Sunday 11th May 2025 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Acts (9.36-43)

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

1 The Lord / is my / shepherd: therefore / can I / lack / nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in / green / pastures: and / leads me be/ side still / waters.

3 He shall re/fresh my / soul: and guide me in the paths of righteousness * / for his / name's / sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will / fear no / evil: for you are with me; your / rod and your / staff, they / comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me * in the presence of / those who / trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil * / and my / cup shall be / full.
6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me * all the / days of my / life: and I will dwell in the / house of the / Lord for / ever.

A reading from Revelation (7.9-17)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,

standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?'

I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John 10.22-30 Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.'

Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, OYSTERMOUTH AND NORTON CHURCH WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY.

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11th May 2025 - Easter 4 Christian Aid week

HYMNS AT OUR CHORAL EUCHARIST: 237, 564, 282, 186

10.00 am	Holy Eucharist (All Saints) Choral Eucharist (All Saints) - followed by tea / coffee
4.00 pm	Choral Evensong for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.
12.30 pm 6.30 pm	Funeral of Beryl Richards in All Saints for 7. Men's Society at the BCYC. Speaker : Gary Williams
10.30 am 2.00 pm	Chat a Coffi - all welcome Norton Craft Group - all welcome
9.00 am 10.30 am 2.00pm 6.00 pm 7.00 pm	Christian Aid 'Big Brekki' in All Saints Holy Eucharist followed by refreshments Bible study/prayer group (church rooms) Joyful Noise (junior Choir) - all children very welcome Adult choir practice - all welcome
10.30 am 1.30 pm	Coffee & Catch up (Norton) Church and Grounds working group - all help very welcome
7.00 p.m.	Swansea Excelsior Choir Concert (All saints)
8.30 am 10.00 am	18 th May - Easter 5 Holy Eucharist (All Saints) Choral Eucharist (All Saints) - followed by tea / coffee Sung Eucharist (Norton)
	 10.00 am 4.00 pm 12.30 pm 6.30 pm 10.30 am 2.00 pm 10.30 am 2.00pm 6.00 pm 7.00 pm 10.30 am 1.30 pm 7.00 p.m. 8.30 am

Weekly Bulletin : Do take this sheet home with you. Copies are also available on the Church website.

Pastoral Visiting : please let me know of those in need of visiting at home or in hospital.

Christian Aid Week 2025 : thank you to all who supported the breakfast in the Church Rooms yesterday. Another one will take place on Wednesday 14th May in All Saints from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.. Collection envelopes for Christian Aid are also available if anyone wishes to donate.

Confirmation Candidates : would those wishing to be confirmed in June please stay for a meeting following our 10 a.m. service today. The Ministry Area confirmation Service will take place on Tuesday 3^{rd} June at 7 p.m. We pray for all preparing to be confirmed.

Swansea Yarn Bombers : a huge thank you to the Swansea Yarn Bombers who have decorated our church with the wonderful knitted creations for the VE 80th anniversary. I am sure we all agree they are fantastic. We will be leaving the display on view through the Summer as we celebrate VJ Day and also allow visitors to our church through the summer months to see the displays.

Ascension Day : Thursday 29th May. 9.45 Holy Eucharist in Norton Church. **7 p.m. Ministry Area Eucharist in ground of Clyne Chapel** (inside if wet) let by Bishop John Lomas.

Joseph's Smile : Thank you to all who have been supporting this appeal so generously. Over 100 vests have been donated : The local charity Joseph's Smile is asking for donations of packs of children's vests, to fit children of 18 months to 13 years. These vests are altered to help secure the Hickman lines through which the children receive chemotherapy. Packs from the major supermarkets are ideal and these packs usually can be bought for about £4 or £5. Pastel colours are popular Any donations of vests will be collected by Caroline Jones from church and delivered directly to the charity. https://josephssmile.org/about/ On Wednesday 21st May Joseph's mum will be visiting us in All Saints after the mid week Eucharist.

Annual Accounts : we are required each year to approve our church accounts prior to submission to the Charity Commission following a Ministry Area Annual meeting. There will be a BRIEF (Single item) meeting after the 10 a.m. service on 25^{th} May for any able to stay to help this process.

Clyne Chapel and Clyne in Bloom. Clyne Chapel will be open and serving refreshments from 1.00pm to 4.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Sundays until 24th May. Please come along with family and friends to enjoy a friendly chat and visit. Clyne Chapel's Organist Les Ryan will be playing quiet and contemplative organ music from 2.00pm on 14th, 16th , 21st and 23rd May.