

CHURCH Magazine

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



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Gower Ministry Area

50p

December 2024

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Dear Friends

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: *'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!'* So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: *'Why don't they follow me?!'* Then he realised: *'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.'* Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. *'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us'.* Matthew 1:23.



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

Priest:	Reverend Layfetta Masih The New Vicarage, 59a Victoria Road, Waunarlwydd, 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, Mike Powell, Barbara Roberts.	
Eucharistic Assistants:	Roy Chapman, Alan Pickard, Mike Powell, Catherine Swain.	
Congregational Wardens:	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)
Envelopes/Gift Aid Scheme:	Geraldine Rees	☎ 207916
Organists:	Chris Samuel Martin Draisey (St.Martin's)	
St Martin's	St Martin's Church Fairwood Road, Dunvant, Swansea SA2 7PE	
Eucharistic Assistant:	Susan Dimblebee	
Congregational Wardens:	Susan Dimblebee	☎ 299503
	Roger Draisey	☎ 515391
Weekly Newsletter		
Printer:	Marian Williams	☎ 204175
Church Magazine		
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St Hilary's Church, Killay

Sidespersons

December Angela Reed, Janet Jones
Jan 5th Diane Holohan, Chris Regan

Elements

1st Lay led service
8th Glenys & Lyndon Hall
15th Sandra Banks, Nansi Evans
22nd Sue & Bob Mapp
24th Sylvia Powell, Marian Williams
29th Joint service at All Souls
Jan 5th Lay led service

Readers

1st Lay led service
8th Carol Conway
15th Babs Roberts
22nd Sheila Betts
24th Mike/Cath - midnight service
29th Joint service at All Souls
Jan 5th Lay led service

Eucharist Assistants

1st Lay led service
8th Cath
15th tba
22nd tba
24th Mike/Cath - midnight service
29th Joint service at All Souls
Jan 5th Lay led service

Altar Flowers

1st ADVENT
8th ADVENT
15th ADVENT
22nd ADVENT
24th Carole & Alan Pickard
29th Joint service at All Souls
Jan 5th Lay led service

Coffee

1st Diane Holohan, Chris Regan
8th Geraldine & Roger Rees
15th Sue Mapp, Sally Bowen
22nd Cath Swain, Nansi Evans
29th Joint service at All Souls
Jan 5th Pam Davies, Gillian Hutchinson

St Martin's Church, Duvant

Sidespersons

1st Gareth Dimblebee
8th Sue Dimblebee
15th Ian Dimblebee
22nd Roger Draisey
25th Gareth Dimblebee
29th Joint service at All Souls

Readers

1st **Carol Lewis**
8th Margaret Draisey
15th Alun Bessette
22nd Haulwen Lumsdaine
29th Joint service at All Souls

Altar Flowers

1st ADVENT
8th ADVENT
15th ADVENT
22nd ADVENT
25th Christine Dardecker



Holy Dusters

Sue & Ian Dimblebee
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Mobile: 07414 268163
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The deadline for articles for January 2025 magazine is Friday 27 December

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, Miriam Evans, Doll Lee, Don Lewis (Cynthia's Husband}, Diane Lewis (Hillside Nursing Home), Eunice Miron, Diana Mowatt (Hengoed Court Residential Home), Olwen Nicholas, Betty Nutt, Mary Osborne (Hillside Nursing Home), Rev'd Judith Phillips, Gwynneth Prestwood (Hengoed Court Nursing Home), Rita Trew, Gloria and Brian Wilkins, Eileen Wilson and all others known to Him who need our prayers.

Keep in our prayers Alan Pickard as he continues his recovery from major surgery at Morriston hospital, our thoughts are also with Carole and the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to Diana Mowatt who is celebrating her 90th birthday, we send best wishes from her church family.

Birthday wishes also to Sheila Kelly on 1st December and Jean Gwilym on 7th December (92 years young)

"I should like to take this opportunity to thank all my church friends for the cards, gifts, telephone calls, emails and visits on the occasion of my recent 80th birthday (or I prefer to say....twice forty!)". Mike Powell

Thank you to Carol & Alan Pickard for the Christmas altar flowers this year.

From the 1st December the list for altar flowers 2025 can be found at the back of the church. If anyone wishes to place flowers on the altar this coming year please place your name on the required date. Anne Llewelyn



Music Society

Meeting on Monday 11th November
Members evening.

Barbara welcomed us to the meeting on armistice day and the theme was poetry. The tables were set with nibbles and wine.

Angela started by reading 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.

Colin talked about the life of the poet and novelist Henry Newbolt. One of his contemporaries at Clifton College was Douglas Haig. He is best remembered for his poems 'Vitai Lampada' about the unsuccessful expedition to rescue General Gordon and the war in Sudan and the legend of 'Drake's drum'.

Some of our members read their favourite poems including:

Barbara 'Will I have to be sexy at 60?' by Pam Ayres which caused some hilarity.

Joan 'Cats' by T.S Elliot.

Barbara 'How can that be my baby' by Pam Ayres.

Sandra 'Handbag' by Ruth Fainlight.

Sue 'Warning' and 'When I am an old woman I shall wear purple' by Jenny Joseph.

Barbara Several poems by Pam Ayres including 'Worship at Saint Tesco',

Angela gave the vote of thanks and said how much we enjoyed the evening and Barbara then mentioned that the next meeting will be with our old friends The Rockerleles.

Sale of Apples ... by Margaret Thomas 2024

Margaret is seen presenting a cheque for £50, the proceeds of the annual apple sale, to Marian, Warden and Diane, our Treasurer.

Margaret would like to thank the members of the church, friends and neighbours who helped her by buying the apples in the summer months.



The Christmas raffle Draw will take place after Sunday service, at St Hilary's in the hall on Sunday 8th December at 12.30 approximately.

Advance notice/date for diary: **St Hilary's Community Carol Service** 4.30 on Sunday 15 December. We will be joined by reps from Killay Community Council, Siloam and Hendrefoilan School. (followed by sherry and mince pies)

Ken James celebrating his 95th birthday at the St Hilary's church hall with birthday cake all round, rather nice too! Happy Birthday Ken.



East Gower Cluster of Churches
St. Hilary's, Killay; St. Martin's, Dunvant; All Souls, Tycloch

Christmas Services

St. Hilary's, Killay

Community Carol Service

hosted by St. Hilary's Church	Sunday	15 th December	4:30pm
Gwalia Singers' Concert	Friday	20 th December	7:00pm
Christmas Eve Nativity	Tuesday	24 th December	4:00pm
First Eucharist of Christmas	Tuesday	24 th December	11:00pm Carols 11:30pm Service

St. Martin's, Dunvant

Community Carol Service	Sunday	22 nd December	6:00pm
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday	25 th December	10:00am

All Souls, Tycloch

Sketty School Nativity	Tuesday	10 th December	
Christmas Tea and Concert	Sunday	15 th December	2:30pm
Christingle	Friday	20 th December	6:00pm
Christmas Eucharist	Tuesday	24 th December	5:30pm

*For regular services
please refer to back page*



Law Commission consultation

The Law Commission is consulting on some suggestions for changes to Burial and Cremation law in England and Wales. Following this consultation, the Law Commission will finalise proposals for consideration by Government. Whilst their proposals are some way from becoming law, this is an important first step. Government would then consider the recommendations and consider when to bring forward legislation. Much of the law in this area is devolved to Welsh Government.

The consultation document is extensive and covers a variety of issues. Whilst the Representative Body will be responding for the whole Province on the whole document, we would encourage MA's and Dioceses to contribute to the consultation too. In particular, we would draw your attention to Chapter 7 and question 31. This proposes a radical change that would impact significantly on the Church in Wales. By way of background, the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945 imposes obligations on the Church in Wales to bury parishioners without discrimination – a similar duty to the Church of England. No other denomination in Wales has this obligation of public burial. However, the Church in Wales does not have the equivalent power (Under the Local Government Act 1972) to transfer maintenance of closed burial grounds to

local authorities.

The Law Commission is proposing that a similar power is granted to the Church in Wales. We believe this power would be very useful for MA's caring for closed churchyards and it does seem fair that MA's should be relieved of the burden of maintenance once a burial ground has no more space for burials. We believe this burden should fall on the wider community through the Local Authority. We have no doubt that Local Authorities will object strongly to this proposal, so we would invite you to make a comment in support of the proposal, if possible.

The more comments in favour, the more likely it is that the proposal will be retained in any recommendation to Government. If you wish to respond in support of this proposal, we would recommend that you explain in your response how this change will impact on your MA and community.

You can access the consultation at: Burial and Cremation - Law Commission

You are, of course, welcome to make comments on any other aspect of the consultation but it is Question 31 we would specifically urge you to answer. Comments can be made via an on-line portal as detailed in the consultation.

The deadline for response is the 9th January 2025.

Please feel free to share your response with us too – it helps us to understand the local impact of the proposal. Email alexglanville@churchinwales.org.uk
Alex Glanville, Director of Property Strategy

Make Your Money Go Further



The Gift Aid scheme is an arrangement that allows charities (including churches) to reclaim tax on a donation made by a UK taxpayer. This means every donation will be worth 25% more, at no extra cost to the giver so, with Gift Aid, the charity can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

For example: If you give £5, the church receives £6.25; if you give £10.00 the church receives £12.50 etc

You can see how this mounts up and is a valuable source of income to the church. If you are a taxpayer, please ensure you have completed a consent form so the church can claim this extra money from the Government. Consent forms can be obtained from Geraldine Rees, the Gift Aid Officer for St Hilary's and St Martin's.

I will shortly be allocating the new envelopes for 2025. Those already in the scheme will receive them in due course. If your circumstances have changed, like maybe your address or your tax status (for claiming Gift Aid) please let me know as soon as possible.

Anyone not in the scheme and wishes to be, please contact me and I will arrange for you to receive your envelopes for next year.

You can also make donations direct to the church by monthly Standing Order or using the Direct Giving scheme that means your donations are made directly to the Church in Wales in Cardiff via Direct Debit from your account. Donations made this way are directed back to our church after Gift Aid has been added. Please see me for information about either of these options.

Geraldine Rees

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

Mothers' Union



Our first meeting in November was 'Remembrance' by Andrew Jones. Andy is an amazing speaker with such a wealth of knowledge about the first and second world wars. He is an events and fund-raising consultant and has organised many visits to the war graves. He told a story for each picture he displayed. The story of Pegasus bridge was most interesting to me as Alan and I have visited the café there. Additionally, his experiences at Menin Gate fascinated us. We listened to the stories and history of Armistice Glade, Ypres, Mametz Wood, Juno Beach, Omaha Beach, Ranville and the Merville Battery. We were so grateful that Andrew gave up an afternoon to spend time with us. Thank you, Andy.

The second meeting in November was a presentation by Debra John, a local actress, who was brought up in Killay. Debra performed a story called 'Gower Dreaming'. Many of us were already aware of the stories of 18th century Gower when smugglers and pirates frequented the rugged cliffs and hidden coves of Gower. They often hid in caves and secret inlets to evade the excise men who were based in Swansea. Many of us knew already about how famous Pwll Du, Llangennith and Worms Head was for the deliberate wrecking of ships and how the pirates quickly passed on the treasures. Some of Gower's soil was poor so farming yielded little and the extra

money from contraband goods was a lifeline for many. Debra talked about the vicar of Llanmadoc who in his dream takes a journey at night around Gower. He 'travelled' to Giant's Cave, Parc Le Breos, Pennard Castle, Oxwich, Port Eynon, Rhossili and Llangennith. We heard about a violent storm, smugglers, ships wrecks, pirates evading the excise men from Swansea. We even heard about the sailors who were deliberately shipwrecked, how they drowned and then were robbed as they lay on the beaches. Thank you, Debra for a fantastic presentation.

The last meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 3 December at 2pm in St. Hilary's Hall. A bring and share buffet is planned with a raffle in aid of Mothers' Union charities.

I was so sorry that I needed to announce that Alan and I have now finished organising Mothers' Union at the end of its hundredth year at St. Hilary's. During my sixteen years as Branch Leader, Alan has helped me enormously, especially in his role as Treasurer and Secretary.

I would like to thank our current and former bishops, presidents, trustees, clergy, church wardens, branch leaders, secretaries, treasurers, MU committee members, branch members and everyone else we have worked with. We look forward to seeing the Killay branch continuing into the future under new leadership. We wish all our friends and acquaintances a Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Carole and Alan Pickard

What sort of a Christmas card person are you?

The time to send and receive Christmas cards has come round again – time for our annual shock at the cost of a coloured card, and disbelief at what the Post Office intends to charge us to deliver them.

It seems there are three kinds of people when it comes to Christmas cards: the total abstainers, the total givers and the selective givers.

Abstainers write 'Happy Christmas everyone' on Facebook, and consider the

job well done. Total givers spend a fortune on cards and stamps and send them to everyone they know. Selective givers try to cut corners, but then cannot remember who sent who what, and as the cards pour through their door, spend time worrying...

However you do it, it is good to stay in yearly touch with your widest circle of friends and family. Proverbs points out that: 'Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' Prov 25:25. Your loved ones will enjoy hearing from you!

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Many thanks to our readers and all of you who make our Church Magazine possible and to all who help in delivering door to door, it is very much appreciated. It is that time of year when the annual subscriptions for the Church Magazines delivered to you are due for payment.

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The most beautiful story

A well-known atheist was being interviewed on Radio 4. When asked how he spent Christmas, he said that he went to Midnight Mass at church. "But you're an atheist", his interviewer protested. "Yes", he replied, "but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told."

That 'beautiful story' tells of a Creator who sent His Son to share the life of His creation, to be born as a helpless baby, to grow up as a man of extraordinary wisdom, gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers – who today number about two billion people all over the world – believe that He rose from the dead, and that by His death and resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for men and women everywhere.

That is certainly quite a story, perhaps the greatest story ever told, and yes, beautiful. And that is the story that will be rehearsed again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols, in Bible readings and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year turn up to hear it, and who can blame them? This is a story of hope, of love and of heaven touching earth.

Probably the best-known statue in the world is 'Christ the Redeemer', towering over the South American city of Rio de Janeiro, His arms outstretched in blessing. Christmas celebrates the birth of that great Redeemer – a tiny baby laid in a feeding trough.

His birth changed history, His life transformed our understanding of what it means to be human, His death was at one and the same time a tragedy and a triumph. Yes, it is 'the most beautiful story ever told'. Enjoy it again this Christmas.



Visiting the Churches in our Ministry Area

As I'm sure many of you know, in my role as MA Warden, I have spent the last seven Sundays visiting as many of the Gower churches as I could, service times permitting. I am extremely grateful to Rev. Peter Lewis, our MA Leader and Layfetta for making it possible for me to do this and of course to Mike Powell who has stepped up to cover many of the tasks I usually do on a Sunday with Sylvia's help. It has not been possible for me to visit any other church on the fifth Sunday of the month this year for various reasons. The fifth Sunday of March was Easter Day, so no cluster services as such, the fifth Sunday of June was the MA Annual Vestry Meeting at St. Hilary's and on the fifth Sunday of September, Layfetta was at a LyCiG training event and asked me to be at St. Hilary's. I am really looking forward to resuming these visits on December 29th, hopefully there will be a service in one of the five churches which I have yet to visit. It has been a wonderful experience for me and I have really enjoyed being part of the congregation everywhere I went, including reading in some of the churches and sharing all sorts of delicious refreshments. The welcome I have received was wonderful and I was really surprised when I realised how many of the people I met, already knew who I was.

Just to tell you where I've been, St.

Gwynour's in Penclawdd, St. David's in Llanddewi, St. Illtyd's in Oxwich, St. Madoc's in Llanmadoc, Sts Rhidian and Illtyd in Llanrhidian, St. Illtyd's in Ilston, St. Cadoc's in Cheriton, St. John the Baptist in Penmaen even managing to fit in St. Hilary's on Remembrance Sunday between two other services that day. I have also attended the Welsh language Eucharists at St. Mary's, Pennard and St. George's, Reynoldston, but these are on a Friday morning. Although we all follow the same Church-in-Wales Liturgy, it is amazing how different the services were, of course I knew the words, but every member of the Gower clergy put his or her own stamp on the service.

I know many of the Gower lanes very well now, and really appreciate how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country. I must admit that I feel as if I've met most of the sheep, cows and horses in Gower as I've driven across the commons and Cefn Bryn on Sunday mornings. I was held up by tractors towing trailers full of Christmas trees last week and by a large swan on the way to Oxwich, he was there first and was enjoying an early morning stroll in the middle of the road across the marsh, with absolutely no intention of moving for any of the cars to pass him.

Many of the people I have met have asked me to express their good wishes to the congregation at St. Hilary's, which I promised I would do.

Marian Williams

Parish of Killay Magazine, 50 years ago - December 1974

FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

3rd November	Ian Gareth Glover, Cefn Draw, Three Crosses
10th November	Clare Morgan, 16 Glandulais, Dunvant
24th November	Steven Richard Higgins, 1 Bevan Way, Waunarlwydd
	Christian Stephen Fox, 74 Broadmead
	James Alexander Loftus, 3 Broadmead
	Kathryn Susan Moss, 18 Ravensfield, Gowerton
	Emma Jane Smith, 28 St Hilary Drive
	Janina Jones, 11 Hafan-y-Don

BURIALS

31st October	Doris Matthews, Edgemoor Close
15th November	Mary Amelia Clement, Wimmerfield Drive

CHRISTMAS IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children of the Sunday School will be taking part in what must now be regarded as two annual Christmas events.

The first is the Carol Service organised by the Swansea South Sunday Schools' Association to be held at St Mary's Church on Sunday, 15th December at 2:30pm. Our children will be singing two carols and we hope that all the Sunday scholars will be able to attend and that they will be supported by their parents.

On the following Sunday, 22nd December at 2:30pm, we shall be holding our own Christmas service which will take the form of a Nativity playlet and carol singing. This will also be a Toy Service and we ask you to bring an inexpensive toy, wrapped and labelled, stating the age and sex of the child for whom it is most suitable. These toys will be distributed among less fortunate children in the hope that their Christmas may be more enjoyable. We hope to have a full church for this service. The Christmas party for Sunday School and church children will be held on New Year's Day, Wednesday 1st January, in the church hall. Children under 7 are asked to come from 3:00pm to 5:00pm and those over 7 from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

GIFTS

We should like to acknowledge the following generous gifts recently made to St Hilary's Church. A leather bound copy of the New English Bible for the Lectern presented by Mr Ritchie Fuller. A pair of brass flower vases for the Sanctuary by Mrs Mary Fuller. Many people have commented favourably on the appropriateness of the gift of the light oak Hymn Board in memory of the late nurse Dorothy Lewis.

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Members of the Junior Youth Guild are, at present, preparing for their Christmas Carol Service which will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 2:30pm.

The Senior Youth Club did very well by being placed second in a keenly fought preliminary round of the Diocesan Youth Quiz. Congratulations to them and also the Dunvant team who were, by far, the youngest team in the competition but, none the less, tried very hard.



Rhoi Gwaed | Achub bywydau

Cila | Killay

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Friday 6 December 2024
Friday 10 January 2025



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WHAT'S ON IN ST HILARY'S CHURCH HALL

SUNDAY 10:15 – 12:30	Sunday School – <u>2nd & 3rd Sunday of the month</u>	Drop In
MONDAY 9:00 and 10:30am 9:15 to 11:00am 1:00 to 2:00pm 7:30pm	Slimming World TOTS Group (up to school age) Welsh Story & Rhyme Time (up to 18 months) Music Society – <u>2nd Monday of the month</u>	Sue - 07813316739 Drop In (Term time only) Patsy - Drop In (Term time)
TUESDAY 9:45 and 11:00am 6:00pm 2:00 to 4:00pm	Flexercise Keep Fit for 50+ 4th Killay Brownies Mothers Union – <u>1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month</u>	Chris - 07738199666
WEDNESDAY 4:00pm 10:00am	Drama Kids Academy Luncheon Club – <u>1st Wednesday of the month</u>	Steph - 07944430123 Kay - 01792206373
THURSDAY 9:15am 7:00 to 8:00pm	Foot Clinic (<u>once a month by appointment</u>) Holistic Sound Therapy- <u>2nd Thursday of the month</u> Promotes relaxation and stress relief	Emma - 01792427515 / 07790230195 Faith Challinor-Wheatley 01792290458 - Faithcomplementaryholistics@yahoo.co.uk
FRIDAY 7:00 to 9:00	Indoor Bowls Club	Drop In to enquire

Two well equipped halls available for hire for parties / meetings. One off or regular bookings welcome.
Contact Diane - Tel: 07778788465 (texts preferred) or email: sthilaryhallbooking@yahoo.co.uk

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(In aid of Church funds)

Tickets available from:
Marian Williams, email: marianwilliams332@btinternet.com
Mike & Sylvia Powell, email: j_powell9@sky.com
www.eastgower.org

Seventy Swansea World War I fallen heroes, including a Victoria Cross winner, have been honoured in a new memorial dedicated to their sacrifice.

WW1 Memorial to the 70 Men/ Boys of Kilvey

On the 15th November 2024 we attended the Dedication Service for the new WW1 Memorial to the 70 Men/ Boys of Kilvey.

It was a beautiful Service conducted by The Venerable Rev. Peter Brooks, who has a relative named on the Memorial, and is an Eastside Boy himself.

The new memorial has come about by the sheer commitment of Anita Arcari Pugh and the support of the Community and donations.

The original WW1 Memorial was a white marble fixture which was funded by the community, was in the now closed All Saints Church, Kilvey,.

The white marble name plates of the fallen on the new Memorial were retrieved from the original WW1 Memorial.

Glenys & Lyndon Hall



Exercise Classes

Enquiries
Christine O'Rourke
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St Hilary's Church Hall, Killay:	Tues	9:45am & 11:00am	Ladies
St Paul's Parish Centre, Sketty:	Tues	7:00pm	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 Carol Services are so dangerous

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as "the Curate who offended Mrs Smith."

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings,

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive. You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle

Eustace



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481a Gower Rd, Killay
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St Martin's Church

Fairwood Rd,
Dunvant
SA2 7PE

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

The deadline for articles for the January 2025
magazine is on **Friday 27 December 2024.**

The magazine is printed and published by St Hilary
and St Martin Churches in the Gower Ministry Area,
Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, Church in Wales.

The views in the articles reflect the views of the
individuals contributing the items and are not
intended to represent the official views of the
Ministry Area or the Church in Wales.

www.eastgower.org

If you have any news or photos you would care to share
please contact Roger Rees



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St Martin's Church

Once again St Martin's church Dunvant remembered the fallen heroes on Remembrance Sunday. Simon Davies who led our service gave his thoughts on the theme "When You Go Home Tell Them of us and say For Your Tomorrow we gave our Today" As St Martin's has no war graves Simon invited our congregation to come forward carrying a poppy to place in a wreath which he was holding. Following the poppy parade he then placed the wreath full of red poppies at the foot of the altar.

Christmas Services at St Martin's, Dunvant

Community Carol Service Sunday 22nd December 6:00pm
Readings by Community Members



Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist Wednesday 25th December 10:00am
All are welcome to join us!



Rev Judith Phillip celebrates once again at St Hilary's

It was so good to be able to rearrange the furniture so as to allow Judith to celebrate in front of a makeshift altar and credence table on the flat in the main body of the church on a Thursday morning.

Remembrance Sunday at St Martin's Church and at the War Graves at St Hilary's Church



Big Quiz: Ministry Area fund-raiser for the Tearfund hosted by St Hilary's

On November 16th St Hilary's hosted a Ministry Area quiz to raise funds for the Tearfund.

Tearfund is a Christian charity with over 50 years of experience in international development. They believe that poverty is not God's plan, and an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Everyone had a wonderful time and £270 were raised.



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

DECEMBER	ST HILARY'S KILLAY	ST MARTIN'S DUNVANT
1 First Sunday of Advent	9.45am Bubble Church 11.00am Lay led Service <i>Followed by coffee</i>	11.00am Eucharist
5 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
8 Second Sunday of Advent	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	10.00am Lay led Service
12 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
15 Third Sunday of Advent	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	9.00am Eucharist
19 Thursday	11.00am Eucharist	
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>	11.00am Eucharist <i>Followed by coffee</i>
Christmas Services Please see p.11	No Thursday Service on 26th	
29 First Sunday of Christmas	10.30am Joint Eucharist at All Souls	10.30am Joint Eucharist at All Souls

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

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