

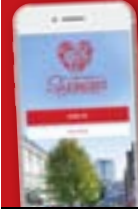
South Wales Evening Post

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

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CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CASTLE BINGO

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Churches ready to celebrate with festive season services

THE two churches in the Parish of Cockett in Swansea will be celebrating Christmas in a variety of ways this year with formal and informal services, and a welcome for all.

At 5pm on Sunday the popular 9 Readings and Carol Service will be held at St Peter's Church, offering a traditional service of Bible readings, carols and choir pieces, followed by tea, coffee and seasonal refreshments.

At 4pm on Christmas

Eve, St. Peter's will hold its Christingle Service for families where the Christmas story will be retold with oranges, ribbons, sweets, candles and carols, with refreshments afterwards.

And then at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve a traditional Midnight Mass will be held at St Peter's before, at 10am on Christmas Day, a nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ will be held at St Illtyd's Church, Ystrad Road, Fforestfach.

Unhappy owner in blast over 12-hour viewing for Banksy

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John Brandler with the Port Talbot Banksy after he bought the artwork.

Picture: Jonathan Myers

Adam Hale

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THE owner of Banksy's first artwork in Wales has criticised a council's plans to put it on public view for just 12 hours after being locked away for seven months.

The Season's Greetings mural, which shows a child dressed for snow playing in the falling ash and smoke from a skip fire, has been kept from public view since it was cut from the side of a steelworker's garage in Port Talbot in May.

Yesterday art dealer John Brandler, who bought the piece for a six-figure sum, said he was "saddened" that Neath Port Talbot Council had only given the public a 48-hour notice the piece would be put on public display for 12 hours between Wednesday and Friday this week.

He told the PA news agency: "When are people going to come and look at this?"

"I'm pleased it's being opened to the public, but why do it on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday? Why not a Saturday or Sunday?"

"I'm so saddened by the whole thing.

"It should have been an amazing opportunity for the town."

He added: "I think this is being used as an excuse, that the authorities say 'We opened it to the public but only X people came, so there is no point in opening a museum.'"

Essex-based Mr Brandler criticised the exhibit only being open between 11am and 3pm, saying most workers and children in school would miss out, and said he had not been invited by the council to the opening.

He had agreed for the piece to stay in an unused Ty'r Orsaf building in Port Talbot for up to three years so it could be viewed by local people and attract art fans from across the country.

He previously claimed

his plans to turn the space into an international street art museum featuring other pieces in his collection had been frustrated by the council.

The mural was covered in resin and cut from the wall of a garage owned by steelworker Ian Lewis in the Taibach area of Port Talbot, before being loaded on to the back of a lorry and escorted by police to its current location.

Councillor Annette Wingrave, Neath Port Talbot Council's cabinet member for regeneration and sustainable development, said: "We are delighted to be able to open the artwork up to the public this week, and we have been working hard with other agencies to come up with ideas for a permanent display.

"With security, staffing and other costs, the council cannot do this alone but it is hoped that working with others we can come up with a solution," she added.