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| Sun Jan 12 th | THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST Port Talbot, St. Theodore <i>the Anglican Church of Australia</i> |
| Mon Jan 13 th | Pyle & Kenfig: Dr. Duncan Walker (V) <i>Lesotho; Southwark</i> |
| Tues Jan 14 th | Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon: Canon Nigel Cahill (R) <i>Lexington; Southwell & Nottingham</i> |
| Weds Jan 15 th | Welsh Language Officer: Dyfrig Lloyd <i>Liberia (West Africa); Southwest Florida</i> |
| Thurs Jan 16 th | <u>Deanery of Neath; Area Dean:</u> Chris Coles <i>Lichfield; Southwestern Virginia</i> |
| Fri Jan 17 th | Cilybebyll: Jayne Shaw (R) <i>Limerick & Killaloe</i> |
| Sat Jan 18 th | Dulais Valley: <i>Lincoln; Goma (Congo)</i> |

Newsletter

St Catherine's | St John's | St Luke's

The Baptism of Christ

It seems a strange thing for Jesus to be baptized by John. John the messenger, the one sent to prepare the way for Jesus, surely he should be the one getting baptised by Jesus? We are not alone in thinking this, John himself told Jesus that it should be the other way around. We find this throughout the ministry of Jesus, he turns the tables on what we expect. We see things in terms of human values of privilege and authority, Jesus shows a way of humility and service.

Today's readings: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

Today's Services

St John's

9.00 am Sung Eucharist

Hymns: 370, 608, 729

Psalm Response: The Lord will give his people the blessing of peace

4.00pm Messy Church

St Luke's

10.30 am Sung Mass

Hymns: 684, 99, 609

Psalm Response: The Lord will give his people the blessing of peace

Gospel Acclamation: Come Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love

Readers and Intercessors: we are hoping to grow our pool of readers and intercessors in each church. Readings follow the Lectionary and can be sent to you beforehand if you would like to practise before you read. Intercessions follow an established model and the intercessions can be read from a set book initially. Guidance and support will be

Mid week Services this week

Tues Said Mass at St Luke's 12.00 pm

Weds Holy Eucharist at St Catherine's 11.00am

Thurs. Holy Eucharist at St John's 10.30am

Fri. Said Mass at St Luke's 6.00pm

Next week's readings: Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Team Rector: Mother Frances Wilson
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(Day off Friday)

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given if you are interested in becoming a reader or intercessor. Please talk to one of the churchwardens if you would like more information.

Confirmation:

The Benefice confirmation will take place on the Feast of Christ the King on 22nd November 2020. Confirmation preparation for adults and children will take place on the fourth Sunday of each month starting in January. Would you please let Mother Frances know if you, or your child, is wishing to be Confirmed. Children must be Year 5 and above. If you have already been confirmed, please would you consider joining a small team who will accompany these candidates in their learning.

Mothers' Union meets in St. John's Church at 2pm for the start of the New Year. We are still collecting jewellery so please hand it one of the ladies if you have any unwanted items.

St John's Notes:

Sunday School: January 12th Messy Church; 19th; 26th February 2nd; 9th Messy Church; 16th & 23rd half term (no Sunday School) March 1st; 8th Messy Church; 15th; 22nd; 29th Benefice service; April 5th No Sunday School- Easter holidays

St Luke's Notes:

Max Williams RIP: It is with great sadness that we note the death on New Year's Day of Max Williams. Max was the oldest member of St Luke's in both senses, having been baptized in the building he loved and cared for so much, some 87 years ago. Supported and helped by Margaret, Max served the Church in Canton and the community of St Luke's in particular, all his life. Nothing was too much trouble for Max who, over the years, filled most of the roles in the altar serving team and of course served proudly as Churchwarden for many years. He will be sorely missed by his beloved Margaret and by everyone

associated with St Luke's. It is only a few weeks ago that we presented Max with a gift to mark his long service and expressing the appreciation of the Benefice for all his years of work. Our love, prayers and condolences go to Margaret, Olive, Kevin and their families. We pray that Max will rest in peace. In the words of the traditional prayer: "well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of your Lord".

The Requiem Mass for Max will take place at St. Luke's Church at 1pm on Tuesday 21st January, followed by cremation. (There will be no 12 noon Mass that day). Max will be received into Church at 4.30pm on Monday 20th January.

DIARY DATES

Please put these dates in your diary. Details of each event will be published nearer the date.

TODAY:

12 .30 pm Benefice Lunch St Luke's Hall (tickets only)

4.00 pm Messy Church in St John's

Sunday 19th January: 6pm at St. John's Church. 'Spirit of Light'; A reflective service for this season of Epiphany

Sunday 2nd February: PCC meets at 6.45pm in St Luke's

Sunday 16th February: Healing Service at 6.00pm in St John's

Sunday 23rd February: Xplore Confirmation classes begin

Wednesday 25th February: Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes 11.00 am St Catherine's; Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes 7.30pm St Luke's

Sunday 15th March: Lent Reflection 6.00pm at St John's

28th March Benefice Vision Day