



HEART OF MONMOUTHSHIRE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 16–Harvest ‘26



Letter from the Rector

Dear friends,



And just like that, Harvest season in church is over for another year. Of course, the harvest is never really over is it? Farmers gather crops at all times of the year, and the global harvest is relentless. We are very grateful for that of course, and it makes me reflect on how different life is. I grew up in the garden of England, Kent. My grandmother picked fruit for a living, and my great grandad was a hop stringer – stilts and everything! These days I buy strawberries to accompany Christmas treats, and finding a beer brewed with Kentish hops is really rather tricky! We seem to have embraced a global economy for the things we want! I am also aware of those of us who try hard to grow our own food, to buy and eat local produce, and to be mindful of food miles. Global stewardship is after all, something we are all aware of, even if we sometimes find it hard to be active about.

I had a long conversation with our children recently about “doing our bit”. Some of us boycott certain companies, others of us try to reduce our carbon footprint. Others again seek out ethical banking options, whilst some are ferocious recyclers. We are a large family and every single one of us was doing something unique, alongside the shared efforts to respond carefully to the environment, the climate, and the stewardship of God’s creation that we are called to be part of. It made me reflect that we can’t all do everything, but we can all do something. Perhaps that is all that God asks of us? That we do our best, given the energy and time that we have, to share our talents, be mindful of our place in this world, and to love our neighbour with as much heart as we can possibly offer.

As the evenings draw in and we think about whether or not to turn on the heating, perhaps it is time to think about a different type of harvest – a harvest of generous and thoughtful living, so that God’s creation can breathe a little more freely, and we can say that we have contributed to the earth’s bounty in a positive way? For myself, I’m going to be more thoughtful about the origins of my food this winter, and try to refrain from buying lots of out of season produce. It’s not a huge thing to do perhaps, but every little helps (where have I heard that before?!?!?) What might you think about doing to respect the earth that God has entrusted to us? Will you join me in trying a little harder to be the difference that is needed?

With my love and prayers for you all,

Sally xx

The Reverend Canon Sally Ingle-Gillis,

Rector and Area Dean. Heart of Monmouthshire Ministry Area

News and Views from around the Ministry Area



St Aeddan's Bettws Newydd

On 24 May Bettws Newydd Church held their first Spring Sale of locally grown produce. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated plants, seeds, pots and made cakes to kick start the fundraising for the phase 2 programme of works – the re-pointing of the external

stonework. We were very lucky with the weather which meant the sale could take place in the churchyard with refreshments served from the porch. Thanks to the great generosity of those who came we have made a good start on raising funds for this much needed next phase of works.



Our Harvest Festival on September 20th included a very generous collection of tins and packets for the food bank which was delivered to St Cadoc's Raglan. They made a good showing on the shelves but all disappeared very quickly. The joy of the service was greatly enhanced by the organ music, played by David from the village.

On Sunday 27th September Frances Pemberton very kindly hosted a 'Wine and Wander' event at Trostreyl Lodge which gave people a chance to see her beautiful walled garden.

There were also various items for sale and it gave us a chance to launch our Christmas Draw, first prize in which is a beautiful original painting of the church, which has been framed so that it is all ready to grace anyone's wall. The draw will take place at the annual Carol singing on Christmas Eve in the Bettws Newydd village hall.



Clare Bradly



St Peter's Bryngwyn

The tale of the three mice

Before I come to the story of the headline I will continue with where I left off last time by telling you how we have made use of our new area without pews!

We did hold a coffee morning in the church and our new area was most admired – lots of people came and sat around chatting while drinking coffee and eating cake. That's one thing that all our churches do well – make and eat cake!

The area has also been used for a LCC meeting, our entertainments committee meeting and a meeting with our sound engineer about a new upgraded system we hope to install (faculty permitting!). So, we are making good use of the upgrade.

The entertainments committee meeting was to plan our harvest lunch – this we had on Sunday 11th October. Fr Will took a lovely eucharistic harvest service in a beautifully decorated church with a good-sized congregation. We then proceeded to Crawley Hall just down the road for our usual lunch of salads, puddings, cheese all washed down with cider or orange juice. Around 65 people attended including three vicars – hence the tale of the three mice because knowing that we would be supported by Rev Dr Fr Will and Rev Canon Stephen (who I call our half vicar as he takes half our services), and also Rev Canon Sally who joined us for lunch after her morning service and before going to Llantrisant in the afternoon, I had previously added a family of mice to our harvest loaf so that all three were able to have a mouse each!



With the usual raffle and an enormous amount of support towards the costs plus the collection in church, we raised almost £1,500. If you add to that the amount raised at the coffee morning of £500 that's £2,000 towards our next projects – the sound system and a new churchyard notice board.

As you can tell we are a busy little church, everyone is welcome to join for our events the next being our shared Carol Service with the Catholic Church from Llanarth, to be held this year in Bryngwyn on December 17th at 7.00 p.m. We would love you to come and share our hospitality.

Kay Spencer



Christchurch, Coed-y-paen

We enjoyed a lovely Harvest Service with Rev'd Bill, lots of villagers bringing their harvest gifts to decorate the Church. Our friends from Llanbadoc joined us to celebrate Thanksgiving. We were delighted to see a lovely couple Courtney and Levi, who got married last year in Christchurch and Baptised with their children. They kindly gave a generous donation to Christchurch. We all hope they will continue to come and see us when they can.



More people were able to join us at the Carpenters afterwards for our Harvest supper. The wonderful harvest gifts raised £252 for UNICEF at our auction which was a super end to our lovely evening.



Richard and Charlotte from the "Carpenters " have also given a donation to the church from the evening which was extremely generous of them , thank you for the special relationship we have with our Village Pub it makes a huge difference !!

My sincere thanks to everyone for decorating the Church , their wonderful harvest gifts and for being part of a truly special Village Harvest celebration.



Please look carefully at the amazing Harvest Loaf on the Altar made by Amy and Rowan Morley ... it's a work of art!!! We all enjoyed eating it with our harvest soup and cheese !! We now look forward to our next Special Church event our Christmas Eve Carol Service.

Cilla Davies



St Michael's Glascoed

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated. But two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better. For a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12). So, we stand on a precipice as a church. The past 12 months have seen a rallying of the community, moving beyond the "triple-braided cord" towards a strength that will serve us well in the tug-of-war for the future.

The dilemma: -

The dwindling congregation resulted in services ceasing at St Michael's, so the future became very uncertain. Yet a frisson of connection rippled through the village. As always in situations such as this, leaders surfaced and troops were mobilised. WhatsApp groups were created, events organised, the lights went on, food provided, and the doors thrown open, revealing potential and opportunity. The church was once again filled with conversation, laughter, and purpose.

Where does this leave us?

We now have tangible community support and, more importantly, possibilities. The work undertaken over the past 12 months has culminated in a consultation period centred on four potential paths:

1. A Community Hall where the building ceases to be a place of worship and is acquired by the community;
2. A Community Resource and Festival Church in which St Michael's remains a church but is developed for substantial community use alongside occasional and festival worship;
3. St Michael's re-opens as an active parish church with regular worship;
4. Closure and Sale - St Michael's closes permanently as a church and the building is sold.

As we dangle over these choices by the strong braids of community and connection, we are also acutely aware of the significant financial implications that slice away and fray hope.

Ultimately, the future of St Michael's will depend not simply on the strength of its walls, but on whether we can turn the bonds we have forged into a shared determination to keep its heart beating at the centre of our community. Rhys Clewer





St Peter's Goetre

On August 22nd members of St Peter's took part in the village Family Fun Day. They manned a "Human Fruit Machine" which proved a popular source of amusement to young and old alike, as well as supporting church funds.



St Peter's Goetre held a most enjoyable Apple Pie Tea in church on September 19th, a friendly community occasion with visitors from neighbouring churches. The Harvest Festival was held the next day, with delicious apple cakes after the service. Thank you to those who provided and gathered apples so that local produce could be used. The church was resplendent with flowers and fruit, "Idwal's arch" being as beautiful as ever! Thank you to the Goytre Floristry Group for adding their expertise to the church decorations. Harvest gifts were donated to the Eastern Valleys Food Bank.

The Goetre Wellbeing Café held its annual outing in August. This took the form of a mystery tour with its destination in Tintern, rounded off with afternoon tea and entertainment at the Abbey Mill Tea Rooms. The Cafe meets in Goetre Village Hall on the first, third (and fifth) Monday mornings between 10.30 and 12, and provides companionship and support for the older members of the local community.

During this year St Peter's has added some different services to the schedule. On Tuesdays at 12.30pm there is a reflective 30 minute said Communion Service and on the second Sunday of the month a Sung Evensong. Morning Prayer on Zoom continues on Wednesdays at 10am. All are welcome to these services and details can be found on the back of the weekly pew sheet. It is lovely to welcome friends from other churches in the district.

Looking ahead, St Peter's Church will hold its annual charity bazaar on the evening of Friday November 27th. Raffle tickets for church funds are available from Jan Millett and members of the congregation.



St Bartholomew's, Llanover

Church members provided refreshments for the Rare Plants sale and Open Gardens held at Llanover House on September 20th. The occasion was blessed with good weather and was a great success.

The Harvest Festival was held on October 4th. Thanks to an 11am start to the service the church revived the tradition of a Harvest lunch afterwards. A ploughman's meal was enjoyed by the congregation, complementing the theme of "ploughing and scattering". Thank you to the wonderful catering team at St Bartholomew's for all their hard work.

St Bartholomew's Church Hall hosts a range of activities. Two regular events are Over 50s Ladies Keep Fit on Mondays at 10am and a monthly lunch for seniors. Bookings and information from Sarah: sarahsymondson@btinternet.com

St Matthew's Monkwood



A joyful and well attended Harvest festival was held on September 20th. The church was beautifully decorated, as always. Special thanks to Andrea Jones and Moira Shepherdson for their artistry, and to our small but faithful group who work behind the scenes. Harvest gifts were abundant and were given to St Cadoc's Food Pantry in Raglan.



In the absence of a working organ, we are making use of a keyboard, supplemented by our venerable harmonium which can still make a "joyful noise unto the Lord."



St Illtyd's Mamhilad

Harvest was celebrated on October 11th with a family friendly service with apple cakes to follow. The sermon was replaced with group discussions related to giving our time and talents to the work of the church.

The latest HoMMA walk was led by Gaynor Pritchard, exploring the beautiful Mamhilad district on the north western edge of the Ministry Area.

Lesley Evans

All Saints church, Kemeys Commander and St. David's Church, Trostrey.



No news from Kemeys other than the ongoing movement of the wall (never fear John Harris is on the case!)



A joyful Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held in a beautifully decorated St David's during which members of the congregation were tested by Rev'd Hannah on their knowledge of fruit and vegetables!

Hilary Rebeiro





St Madoc's Llanbadoc

The Red Shed Is RED Again!

Erected by public subscription from the local parishioners in the late 1890's, the Parish room is a 60ft by 80ft building, constructed of timber and corrugated metal sheeting.



Always referred to by the St. Madoc's church people, as the Parish Hall, it later became known as the Red Shed due to its proximity to the Red Shed Meadow, which was the site of an earlier abattoir. During the 1920's and 1930's it was used regularly for dances - the floor was renowned locally as being perfect for dancing - also whist drives and flower shows.

At the end of the Second World War, a victory tea party was held in the hall, attended by 120 adults and children. Presided over by Councillor R. Williams, Rev. Hasluck and Mr. George Purvis (principal at MIA) each child received 6d. There were sports and the community singing was accompanied by the music of Bert Bishop of Griffithstown. It was also the venue for couples' wedding receptions after having been married at St. Madoc's church.

1952 was the year that the Red Shed was suggested as a possible venue for a cinema to be run by Mr. Lewison of Tal Ywain. Having agreed to a charge of £1 per night, plus power used, the first film was shown a few years later.

The last film was shown in 1968. The hall was heated by a coal fired stove, ice-creams were sold during the interval and the seating came courtesy of a bus company! The stage was extended in 1954 and later uses included parish children's parties, church social functions, Mothers' Union meetings and Autumn Fayres. The girl guide meetings were held here until 1998. It was refurbished in the 1980's by the Youth Opportunity Programme scheme and turned green. It is listed on the "Corrugated Buildings" website.

It is currently being used for monthly sales, for the benefit of St. Madoc's church and other local charities.

Rosemary Evans



St Tegfedd, Llandegfedd

In this little rural church, Harvest Festival is a particularly poignant celebration for us. The Church was beautifully decorated with fresh apples and quinces (now crumble and jam) and late-blooming flowers from the garden. And we took a generous car-load of canned and dry goods to the ever-needy

Croesy Food Hub afterwards.

Onwards to Remembrance – 10.45 on 8 November, complete with young bugler from Gwent Music and the usual spectacular decorations courtesy of The Flower Den in Caerleon. Come and celebrate with us the contribution of those who gave their lives for our freedom - wear their medals and honour their memory

Robert Aitken





St. John's, Llandenny

We had an uplifting service at Lammas at the beginning of August, when we celebrated the first cutting of the harvest and the children made some scarecrows.

We then celebrated at the beginning of October the gathering in of all the harvest and the church

was beautifully decorated and gifts were donated for the food bank in Raglan.



A craft group has been meeting over the summer to swop ideas for items to make for the Winter Fair in the Village Hall in the afternoon of Saturday 21 November, a great time of fellowship together. We are planning to light a candle every morning during December in the church at 9.00am with a very short Taizé service to which all are welcome.



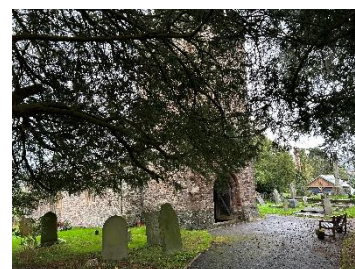
Sue Russell

St Cybi's Llangybi



St Cybi's church celebrated Harvest on September 20th with the Rev'd. Sally taking the service and a very large Harvest loaf of bread as a centre piece. This took place in the Village Hall, where shortly beforehand a Harvest breakfast was held and was enjoyed by all who attended.

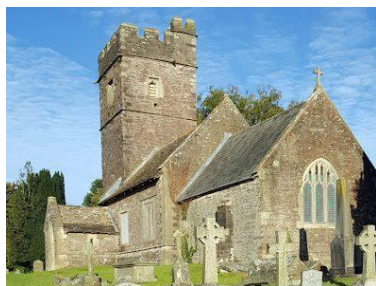
In order to save costs (and keep warm!), the 11 a.m. service on the third Sunday of each month from November to March inclusive will also be held in the hall. In the Christmas period there will be a Carol Service in the church on December 21st at 6 p.m., followed by mulled wine in the hall afterwards; on Christmas Day there will be a service at 11 a.m. in the church. On 29th January there will be a Bois y Bryn Sea Shanty concert in the church at 7 p.m.; tickets will be available in due course. Everybody is of course welcome to any or all of these events. The Village Hall also has several activities planned in November and December, which will be publicised separately.



Gareth Jones

St John's Llanhennock

Suddenly we are in the midst of the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', and the extreme heat of summer is just a memory. With the change of seasons, we have kept up our customary pattern of activities, though with a few variations. We held a successful Bingo evening on 2nd October, and Gerry was able to put our newly-acquired caller's machine through its paces. No more technical hitches!





St. Francis's Day, 4th October marked a significant first, when Archbishop Cherry Vann visited Llanhennock for the Ministry Area Confirmation. One of our congregation, Luke Davies was confirmed, and he was well supported by members of our church. On 11th October our organist, Ann Clarke, was presented with the Archbishop of Wales's Award for Church Music, in recognition of her service of more than seventy years. This included playing for services at St. Cadoc's Hospital, Caerleon. Ann is currently the organist at Llanhennock, and she also conducts the ad hoc choir of the Llanhennock Ladies, who will be performing again at Christmas. She was rebuked by members of the congregation for not wearing her new medal to the Harvest service.



Our Harvest Eucharist was well attended, and a bumper collection of tins and packets for the Eastern Valley Food Bank was stacked at the back of the church. There was also an array of fresh produce given by Sue and Jason, whose pumpkins not only survived the drought but reached a prodigious size. We are now beginning to engage with preparations for Christmas. We hope to repeat our success of last year with a new Nativity Play as the centrepiece of our Christmas Concert on 4th December.

Chris Edwards



St. Peter, Paul & John, Llantrisant & Llanllowell

Following the joy of a Wedding in early August our elderly church returned to her summer slumbers and gentle fortnightly Services until well into the Autumn.

We then woke her up for a very happy Harvest Service to which we welcomed friends young and old from a range of neighbouring

churches.

Our next Community Service will be The Act of Remembrance when we specifically recall some of those from previous generations.

Recent Reports into the condition of the building and churchyard have identified a number of long-term maintenance needs. Most structurally important of these is the condition of the bell loft and bell frames. Initial work is needed to strengthen the centuries old floor joists before the frames can be restored and the second bell brought back into use. Another task will be the repair of the separately listed Lytch Gate and of various parts of the long stone boundary wall.

In the churchyard the long drought reduced the need to mow until recently. It had however revealed a pair of previously hidden grave stones. One of these dated 1779 is in memory of a William Morgan of Graig Olway in Llangeview: enquiries of local Morgans have not yet found any descendants.

Sadly, there is still no progress on the disposal, by the Representative Body, of Llanllowell Church.

Sandy Blair



St Cadoc's Raglan

Following the long, hot summer at St. Cadoc's, we have had a very busy Autumn at church with several services celebrating the Harvest season from the youngest to the more mature members

of our congregations, from the children from Puddleducks and the Primary school who filled the church with a joyous and lively celebration of Harvest. Our own congregation celebrated Harvest with a service that included the baptism of 2 young children and culminated with a delicious Harvest lunch. Our final Harvest celebration was with members of the Gwent Federation of Young Farmers who celebrated with the auction of some impressive harvest hampers, a raffle in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance and RABI and a cheese and wine supper.



We also held a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care when over £400.00 was raised.

Open The Book has also restarted at the Primary School where members of our Ministry Area gather and act out Bible Stories to pupils during their morning assembly.

Our choir have restarted practices again and they are always looking for new members to join them making music to enhance the worship in church. Age is no barrier from youngest to older folk and both men and women are welcome. We meet on a Saturday morning at 11.05 for practise.

Likewise, our handbell ringing group have started meeting again following a break during the summer. They meet on a Thursday afternoon from 2.15pm and would welcome new members age or gender not a barrier, and you don't have to be able to read music, just have an interest and a desire to make music

The Tuesday morning Coffee Group continue to meet in the Beaufort Arms where we enjoy coffee, biscuits, sometimes cake, with occasional speakers, quizzes but primarily meeting and chatting in a relaxed environment. We meet from 10.15 am

Jenny Swattridge



St Andrew's Tredunnock

There has been a number of highlights over the last few summer months.

Recently a harvest festival was held in St Andrew's church, which took place in the late afternoon and was conducted by Will. It was nice to see some new faces for this occasion. Duncan managed to

buy some delicious bread from Angel Hotel Bakery in Abergavenny so everyone enjoyed bread and cheese as well as blackberry cordial and wine.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the mid-summer folk evening held in the church in late August. The event featured a number of local folk singers, many of whom perform regularly at the monthly folk evenings at the Foxhunter Inn in Nantyderry. David Owen, a retired headteacher, and a long-standing conductor with the Dorothy Adams singers played an



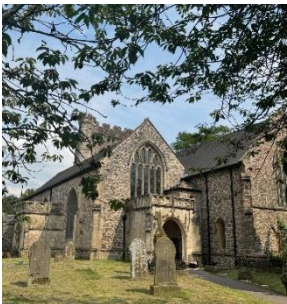
important part in the evening. The refreshments were also a great success. The nibbles, cider and wine went down particularly well. The performers loved the evening and want to be invited back next year, which is excellent news.

The village harvest supper was a great success supported by well over twenty people from the village. Paul and Adrienne kindly hosted the evening in their Boat House, which has a nautical feel and did actually house a boat/canoe. Luckily the weather was good and there was a great view out over the fields towards the Usk Valley. Thanks must also go to Rosz and Duncan who organised the fish and chips supper, which went down well. It was great to see everyone coming together to enjoy good food, good company and the friendly spirit of the village.



David Banning-Lover

The Priory Church of St Mary, Usk



Harvest was celebrated by St Mary's on September 20th with a joyful service led by Rev'd Helen, who blessed both the splendid harvest loaf and the donations of food given for our food pantry



The service was followed by a harvest lunch in the Centenary Hall where we feasted on a delicious meal featuring the harvest loaf, supplemented with cold meats a, quiche and salads followed by a choice of Apple pie, apple crumble fruit salad, rounded off with cheese and biscuits tea and coffee. The atmosphere was wonderful, with everyone clearly enjoying themselves and contributing generously to the raffle the proceeds of which will further support the food pantry, – the use of which continues at a steady rate., whilst the surplus from ticket sales will go towards purchase of much needed multi-purpose chairs for the church.

Further Harvest celebrations took place in the church in October when Rev'd Sally welcomed Usk School into the church for their harvest service, with readings, prayers and songs all led by the children. Sharing church with children is such a joy, when they come into the building for a school service or all age worship, and when we take bible stories into the school with Open the Book.

Sarah Byford

Eco Church

2026 marks the 10th anniversary of A Rocha's Eco Church scheme, which is being celebrated with services around the UK. It is also one year since we at St Mary's achieved our Eco Church gold award. We celebrated this recently by hosting an Eco Fair at the church, with stands from several eco-friendly organisations.



We continue on our journey to find ways that we can look after the Earth that God has given us. The reuse and recycle tables are well used. Please note that we have a 'wool swap' basket on this table - if you are knitting figures for the posadas or anyone requiring small amounts of wool, please help yourself.



This year we have, thanks to a donation and to John, installed a cycle rack on the churchyard path - we have a spare cycle rack which we will happily donate to another church.



We also now have just over 100 cloth table napkins which we have bought from charity shops. We urge you to borrow them rather than using unrecyclable paper napkins for any of your events. We just ask that you wash them (put them in the load with the teacloths) and iron if possible before returning.

And if you would like any help with your eco church journey, please let me know.

Carol Southwell



St Thomas à Becket, Wolvesnewton

On 27th September we celebrated our Harvest Service with more than double our usual congregation who all stayed behind for copious refreshments after the Service.



On 4th October the archbishop was kind enough to come to the church to present our organist with a medal and certificate for services to church music. Ms Florence Price has been playing the organ at Wolvesnewton for over 70 years since the age of and has rarely missed a service in all that time. It was a joyful celebration and the entire village - even those who do not attend the church

regularly - came along to show their thanks and appreciation to Florence.



We have now a dedicated sub-committee looking into gaining our Eco church silver award and we were very pleased to discover an insignificant- looking but rather rare orchid in the churchyard this summer. *Julie Alexander*

More HoMMA News and Events

. Ministry Area Council

Two very successful events that the members of the Council and especially the Mission Committee have been involved in are the Clytha Teas (reported on in the Summer Newsletter) and Usk Show. Both true examples of what we can put on for people and communities. The Chaplaincy tent at Usk Show was buzzing all day, with a constant flow of people coming in for tea and cupcakes, to meet and talk with our clergy and even have a go at making bunting! For a second year we entered the Corporate Display competition in the Homecraft Section of the Show and once again gained a creditable second place amidst strong competition!

Most recently virtually the whole of the Council took part in Safeguarding – module C for leaders – this took the morning before our last council meeting in the afternoon and was a very worthwhile exercise. There are different levels of safeguarding training, depending on your involvement but I would recommend that everyone does at least Level A which can easily be done on line at no cost and takes less than half an hour.

As a council and individual churches, we have taken part in the Culture Check which focuses on the Values with which we live out our faith – those of Love, Generosity, Joy, Humility, Courage and Integrity. There were varied answers across the Ministry Area but the general feeling I believe is one of hope, that we are doing OK but that there is still more to be done. If anyone would like to see the summary of results then please do email me for a copy.

I know that there is a feeling that the Diocese heaps extra work on our already weary shoulders but quite honestly, they are there to help us and there are plenty of ways in which they can. A whole list of what they offer was given to us at a recent MA Wardens meeting and is available again if any one wishes a copy.

We have just commenced the next project which is a planning tool to help us see what our churches may look like in 5 years' time and asking us what we would like to see happening. We have done the first part and I can tell you more once the second is completed in a few months' time.

Kay Spencer

Lay Co-Chair.

HoMMA at The Usk Show 2026

What a wonderful day we had at the Usk Show on 12th September! As usual our HoMMA Chaplaincy marquee was set up at a central crossroads within the show ground, so we were very visible. Our aim was to offer an inviting and practical space to attract visitors and to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere. To this end the Marquee was decorated with wild flowers, haybales and bunting in keeping with the country show vibe; on offer were free refreshments (cakes, teas, coffees





etc), our quirky baby-change-facility-in-a-horse-trailer, as well as a baby feeding space and children's activities. Visitors were also invited to add to our HoMMA bunting, by making personalised flags which we sewed onto the bunting and hung up there and then. This bunting will be used in future years and hopefully encourage people to come back and admire their handiwork!

Throughout the day we had a constant stream of visitors, including lots of young families, many of whom stayed for a while - a testament to the

warm welcome they received from the wonderful volunteers who were there running things on the day. Thank you to everyone involved and to the Usk Show committee for their support.

Jan Harding -Smith



Celebrating a Lifetime of Musical Ministry

Three dedicated organists from the Heart of Monmouth Ministry Area have been honoured with the prestigious Archbishop of Wales Music Award, recognising decades of faithful service to the Church and their local communities.

The awards celebrate those whose contribution to church music has enriched worship and strengthened the life of the Church. This year's recipients, Florence Price, Ann Clarke and Lesley Evans, have together given well over 200 years of musical service, almost entirely on a voluntary basis.

A particularly special moment came when the Archbishop of Wales personally came to Wolvesnewton to present the award to **Florence Price** in recognition of more than 70 years of joyful service at St Thomas a Becket, Wolvesnewton. For generations of worshippers, Florence's faithful presence at the organ has helped shape the worshipping life of the church, marking countless baptisms, weddings, funerals and weekly services with dedication and warmth.



Ann Clarke was honoured for over **70 years of service as a church organist** across churches in the Church in Wales. Her musical ministry has extended beyond parish churches to include playing at St Cadoc's Hospital, bringing comfort and encouragement through music. Ann was also recognised for founding a children's orchestra, offering young people an opportunity to continue making music when they had outgrown Sunday School and helping to nurture the gifts of a new generation.



The third recipient, **Lesley Evans**, was recognised not only for her considerable musical ability but for the spirit in which she serves. The archbishop highlighted

how Lesley has treated music as a ministry, generously giving her time to support churches across the Ministry Area. Whether playing for weddings, funerals or regular services, Lesley has faithfully stepped in whenever needed. Many churches would struggle to have organ music as part of their worship without her willingness to help.

In presenting the awards, the Archbishop drew particular attention to the fact that the recipients have offered their gifts freely, receiving no payment for much of the ministry for which they were being honoured. Their service stands as a powerful reminder that church music is far more than a performance; it is an act of worship, service and love.

The Heart of Monmouth Ministry Area is delighted to celebrate Florence, Ann and Lesley. Their faithfulness, generosity and commitment have enriched the worship of countless people over many decades. Through their music they have led congregations in prayer, marked life's most significant moments, and helped keep the tradition of church music alive for future generations.

We offer them our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for their remarkable ministry. Their awards are richly deserved and are a fitting recognition of lives dedicated to serving God and His Church through music.

Rev'd Hannah

On Saturday 17th October a wonderful morning of fellowship, reflection and shared learning was enjoyed in Llanover Church Hall by participants from across the Ministry Area, our exploring the theme of **Pilgrimage**.



Archdeacon Ian spoke movingly about pilgrimages to the Holy Land, while Canon Sally shared insights from her own pilgrimage journey. Despite the many different paths we may take, a common thread runs through every pilgrimage: a willingness to listen for God's voice and a commitment to placing Him at the centre of our lives. This was a truly inspiring morning providing a timely reminder that faith is not only found in the destination, but in the journey itself.



Then on the following day

Compline in the Churchyard at St Mary's, led by Rev'd Helen, was a real treat for those who braved the night air for this beautiful last service of the day. After consuming the very welcome hot chocolate kindly provided by Canon Sally



Harvest at Glascoed

The final Celebration of Harvest in the Ministry Area took place at St Michael's, Glascoed on Wednesday 21st October – enjoyed by those from the village and further afield, with fellowship and a sumptuous feast of cheese and biscuits and apple cake to follow our worship.



Finally - Many thanks to all who have contributed to this Harvest edition of our newsletter – so many joyful services at which we have been able to offer our thanks for the fruits of God's creation, and for those who work the land to produce our food - and there so much wonderful work going on in and around all our churches - so please keep on sharing - the next Newsletter issue will be Candlemas, with closing date for contributions **Friday 22nd January** Let me know if you need hard copies of this issue for those not on line

Sarah Byford - **Editor**

Remembering
those who
have died



Hymns,
prayers,
candles,
reflection,
comfort,
friendship

All Souls' Services

Monday 2nd November 6pm

St. Peter's Church, Goetre
St. Cadoc's Church, Raglan
& St. Mary's Church, Usk

NEXT BIG BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 14TH

Join the
CHRISTMAS
Choir

We're looking for people of all ages to
join our Christmas Choir to help lead the
singing at:
St Peter's Carol Service on 20th December
at 6pm

Rehearsals begin Tuesday 3rd November
7PM-8PM
at St Peter's Church Goetre

Whether you're Taylor Swift or someone who only
sings in the shower, we'd love to welcome you!
Singers of all ages welcome

Contact Rev'd Hannah Robinson for more info
07519134281