

## Monthly Notices - February 2025

Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers

To contact us please email: [caldicotmc@gmail.com](mailto:caldicotmc@gmail.com) and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email [revbwillers@gmail.com](mailto:revbwillers@gmail.com) (preferred) or call 01291 625015.

### Pastoral Letter

*Let me make one final plea, Mr President. Millions have put their trust in you. As you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now. There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican and independent families who fear for their lives.*

*And the people who pick our crops and clean our office buildings; who labour in our poultry farms and meat-packing plants; who wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants and work the night shift in hospitals – they may not be citizens or have the proper documentation, but the vast majority of immigrants are not criminals. They pay taxes, and are good neighbours. They are faithful members of our churches, mosques and synagogues, gurdwara, and temples.*

*Have mercy, Mr President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away. Help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here. Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger, for we were once strangers in this land.*

*May God grant us all the strength and courage to honour the dignity of every human being, speak the truth in love, and walk humbly with one another and our God, for the good of all the people of this nation and the world.*

As a Christian minister, I stand by these words from a fellow leader in the faith. I think she preached the Gospel faithfully, and I have sent her a letter of support. I hope her words resonate with you, too. If you would like to read her full sermon, you can do so here: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jan/24/bishop-mariann-edgar-budde-sermon-that-enraged-donald-trump>

**Blessings, Bethany**

## **Love in Action!**

*'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'* (1 John 3:18).

The writer Gary Chapman describes how love can be expressed in 5 different 'languages': words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred language of love? As we think about St Valentine during this month, let's consider how God's love language is expressed in the word *agape*. This is exclusively found in the New Testament and is uniquely defined by Jesus: *'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'* (1 John 3:16). Jesus' giving of His life on the cross provides the model for how we can demonstrate God's love in our relationships with others.

*It is self-giving:* are we ready to put the other person first, as Jesus did when He died for us in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service, whatever the cost?

*It takes the initiative:* are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it or who we find hard to love? Do we have eyes of compassion to see their needs and a heart to love and serve them?

*It is intentional:* are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of the time we have or how we feel?

***Canon Paul Hardingham***

### **ECUMENICAL PRAYER MEETING**

To start on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March  
at 6.30pm  
At our church

### **RECHARGE - CAFÉ CHURCH**

We are meeting at the Portskewett  
Church hall on  
**Thursday 13th February  
@ 7.30pm**

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

***The next Church council will be on Saturday 22nd February 10am in the church.***

# **We welcome all who worship with us**

## **MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING**

**Every Sunday at 10.00am**

**Preachers for February**

2<sup>nd</sup> Rev A. Ellis,- 9th Rev B. Willers - Holy Communion  
16<sup>th</sup> Local Arrangement - 23<sup>rd</sup> Mrs T. Griffiths

**Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am**

**United with the service in the church**

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

### **Prayers of the Bible: Praying in your Discouragements**

*'Moses said to the Lord, "...I am not able to carry all this people alone, the burden is too heavy for me..." Numbers 11:10-15.*

Moses prayed this prayer in a day of dark depression and discouragement. The opening verses of the chapter relate how divine punishment fell on the people of Israel because they complained about almost everything. Moses prayed and the punishment stopped but not the people's complaints. They wanted meat to eat.

For years they had been sustained by manna from heaven, but now they longed for the fish, cucumbers and melons they had eaten in Egypt (vv.5,6). They forget how the Lord had delivered them from Pharaoh's bondage. Now they preferred Egyptian food, and the slavery that went with it, to the goodness of the Lord and His provision for them.

Moses was beside himself with despair. Would these ungrateful people never stop complaining? Then the Lord's anger threatened the people again (v.10). Moses was caught in the middle. On one side of him the people complained, and on the other side God's wrath was about to fall. Moses couldn't go on.

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## **Prayers of the Bible: Praying in your Discouragements** **CONTINUED**

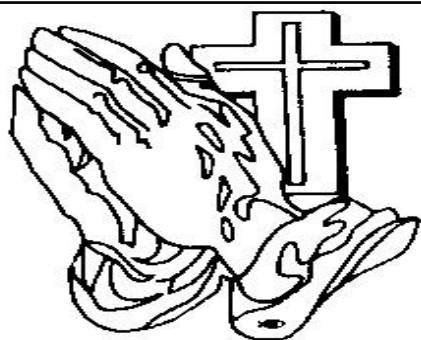
Moses was depressed, irritable and resentful. He poured it all out before the Lord. It was a prayer born of frustration and anger. He was angry with his ungrateful congregation, and he was angry with God. Why did the Lord leave it all to him? After all, it was God's plan to bring the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Moses had only gone along with it because God commanded him. But now it was all too much. Worn out with listening to the people's whining and not sure of what God would do next, Moses had had enough. He blamed the Lord for giving him a burden he couldn't carry, and he wanted to die.

But God answered Moses graciously! He understood the frustration, the petulance, the lack of faith and the rebellious spirit that blamed God for it all. He provided Moses with seventy elders who eased the burden of leadership (vv.16, 17). He sent an east wind that brought quails into the camp and provided meat for them (vv.31, 32). In grace and mercy God 'overlooked' the faults of Moses and sent him help and refreshment.

His frustration broke out in petulant questions to the Lord. 'Why are you dealing so severely with me?' 'Why do you lay this burden on me?' 'Did I conceive these people?' 'Why am I a nursing mother to them?' 'Am I responsible for getting them to Egypt?' 'How can I provide meat for so many?' 'Lord, this burden is too great for me.' 'I'd rather die now than go on like this' (see vv.11-15).

In our deepest disappointments, God understands. In our frustrations, God is merciful. When we lash out at circumstances and even at God Himself, He does not answer in kind. In our deepest discouragement, His love and grace and understanding are with us still.

***Life is fragile  
— Handle  
with prayer***



***By the Revd  
Dr Herbert McGonigle***

### **NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES**

If you have an item, please contact Roger Simms by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February