the ship, if love of riches gets into the heart, then we are drowned by them".

*Thomas Watson  
Puritan Writer*

## Quick quips:

What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?  
Because they have mass.