

## Review of 2008 - 09

Highlights of the reports of the Diocesan Officers to the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference, May 2009

*Full copies of the report can be obtained from the Diocesan Office, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 0RD 01745 582245 or downloaded from [www.dioceseofstasaph.org.uk](http://www.dioceseofstasaph.org.uk)*

### **Board of Education and Lifelong Learning**

**Carole Burgess,**

*Director of Lifelong Learning*

**Tim Feak,** *Under 25s Officer*

**Anne Suter,** *Schools Officer*

**Roz Williams,** *Schools Officer*

**Revd Christine Owen,**

*Child Protection Officer*

**Revd Alan Tiltman,**

*Continuing Ministerial Education*

- New Director started in September 2008
- New Board structures and team established
- Development in hand of the 'Learn' section of the Diocesan website
- Chair, Lord Barry Jones, appointed the first Chancellor of Glyndŵr University
- Particular support for schools implementing the Foundation phase
- Outstanding inspection report for St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham
- Working with Welsh Assembly to maintain fabric of Church Schools; Governing Bodies encouraged to develop a capital investment plan
- Admissions Appeals held for first time; policies are robust, but fair
- Heads of Aided and Controlled Schools met
- New training programme for Heads, Governors and Staff
- 3 strands to the Diocesan Youth Work strategy – Establishing Team, Increasing Capacity of Volunteers and Developing Partnerships
- Discussions across the Diocese about

employing youth workers or 'gap year' students; links now established with 2 universities and many Christian youth work organisations

- Work of the team showcased at Governing Body
- Cluster groups support voluntary work throughout the Diocese
- Core Group of practitioners support Under 25s Officer
- Youth Work Grant Scheme has proved effective
- Creative work with children in parishes to be publicised and ideas shared
- Child Protection Officer offers advice and guidance, and responds to confidential matters
- Provincial Child Protection Officers planning for review of historic cases; work instigated on a bullying policy
- Work being undertaken to support Worship Leaders and Pastoral Assistants, and to review the take up and impact of the training courses
- Revd Janice Jones, ecumenical chaplain at Glyndŵr and Yale College, continues support for students and staff
- Diocesan Theological Society flourishes and attracts new members

### **Board of Ministry**

**Canon Mary Stallard,** *Chair & Diocesan Director of Ordinands*

**Revd John Harvey,** *Vocations Advisor*

**Canon Tudor Hughes,** *Initial Continuing Ministerial Education*

- The Board is grateful to the Revd James Harris for all his hard work

- Vocations Vision Day led to new strategy; a team, led by the new Vocations Advisor and the Director of Ordinands, to build up capacity to nurture vocation in all the baptised; possible gap-year project for young people exploring a vocation to ministry; developing support for self-supporting (or 'non-stipendiary') ministries, the vocational diaconate and Reader ministry
- Students are training for ordained ministry at St Michael's College, Llandaff and on the 'St Michael's in St Asaph' Diocesan scheme
- A group has met to take forward the leadership training ideas explored at the residential Clergy school in Lancaster in September 2007
- Looking at support mechanisms for ministry, a Vision Day is planned
- Canon Dr Raymond Bayley has relinquished the role of Warden of Readers
- New system for Reader selection; a forthcoming scheme for Readers Emeriti; Reader Licence re-drafted to take account of recent changes
- St Michael's College is developing an integrated approach to ministerial formation, allowing for continuous education throughout ministry
- Assistance and resources are available for parishes to discern their vision for what God is calling them to
- Investing in Mission Grants available for mission/outreach projects; to date, 7 small (up to £500) grants and 1 large (up to £5000) grant have been awarded
- Evangelism Officer has contact with over 30 non-church groups and approx 2,500 children; work with Back to Church Sunday, Cymdeithas y Beibl / Bible Society, Saint y Cymuned / Urban Saints, and others
- Diocesan evangelists' scheme has 1 candidate in training and several potential candidates
- 3 Quiet Days held in 2008
- Annual Plygain; despite the snow, the Cathedral was packed
- Welsh Spirituality Seminar led by Revd Dr Elwyn Richards of Bangor
- Two year course for spiritual directors, run with Chester Diocese, to be completed this summer
- Ecumenism Officer supports the unique ministry in Rhostyllen, where the Revd Gary Windon is Anglican and Presbyterian minister and Chaplain at Nightingale House
- Provincial Ecumenism Officers meet quarterly and are currently looking at shared ministry in Wales
- Ecumenism projects in Urban Priority Areas are being studied
- Ecumenism Officer represented the Bench of Bishops at the Faith and Order Conference in Edinburgh
- Liturgy Working Group being formed
- Supplementary Liturgical Material and Service of the Word being developed
- Pre-Lambeth visit of overseas Bishops received a real flavour of life and mission within our Diocese
- Bishop John Simalenga, from South-west Tanganyika was among our visitors; the companionship link was signed in both

## **Board of Renewal and Parish Development**

**Archdeacon Bernard Thomas, Chair**

**Revd Vittoria Hancock, Evangelism**

**Revd Huw Butler, Spirituality & Healing**

**Revd Pam Powell, Ecumenism**

**Canon Bill Rowell, World Mission**

**Mrs Sue Kelly, Tourism**

**Revd Kate Johnson,**

*Liturgical Development Officer*

- Thanks to the Revd Dr Peter Wykes, who has retired from leadership of the Spirituality and Healing section

dioceses in the Autumn; a visit is being planned

- World mission appeal raised £2,500; to support training needs in South-west Tanganyika and a project working with young victims of war in Sierra Leone
- Development of Open Church Network project centre in Gresford commenced with £142,856 funding from the Rural Development Plan for Wales
- Groups of churches are developing tourism / visitor trails
- Open Church Day organised by Churches Tourism Network Wales
- New project, 'Sacred Space', established in rural Wrexham

## **Church and Society**

**Very Revd Chris Potter**, *Chair*

**Revd David Lewis**, *Lead Officer*

**Revd John Barden Davies**,  
*Rural Life Adviser*

**Revd Peter Mackriell**,  
*Chaplain with Deaf People*

**Revd Aidan Coleman**, *TCC Organiser*

**Revd James Aylward**,  
*Asylum Seekers and Refugees*

**Canon Philip Williams**  
*World Development Officer*

**Revd Adrian Copping**, *Ecology Group*

- Diocesan Offering in aid of Cruse; £6212 raised from parishes, topped up by the Board to £8,000. At the Diocesan Offering service a presentation was made to Mrs Joan Davies for her service as President
- The Chair and Lead officer are members of Faith into Action, which seeks to stimulate theological reflection on social issues
- Provincial Church and Society Officer addressed the Board on the policy document 'One Wales'
- Disability Conference, 'All One in Christ', underwritten by Board

- Ty Nos, permanent Night Shelter opened in December, a major achievement for TCC and the Board
- Quiet Day on social inclusion led by Revd James Aylward
- Support for the Deaneries of Llanrwst and Rhos's 'Food for Thought Day' held in Llandudno
- Helped Cytun in Conwy County Borough to provide a tent at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Penrhyn Bay
- Asylum seekers sent to Wrexham rising to about 150, in addition to section 4 applicants awaiting deportation who are often destitute; need to combat prejudice and racial abuse; £5000 grant given by Board has met a variety of needs
- Diocesan Ecology Group encourages good 'green' practices, the exchange of ideas and theological reflection
- Some parishes already committed to working with 'Eco-Congregation' materials
- North Wales Deaf Church continues to meet weekly; the Chaplain and interpreter support two signed services a month
- Good relations with hearing support units in three schools
- TCC continues to support Wrexham Muslim Association's efforts to find a worship space in Wrexham
- TCC Organiser attended reception at the Welsh assembly to promote a living wage for Wales
- Three new member groups have joined TCC in the last year; Get Fair, Shotton; Unison, Wrexham; and St Thomas' PCC, Pen-y-Cae
- TCC celebrated Wales gaining Fairtrade country status in June
- TCC continues to pioneer Participatory Budgeting in community councils
- Christian Aid Committee meets regularly and is represented on Denbighshire,

Flintshire and Wrexham Fairtrade Coalitions

- Fairtrade stalls/information points manned at the International Eisteddfod and during Denbighshire Food Festival
- The use of Fairtrade products is monitored in order to maintain the Diocese's Fairtrade status

### **Board of Communications**

**Revd Peter Mackriell,**

*Communications Officer*

- 'Deanery Focus' is a new feature of Teulu Asaph
- Parish website scheme launched, with training for parishes. St Asaph has the most parishes on-line in the province
- Media coverage of Bishop John's retirement and election of Bishop Gregory
- Communications Training, looking at principles and practicalities
- Archdeacons' Visitation News 2009, sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance
- Diocesan Officers' residential led by the Dean in March 2009
- Diocesan Directory to be published in Autumn 2009

### **Funding & Parish Support**

**Tracey White,**

*Funding & Parish Support Officer*

- In the Year of Stewardship, parishes undertook to preach and teach on the theology of giving
- Funding and Parish Support Officer has focussed on other areas of parish support and is developing further stewardship materials
- 'Re-shaping The Future' conference encouraged more flexible use of church buildings
- Support for parishes undertaking major development projects
- Funding support for numerous small building and people projects

- Development of Funding section of the website, including free online funding search facility, GrantNet
- Training for treasurers in preparation of accounts and annual report
- Support in the use of Giftaid
- Guidance on reclaiming VAT.
- Feedback being gathered on the 'Investing In Mission' programme
- Co-ordination of the Provincial Stewardship Executive, working with colleagues on Giving With A Direct Debit (GWADD) and the Charities Bill, and in developing and contributing to a Stewardship DVD

### **Board of Finance / Diocesan Administration Team**

**Revd Brian Harvey,**

*Diocesan Secretary*

- In addition to raising some £2,790,000 by the new parish share arrangements in 2008, the DBF received a grant of some £1,030,000 from the Representative Body. Approximately 83% of the Diocese's annual budget is used to cover all Clergy costs
- The number of stipendiary Clergy continues to reduce in line with the plans agreed with Deaneries; target of 75 full time stipendiary Clergy by 2013. In 2009, budgeted for a net reduction of four
- 96.8% of parish share for 2008 has been paid. In almost all cases, arrears were lower at the end of 2008 than at the end of 2007
- 4.8% increase in parish share agreed for 2008 and a 4.5% increase for 2009
- Administration Team shortly moves into the new Diocesan offices, funded by the Board of Finance from the reserves held by the Diocese
- The Diocesan Administration Team consists of five full-time and nine part-time officers or assistants, with some posts part-funded by the Cathedral or Trust funds