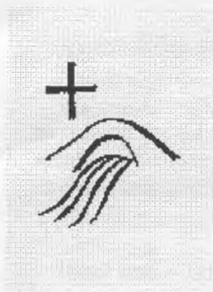


The Rectorial Benefice  
of Cowbridge



Cowbridge  
Charter Trust



**A SERVICE**  
to  
**Commemorate**  
the  
**750th Anniversary of the**  
**Granting**  
of  
**The First Borough Charter**

in  
The Presence of His Royal Highness  
The Prince of Wales KG  
at  
Holy Cross Parish Church

St David's Day 2004  
2.15 pm

## **Cowbridge Charter Trust**

The Trust was started after meetings initiated jointly by Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council and local History Societies.

In this Charter Anniversary year it intends to promote the history of the town and stimulate actions by the community, so that the town continues into the future with confidence.

### **Cowbridge and its Medieval Charters**

In 2004, Cowbridge celebrates the 750th anniversary of its first borough charter, granted on 13 March 1254 by Richard de Clare, the Lord of Glamorgan. De Clare was one of the most powerful barons of the day, having huge estates stretching across South Wales and southern and eastern England.

In 1254, he addressed his charter to "our beloved burgesses of Longa Villa"—so a small settlement probably already existed at Cowbridge. "Longa Villa" (the long town) must have been only a provisional name, since Cowbridge (in various forms) is found in documents from 1262 onwards.

De Clare's charter granted valuable rights and liberties to people who were thus drawn to settle in Cowbridge. In return there was an annual payment to the Lord of one shilling for each building plot (the burgage rent, which continued to be paid down to the beginning of the twentieth century). In 1324, by royal charter of Edward II, the burgesses of Cowbridge were privileged to sell their goods free of toll in all markets and fairs in the king's realms, in England, Ireland and France. Later charters issued by Richard de Clare's descendants—the Despensers, Beauchamps and Nevills - in 1340, 1358, 1397, 1421, 1423, 1460 and 1473 confirmed these rights and gradually enlarged them. By the 1460 charter issued by Richard Nevill the "Kingmaker", Cowbridge enjoyed self-government by two bailiffs and a bench of twelve aldermen selected from among the burgesses. The town had its own set of "Ordinances" or bye-laws which all residents had to obey. The last of the medieval charters was granted by George, Duke of Clarence, famous (at least in tradition) for having met his death in a butt of malmsey wine in 1478.

All the medieval charters save one have been lost. There was great excitement in 1983 when the charter of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Worcester, granted in 1421, came to light in a solicitor's office in Somerset, where it had seemingly been taken by the Gwyns of Llansan-nor and Forde Abbey. An important feature of the Latin text, written on parchment and sealed with the Lord's seal in green wax, is that it repeats the terms of all the previous charters, and confirms 13 March 1254 as the date of the first charter. This precious document is now in the safekeeping of the Glamorgan Record Office.

**At the High Street:** The Church bells ring out and *the High Sheriff and civic dignitaries are presented to His Royal Highness. After this the bells stop and he is greeted by Children from local schools.*

**At the Church Gates:** *On arrival the Royal Standard is flown. Councillors Susan and Geoffrey Cox are presented. The Rector and Mrs Belcher are presented, followed by the Parish Executive and ecumenical representatives, who wait in the churchyard.*

**At the Church**

*The Procession forms up at the Porch Entrance.*

Taperer Crucifer Taperer  
Parish Choir  
Master of Ceremonies  
The Clergy  
The Prince  
The Lord Lieutenant

*The Trumpeters of the South Wales Police Authority sound a Fanfare, and the procession proceeds during the singing of*

**Hymn**

**Tune:** Blaenwern

**Stand**

**1 Lord, Who in Thy perfect  
wisdom times and seasons  
dost arrange  
Working out Thy changeless  
Purpose  
In a world of ceaseless change;  
Thou didst form our ancient  
nation In remote barbaric days,  
To unfold in it Thy purpose  
To Thy glory and Thy praise.**

1 Arglwydd, trefni mewn  
doethineb  
Ein tymhorau is y rhod;  
Daw i ben dy fythol arfaeth  
Er pob newid sydd yn bod:  
Ti ddewisaist Wlad y Bryniau,  
Ddyddiau tywyll a di-wawr,  
I egluro dy fwriadau  
Er dy glod a'th Enw mawr.

2 To our shores remote,  
benighted, Washed by distant  
western waves,  
Tidings in Thy love Thou sentest,  
Tidings of the Cross that saves.  
Men of courage strove and  
suffered  
Here Thy holy Church to plant;  
Glorious in the roll of heroes  
Shines the name of Dewi Sant.

2 Hyd ein glannau pell a olchir  
O'r gorllewin gan y lli  
Yr anfaist ti o'th gariad  
Sôn am Groesbren Calfari;  
Dros yr Eglwys Lân Gatholig  
Collwyd chwys a gwaed dy  
blant,  
A disgleirio'n rhol dy arwyr  
Y mae enw Dewi Sant

3 Lord, we hold in veneration  
All the saints our land has  
known,  
Bishops, priests,  
confessors, martyrs, Standing  
now around Thy throne;  
Dewi, Dyfrig, Deiniol, Teilo -  
All the gallant saintly band,  
Who of old by prayer and  
labour  
Hallowed all our fatherland.

3 Parchwn, Arglwydd,  
goffadwriaeth  
Pawb o Seintiau Cymru wen,  
Yr Esgobion a'r Offeiriaid  
A'r Merthyri hwnt i'r llen:  
Dewi, Dyfrig, Deiniol, Teilo -  
Dewr y safent tros y gwir,  
Bu eu pader, bu eu penyd  
Yn sancteiddio erwau'n tir.

### Bidding Prayer

Stand

by The Rev Canon Derek Belcher, Rector of Cowbridge.

We have come together in this Parish Church to set forth the most worthy praise of God which has been offered in this place through many generations; to commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the granting of the First Borough Charter; to hear God's holy word and to pray for the good and welfare of Christ's Church, for the Queen, the Prince of Wales and all who exercise authority in this realm, for the needs of all people and a deepening sense of community.

Especially at this time, as in duty bound, we pray for the people of our locality; for those who hold positions of leadership in our civic and cultural life.

Finally, we remember those who have served this community over the past 750 years, putting its welfare before their own, and are now at rest. We pray that we may never lack a sufficiency of fit persons to follow in their footsteps and that we all may direct our lives after their good example and, this life ended, be partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting.

These prayers and praises let us offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

Ein Tad, yr hwn wyt yn y nefoedd,	<b>Our Father, who art in heaven</b>
sancteidder dy enw;	<b>Hallowed be thy name;</b>
deled dy deyrnas;	<b>Thy kingdom come</b>
gwneler dy ewyllys;	<b>Thy will be done;</b>
megis yn y nef, felly ar y ddaear	<b>on earth as it is in heaven.</b>
hefyd.	<b>Give us this day our daily bread.</b>
Dyro i ni heddiw ein bara beunyddiol.	<b>And forgive us our trespasses,</b>
A maddau i ni ein dyledion,	<b>as we forgive those who trespass</b>
fel y maddeuwn ninnau i'n dyledwyr.	<b>against us</b>
Ac nac arwain ni i brofedigaeth;	<b>Lead us not into temptation;</b>
eithr gwared ni rhag drwg.	<b>but deliver us from evil.</b>
Cans eiddot ti yw'r deyrnas,	<b>For thine is the kingdom</b>
A'r gallu, a'r gogoniant	<b>the power and the glory.</b>
Yn oes oesodd Amen.	<b>For ever and ever. Amen.</b>

**Reading****Ecclesiasticus 44:1-8****Sit**

Read by Mr Alan Crossley,  
Treasurer of the Cowbridge Charter Trust

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations. The Lord appointed to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and made a name for themselves by their valour; those who gave counsel because they were intelligent: those who spoke in prophetic oracles; those who led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the people's lore; they were wise in their words of instruction: those who composed musical tunes, or put verse to writing; rich men endowed with resources, living peacefully in their homes — all these were honoured in their generations, and were the pride of their times. Some of them have left behind a name, so that others declare their praise.

This is the Word of The Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Poem**

A Prayerful Poem, for Prince Charles' Visit.  
Written and read by Dr Cath Filmer Davies

Did druids walk here, burning fires  
To light this Valley into Christian-tide?  
And were there Romans, with serried rows of warriors,  
Marching across the pleasant, peaceful Vale of Thaw?  
Their stories have faded, and instead  
Normans crossed this Vale, their Lords and Princes  
Building castles to subdue this realm,  
And bringing wealth to build, as well,  
Houses of worship; this house of God.

Here, too, across the centuries,  
 The word of holy David  
 Has brought light into this land  
 Whose people have sought the Spirit and the grace  
 Of God Almighty.

And here we stand, before the altar which has known  
 Across the ages, the praying hands of thousands  
 In the shadow of Richard's Charter; which we now celebrate  
 In a Royal presence, representing here  
 The long lines of royal and noble blood which  
 Have blessed this place.

In paying homage to the Prince of Wales,  
 Whose ancient title echoes from the mists of time,  
 We celebrate Y Bont Faen, Cowbridge, and this church  
 Which recalls the saving sacrifice of Christ our Lord  
 And all those who have revered His Name.

We ask God's blessing on our Prince,  
 Upon our church, our town  
 And all our people, knowing  
 That these roads where noble feet have trod  
 Have also heard the holy tread:  
 The bright footsteps of God.

### **The Blessing**

### **Stand**

by The Rev Canon Derek Belcher

Yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi  
 The Lord be with you

A chyda'th ysbryd dithau  
**And with your spirit**

Tangnefedd Duw, sydd  
 uchlaw pob deall, a gadwo  
 eich calonnau a'ch meddyliau  
 yng ngwybodaeth a chariad  
 Duw, a'i Fab Iesu Grist ein  
 Harglwydd:  
 a Bendith Duw Hollalluog, y  
 Tad, y Mab a'r Ysbryd Glan,  
 a fo yn eich plith ac a drigo  
 gyda chwi yn wastad.  
**Amen.**

The peace of God which  
 passes all understanding,  
 keep your hearts and minds  
 in the knowledge and love of  
 God and of His Son Jesus  
 Christ our Lord. And the  
 blessing of God almighty The  
 Father, The Son, and The  
 Holy Spirit, be upon you and  
 remain with you now and  
 always. **Amen.**

### Hymn

Tune: Sanctus

**1 Round the Lord in glory  
 seated,  
 Cherubim and seraphim  
 Filled his temple, and  
 repeated  
 Each to each th' alternate  
 hymn:  
 "Lord thy glory fills the  
 heaven. Earth is with Thy  
 fullness stored;  
 Unto Thee be glory given,  
 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord."**

1 Glan geriwbiaid a  
 seraffiaid,  
 Fyrdd o gylch yr orsedd fry  
 Mewn olynol seiniau dibaid,  
 Canant fawl eu Harglwydd  
 cu:  
 "Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th  
 ogoniant  
 Llawn yw'r ddaear, dir a môr;  
 Rhodder iti fythol foliant,  
 Sanctaidd, sanctaidd,  
 sanctaidd lôr!"

2 Heaven is still with glory ring-  
ing  
Earth takes up the angels cry,  
"Holy, Holy, Holy," singing  
Lord of Hosts,  
Thou Lord most High:  
"Lord Thy glory fills the  
heaven,  
Earth is with Thy fullness  
stored;  
Unto Thee be glory given, "  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

2 **Fyth y nef a chwydda'r  
moliant;**  
**Uwch yr etyb daear fyth—**  
**"Sanctaidd, sanctaidd,**  
**sanctaidd!" meddant,**  
**"Dduw y lluoedd, Ner**  
**dilyth!**  
**"Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th**  
**ogoniant,**  
**Llawn yw'r ddaear, dir a môr;**  
**Rhodder iti fythol foliant**  
**Sanctaidd, sanctaidd,**  
**sanctaidd lôr!"**

3 **With His seraph-train**  
**before Him, With His holy**  
**Church below,**  
**Thus unite we to adore Him,**  
**Bid we thus our**  
**anthem flow: "Lord Thy**  
**glory fills the heaven,**  
**Earth is with Thy fullness**  
**stored**  
**Unto Thee be glory given,**  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord."**

(R. Mant)

3 Gyda'r seraff gôr i fyny,  
Gyda'r Eglwys lan i lawr,  
Uno wnawn fel hyn i ganu  
Anthem clod ein Harglwydd  
mawr:  
"Llawn yw'r nefoedd o'th  
ogoniant,  
Llawn yw'r ddaear dir a môr;  
Rhodder iti fythol foliant,  
Sanctaidd, sanctaidd,  
sanctaidd lôr!"

Richard Mant (c. Alafon)

Harp Music

by Eluned Pierce

Sit

*During this recital the Rector escorts His Royal Highness to view  
the Communion plate.*

### Signing of Scrolls

*His Royal Highness moves to the table where Councillor Susan  
Cox, Chairperson of Cowbridge Charter Trust, invites him to sign  
commemorative scrolls.*

**“ 750th Charter Anniversary Exhibition”**

*His Royal Highness will be escorted by Councillor Susan Cox to view the various exhibits and meet groups of people who represent the local community.*

*On completion the Royal party departs.*

*The congregation is asked not to leave the Church until directed by the Wardens. The Altar Party leave by way of the entrance to the Taynton Room*

*Organist Mr. Richard Haines*

*Conductor: Mrs Nic Treharne*

*Choirs:*

*The Parish Choir of Llanblethian*

*Cowbridge Male Voice Choir*

*Cowbridge Choral Society*

## A SHORT HISTORY OF HOLY CROSS CHURCH

In the early thirteenth century, the manor of Llanblethian covered the central part of the Vale of Glamorgan, with a village and church at Llanblethian itself. The area we now call Cowbridge had just a few houses in the pastureland of the manor, but here, on this 'greenfield site' in the Thaw valley, Richard de Clare— Lord of Glamorgan and lord of the manor of Llanblethian— decided to build a new town. Cowbridge received its first charter as a borough in 1254, and it is reasonable to assume that the church, officially a chapel under the control of the church at Llanblethian, was built about that time. Certainly much of the nave, tower and chancel of the present church dates from the late thirteenth century.

The size and shape of the tower suggest that it was to serve as a watchtower or stronghold in case of attack on the town, but whether an attack ever occurred, we do not know. The church was enlarged in the fifteenth century. The South Llanquian aisle was built in 1473, reputedly as a gift of Lady Anne Neville, wife of Richard, Duke of Gloucester and Lord of Glamorgan (later to be Richard III) The construction of the aisle involved the removal of the massive south wall of the church, and replacing it with the light pillars and arcading which are there today. Also in the fifteenth century, a chantry chapel was built on the north side of the chancel, for a chantry priest to say daily prayers and mass for the soul of the founder, and to teach; the priest lived on the premises. The chantry was terminated in 1548, and the chapel is now used as a meeting room (Taynton Room) and Parish Office.

In 1484, Richard III as Lord of Glamorgan and Morgan granted a chaplaincy to Holy Cross Church. The document, requiring Bishop John Marshall of Llandaff to provide a chaplain 'for the purpose of celebrating divine worship and the holy sacrament in the church or chapel of Holy Cross' with the king's seal in red wax, is preserved in the Glamorgan Record Office. This charter put the previously more haphazard provision of ministers on an official and more regular basis. We know that soon after this an altar in the church was used as a place of solemn and binding agreement — there is a record that in 1516, William Bassett of Treguff conveyed to David Seys of Cowbridge and William ap John of St Hilary, property in Eglwys Brewis — the money to be repaid on the feast of St Andrew in 1526 'in the parish church of Cowbridge on the altar of St Nicholas', between sunrise and sunset. This altar may have been at the east end of the Llanquian aisle. The Reformation saw the removal of the rood loft and other aspects of medieval worship.

Major alterations to the appearance of the church also came in the nineteenth century, with the construction of the present porch, much Victorian restoration, and the removal of the gallery at the west end of the church. In 1925 and 1926 the nave and Llanquian aisle were re-roofed, and the arcade pillars between the nave and the aisle were reconstructed — which is why most of the delicate fifteenth century columns have concrete bases!

There are various wall memorials dating back to the seventeenth century, including those to William Carne of Nash Manor, Judge David Jenkins of Hensol, and the Edmondes family of Old Hall. There are also many memorials to headmasters of Cowbridge Grammar School, and stained glass windows commemorating benefactors of the school, emphasising the close links which exist between school and church. The church also housed the library of the SPCK between 1709 and 1848.

Today the Church faces a major restoration on the roof, tower and interior. In all its history it stands as a spiritual signpost, drawing people to give honour to God in the beauty of holiness.