

# St. James Parish Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020



## 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 Sunday Morning Service are available after the service on YouTube.

## A time to speak

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel.

The address for both is at the bottom of the page.

## The Bible in 50 words

God made,  
Adam bit,  
Noah arked,  
Abraham split,  
Joseph ruled,  
Jacob fooled,  
bush talked,  
Moses balked,  
Pharaoh plagued,  
people walked,  
sea divided,  
tablets guided,  
promise landed,  
Saul freaked,  
David peeked,  
prophets warned,  
Jesus born,  
God walked,  
love talked,  
anger crucified,  
hope died,  
Love rose,  
Spirit flamed,  
Word spread,  
God remained.

*A bucket of surprises*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Historically the Anglican Church has been a Biblical Church. By that I mean that the Bible is the basis of what it believes and practises. And anything proposed that in any way contradicts what is written in the Bible is to be rejected. Why? Because it may undermine or prevent God's work of salvation through Christ. This is emphasized by Article 6 of the 39 Articles drawn up by Thomas Cranmer entitled: "Of the sufficiency of the holy Scriptures for salvation". It clearly states:

*Holy Scripture contains all things necessary for salvation. Consequently, whatever is not read in Scripture nor can be proved from Scripture cannot be demanded from any person to believe it as an article of the faith. Nor is any such thing to be thought necessary or required for salvation. By holy Scripture is meant those canonical books of the Old and New Testaments whose authority has never been doubted within the church.*

This Sunday is traditionally known as Bible Sunday. It is a day not only for celebrating God's gift to us of the Holy Scriptures, but also for the Church to continually remind its people that they must continue to be 'people of the Book' and ensure that they read and think about it on a daily basis. Therefore I cannot state strongly enough the importance of DAILY reading the Bible as a necessary Christian discipline.

Discipline is not always a pleasant thing, and can sometimes be hard work. But it is hard work with a reward. What professional pianist is not thankful for the toil of scales and arpeggios when it comes to playing—end enjoying—great music? And what footballer or athlete is not grateful for the hours of training that enables him or her to enjoy their sport. To shy away from the daily discipline of reading the Scriptures is to deprive yourself not only of joy, but also of knowing God better and being on more intimate and friendly terms with Him.

And so can I commend to you this site:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/>

Here you will find several different reading plans that will help you read the Bible every day. I promise you that if you persevere for a year you will not only feel a sense of achievement but you will draw nearer to God in the process.. and if you have any questions I will be only too glad to help you.

God bless,

Mark

## Collect for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Readings

Isaiah 55.6 - 11   Romans 15: 4 - 13   Psalm 119: 102 - 105   John 5: 24 - 40



**Many thanks** to everyone who generously contributed gifts or money for the Christmas gift bags that we shall be delivering to children of asylum seekers and refugees the week after next. We hope to fill over 80 bags.   Sandra & Margaret

**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)

## Ecochurch News

As promised, two of the items from the current Living Streets plans... Firstly, Living Streets will be meeting with a member of the Council's Highways department to consider the traffic lights by Boots in the Uplands. I'm sure many of us find that when crossing there we need to scurry across the road. To make the shopping area more pedestrian-friendly we want to increase the amount of time pedestrians have to cross the road. I'll keep you posted....

Secondly. How many have noticed a small green triangle just below Cwmdonkin Park? Opposite the hairdressers'. It has become rather neglected. There is a plan to put bird and bat boxes up once the winter pruning takes place and the hope is that the path can be resurfaced (which needs doing anyway) but this time using natural materials. So, watch this small green space.  
*Jenny Wyatt*

## Five Questions

This week we welcome another contributor to Five Questions:

1. What is your name? - Elaine Francis
2. Where were you born? - Ystalyfera, a small mining village in the Swansea Valley
3. What is your earliest memory of Church? - My earliest memory is attending Jerusalem, a Welsh Methodist chapel, at the age of four. I worshipped there until I got married and moved to Swansea.
4. When did the Christian faith become important to you? - My faith has always played an important part in my life, but a message conveyed in a sermon preached at St James' one Sunday morning had a profound and emotional effect on my outlook on the Christian faith. At that moment, I realised that I needed to attain a greater closeness to God that perhaps, without realising it, I had taken for granted. Spending time with God in prayer and bible reading is now an important part of my daily life. My sincere thanks to Mark for his support and guidance. Diolch i Mark am ei gefnogaith.
5. What is your favourite Bible verse and why? - My favourite verse is from Matthew 7 v. 7. "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."  
Because it is a great comfort to know that through prayer, Jesus is always there to offer help and guidance at all times.

## THEY MISSED HIM!

They were looking for a lion, he came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a warrior, He came as a Peacemaker, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a king, He came as a Servant, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for liberation from Rome, He submitted to the Roman state, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a fit to their mould, He was the mould breaker, and they missed Him. Will you?

## Ecclesiastical misprints

The following are some famous misprints in Bibles over the years:

**Wife-hater Bible:** An 1810 version read, "If any man come to me, and hate not....his own wife [instead of life], he cannot be my disciple".

**The Wicked Bible** 1631 reported the seventh commandment as "Thou shalt commit adultery", a mistake that infuriated King Charles. He ordered all the copies destroyed and fined the printers whose hands had touched the edition.

**The Murderer's Bible:** This 19<sup>th</sup>-century faux pas had Mark 7:27 as "Let the children be killed", instead of "filled".

## Important dates

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7pm  
Zoom Bible Study The Book of Acts

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

## Alternative Christmas Song

You'd better watch out  
You'd better not sneeze,  
You' mustn't hold parties  
And do as you please.  
The Covid Warden's  
comin' to town.

He's making a list  
And checking it twice  
If you're breaking the rules  
He'll be round in a trice  
The Covid Warden's  
comin' to town.

He watches you at weekends  
He's wise to all the tricks  
He knows if you've  
been assembling  
In a group of more than six.  
Oh! You'd better watch out  
he's ever so keen  
Don't spread it about  
Or you'll have to quarantine.  
The Covid Warden's  
comin' to town.

*Sent in by Helen Warner*

## Bible Sunday quotes

"Every word in the Bible  
points to Christ".

*Martin Luther*

"Christ is figured in the Law,  
foretold in the prophets  
and fulfilled in the Gospel".

*Henry Smith*

"I have worked over the bible,  
prayed over the Bible for more  
than 60 years, and I tell you  
there is no book like the Bible.  
It is a miracle of literature, a  
perennial spring of wisdom, a  
wonderful book of surprises, a  
revelation of mystery, an  
infallible guide of conduct, an  
unspeakable source of  
comfort."

*Samuel Chadwick*

"The source of all our troubles  
is not knowing the Scriptures".

*St. John Chrysostom*

## Contact information

For all contributions to the newsletter please email the Vicar, Mark, at: [stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com](mailto:stjamesuplands1@googlemail.com)

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