

# Teulu Asaph



Sharing Good News with the Family of the Diocese

August/September 2011

## Churches ready to Welcome Eisteddfod

For the first time since 1977 Wrexham is welcoming the National Eisteddfod to North Wales and Churches from around the town will play their part in the festival.

A huge tent organised by Cytun - Churches Together in Wales - will welcome people of all faiths or none to offer a meeting place, refreshments and a soft drinks bar to visitors throughout the week.

Worship services will take place in Welsh at 11am every morning and there will be talks and presentations about a variety of Christian topics every afternoon.

Cafod and Christian Aid are responsible for one of the sessions and there will be a talk from the retiring Catholic Bishop of Wrexham, Edwin Regan on the Thursday.

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## Eglwysi'n barod i groesawu'r Eisteddfod

Am y tro cyntaf er 1977, bydd Wrecsam yn croesawu'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol i Ogledd Cymru, a bydd Eglwysi o bob rhan o'r dref yn cymryd rhan yn yr Wyl.

Bydd pabell enfawr wedi'i threfnu gan Cytûn - yr Eglwysi ynghyd yng Nghymru - yn croesawu pobl o bob ffydd a'r rhai sydd ddim yn arddel ffydd, gan

gynnig man cyfarfod, lluniaeth a bar diodydd ysgafn i ymwelwyr drwy'r wythnos gyfan.

Cynhelir gwasanaethau o fawl drwy'r Gymraeg am 11 o'r gloch bob bore, a bydd sgrysiâu a chyflwyniadau ynghylch amrywiaeth o bynciau Cristnogol bob prynhawn.

Bydd Cafod a Chymorth Cristnogol yn gyfrifol am un o'r sesiynau, a dydd Iau, bydd sgwrs gan Esgob Catholig Wrecsam, Edwin Regan, sydd ar fin ymdeol.

*Parhad ar dudalen 4*



*Rev. Aled Edwards from Cytun and Diocesan Language Officer Rev. Mair Jones at 2007 Eisteddfod*

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# DIRNADAETH INSIGHT



Dyma air i estyn croeso cynnes i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Wrecsam. Dyma'r ail dro mewn tair blynedd i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ymweld â'r esgobaeth, gan iddi gael ei chynnal yn y Bala y tro diwethaf yr ymwelodd â'r

gogledd. O rwsyg seremoniau'r Orsedd (a ddeilliodd o ddychymyg ecentrig yn y ddeunawfed ganrif) i seiniau'r Sîn roc Gymraeg, mae rhywbeth i bawb yn yr Eisteddfod – cyn belled â'ch bod yn gallu cyfathrebu yn y Gymraeg neu'n fodlon defnyddio offer cyfieithu, wrth gwrs.

Yn bersonol, rwy'n meddwl bod hyn yn beth da iawn. Mae angen i Gymru fod yn hyderus am ei hunaniaeth, ei diwylliant a'i hiaith, ac mae'r Eisteddfod yn ymgorffori dathliad o'r fath.

Er hynny, mae angen holi cwestiynau anodd. A all yr iaith Gymraeg oroesi? O fod wedi gwrthsefyll bygythiad y Wladwriaeth yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, sicrhau cydnabyddiaeth gyfreithiol yn yr ugeinfed ganrif, a thanategu diwylliant poblogaidd gydag S4C (er fy mod i'n bryderus am y datblygiadau diweddaraf), mae hyfywdra economaidd yn awr yn fygythiad. A yw mynnu lle i'r Gymraeg yn rhwystro buddsoddiad rhyngwladol - a hyd yn oed buddsoddiad o Loegr? A yw'n lleihau'r gronfa o unigolion dawnus a allai wasanaethu Cymru a gweithio o fewn ei ffiniau? A yw'r amheuaeth honno sydd weithiau'n wynebu'r rhai nad ydyn nhw'n siarad y Gymraeg fel iaith gyntaf yn tansellio ewyllys da? Hyd yn oed o fewn yr Eglwys yng

Nghymru, ymhle mae'r galwedigaethau Cymraeg i arwain gweinidogaethau?

Tynged y rhai sy'n anghofio eu gwreiddiau yw bod yn ddi-wraidd. Mae angen i ni weithio'n galed i ddiogelu diwylliant ac iaith Cymru yn ein cymdeithas heddiw, fel y gallwn fyw yn yr etifeddiaeth a draddodwyd i ni sy'n gallu ysbrydoli ein synnwyr o hunaniaeth yn y dyfodol - ac rwy'n dweud hynny fel un sy'n dysgu'r iaith yn raddol iawn.

Mae ein hesgobaeth wedi ymrwymo i ddwyieithrwydd. Roedd yn rhyfedd iawn bod yn Ne Cymru yn ddiweddar, lle nad oedd y Gymraeg yn rhan annatod o gyfarfod eglwysig! Gobeithio fod ein harwyddion a'n gwasanaethau'n adlewyrchu'r ffaith honno'n briodol. Gadewch i ni fod yn esgobaeth sy'n cofleidio ac yn mwynhau'r ddau ddiwylliant - lle nad yw siaradwyr Saesneg yn cynhyrfu pan fyddan nhw'n clywed y Gymraeg mewn gwasanaethau, a lle gall siaradwyr Cymraeg ymlacio a bod yn oddefol pan fyddan nhw'n ein clywed ni'r dysgwyr yn llurgunio'u hiaith wrth roi cynnig arni. Fel pobl Dduw, dylem groesawu gwahaniaethau a bod yn ddigon hyblyg i dderbyn a mwynhau'r ddau ddiwylliant. Mae croeso cynnes yn agor posibiladau yn y dyfodol.

Fe wnaeth Duw'r ddynoliaeth yn amrywiol, ac mae'n rhaid i ni ddal gafael yn y cyfoeth hwnnw o amrywiaeth. Hyderaf y bydd croeso cynnes i'r Eisteddfod, a llawer o fwynhad ar rhywbeth a allai fod yn newydd neu'n gyfarwydd, ond sy'n gallu cyfoethogi ein bywydau a helaethu ein gorwelion.

+gregoryfleming:

Well, a warm word of welcome to the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham. This is the second time in three years that the National Eisteddfod has come to the diocese, having been in Bala the last time that it visited north Wales. From the pageantry of the Gorsedd ceremonies (entirely the invention of an overheated eighteenth century imagination) to the sounds of the Welsh rock scene, there is something for everyone in the Eisteddfod – provided, of course, that you can communicate in Welsh.

Personally, I think that this is a very good thing. Wales needs to be confident about its identity, its culture and its language, and the Eisteddfod engenders such celebration.

However, there are tough questions. Can the Welsh language survive? Having faced down the threat from the State in the nineteenth century, securing legal recognition in the twentieth, and having underpinned popular culture with S4C (although I'm concerned about recent developments) there comes now the threat of economic viability. Does an insistence on Welsh drive away international – and even English – investment? Does it diminish the pool of talented individuals who may serve and work in Wales? Does the suspicion which those not natural Welsh speakers sometimes encounter undermine goodwill? Even within the life of the Church in Wales, where are the Welsh speaking vocations to ministerial leadership?

Those who forget their roots are destined to become rootless. We need to work hard to secure Welsh culture and language in our society today so that we can live into a heritage bequeathed to us that can inspire our sense of identity for the future – and I say that as one who is only a faltering learner of the Welsh language myself.

Our diocese is committed to being bilingual. It was very odd being in South Wales recently and not having spoken

Welsh as an integral part of a Church meeting! I hope that our signage and our services appropriately reflect that fact. Let us be a diocese that embraces and enjoys both cultures – where English speakers don't get ruffled when they hear Welsh spoken in services, and Welsh speakers can relax and be tolerant when they hear us learners mangling their language when we have a go. As the people of God, we should be hospitable of difference and relaxed and open to the enjoyment of both cultures. A warm embrace opens out the possibilities for the future.

God made humanity diverse, and we must hold on to rich diversity. I trust that there will be a warm welcome for the Eisteddfod, and a warm enjoyment of something which may be new or familiar, but which can enrich our lives and broaden our horizons.

+gregoryflannery:

English speakers attending the festival can use the translation facilities that are available to all on the Eisteddfod field



## Two new Readers licensed at Cathedral

Two new Readers have been licensed to serve in the Diocese of St Asaph by Bishop Gregory.

**Huw Lloyd** and **Carol Thomas** gathered with Readers from across the Diocese for the annual Reader's Day at St Asaph Cathedral in June.

Huw will become a Reader in the Parish of Llandulas while Carol will be a Reader in Betws yn Rhos.

*Continued from the front page...*

As well as being on hand to talk to everyone attending the Eisteddfod, Churches of every denomination have worked together to produce a prayer guide which was used in the run up to the festival and will be available throughout the week to encourage prayers for the nation of Wales. The guide is available in Welsh and English.

As the week draws to a close on Saturday 6 August a service will take place to mark the anniversary of the first atomic bomb at Hiroshima.

Revd Mair Jones is the Diocesan Language Officer for St Asaph and said:

"Everyone is really looking forward to the event and they can be assured of a very warm welcome from all of us. "I hope lots of people come along and support the week for a day or more if they can."

Mair will be stepping down as Diocesan Language Officer after the Eisteddfod and the Diocese is keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking over the role.

The position is a voluntary post and will be suited to a lay or clergy member who is a fluent Welsh speaker. The aim of the role is to encourage the use of Welsh in worship and administration in the life of the Diocese. Anybody who wishes to apply should email the Diocesan Secretary **Diane McCarthy** on [dianemccarthy@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:dianemccarthy@churchinwales.org.uk) More information is available on the Diocesan website.

Yn ogystal â bod wrth law i siarad gyda phawb sy'n mynd i'r Eisteddfod, mae pob enwad wedi cydweithio i lunio canllaw gweddi a ddefnyddiwyd cyn yr Eisteddfod, ac a fydd ar gael drwy gydol yr wythnos i annog gweddio dros Gymru. Mae'r canllaw ar gael yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg



Wrth i'r wythnos dynnu tua'i therfyn ddydd Sadwrn 6 Awst, cynhelir gwasanaeth i nodi 66 mlynedd i'r diwrnod ers disgynnodd y bom atomig cyntaf ar Hiroshima.

Y Parchedig Mair Jones yw Swyddog Iaith Esgobaeth Llanelwy, a dywedodd:

"Mae pawb yn edrych ymlaen o ddifrif at y digwyddiad, a byddant yn sicr o gael croeso cynnes iawn gan bawb ohonom.

"Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd llawer o bobl yn dod draw i gefnogi'r wythnos, naill ai am ddiwrnod neu am gyfnod hirach os ydynt yn gallu."

Bydd Mair yn rhoi'r gorau i'w gwaith fel Swyddog Iaith yr Esgobaeth ar ôl yr Eisteddfod, ac mae'r Esgobaeth yn awyddus i glywed gan unrhyw un a allai fod â diddordeb mewn ymgymryd â'r swydd.

Swydd wirfoddol yw hon, a fyddai'n addas i leygwr neu glerig sy'n siarad Cymraeg yn rhugl. Nod y swydd yw annog defnyddio'r Gymraeg yn addoliad a gweinyddiaeth yr Esgobaeth. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno ymgeisio anfon e-bost at Ysgrifennydd yr Esgobaeth, **Diane McCarthy**: [dianemccarthy@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:dianemccarthy@churchinwales.org.uk) Rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan yr Esgobaeth.





## Autumn Programme 2011

**Training Together** is a programme of training open to anyone connected with a church in the Diocese of St Asaph, whether they are lay or clergy, a member of the PCC or not. All courses are FREE.

Course	Date & Time	Venue
<b>Using The Standard Form of Accounts</b>	Tuesday <b>13th September</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Media Matters</b>	Tuesday <b>20th September</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>REACH Tapestry of Faith</b>	Saturday <b>1st October</b> (2pm – 5pm)	St Peter's Church, Holywell
<b>REACH Ecology &amp; Faith</b>	Saturday <b>15th October</b> (11am – 3pm)	Venue to be confirmed
<b>Adolescence – a Workshop for Parents &amp; Guardians</b>	Tuesday <b>18th October</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Setting The Parish Budget</b>	Tuesday <b>25th October</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Using The Standard Form of Accounts</b>	Tuesday <b>8th November</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Faith Development in Young People</b>	Tuesday <b>15th November</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.

**To Book Your Place:** You can book your place direct, it is not necessary to go through the clergy. Please give your name, address, phone number, parish name and email address to [sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk) or phone on **01745 532582**. Full details and directions will then be sent to you at least one week before the session takes place.





## Cathedral welcomes new Priests and Deacons

St Asaph Cathedral was packed on Petertide as Bishop Gregory ordained five new Deacons – including a pilot and an identical twin – and also welcomed three new Priests to the Ministry.

More than 500 people gathered for the celebration which was attended by people from across the Diocese on Saturday 25 June.

**Revd Canon Jenny Wigley** who looks after the selection process for ordination preached on the Parable of the Lost Son before the congregation celebrated the Eucharist.

Among those welcomed as Deacons were **Jane James** – who holds a private pilot's licence – and **Alexier Mayes**, an identical twin who has given up her role as a Post Office manager to join the Ministry.



*Bishop Gregory with Alexier Mayes*

**Jane is now serving as Assistant Curate of the Llansantffraid yn Mechain Group of Parishes and said:**

*"I'm very excited. I'm passionate about being creative with prayer and worship so I hope to be able to do things that involve people who don't usually come to church."*



**Alexier is Assistant Curate of Bistre in Flintshire and she's really looking forward to her new role.**

**She said:**

*"I'm hoping to bring joy to this role. I think God works through humour and I hope I'm the sort of person who can identify with other people."*

*"It's about getting people on the outskirts of our communities to know the great love of God."*

Also ordained as Deacons at the service were **Philip**

**Bettinson** as Assistant Curate of the Bro Famau Group of Parishes, **Gwenda Cooper** as Assistant Curate of Old Colwyn and **Kate Tiltman** as Assistant Curate of Wrexham.

Meanwhile three people who were ordained as Deacons last year were made Priests during the service at St Asaph Cathedral. Husband and wife **Reverend Neil Kelly** and **Reverend Deborah Swann**

# Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God

will continue serving in the parishes of Llangollen and Gwersyllt respectively. Dad of two **Reverend Adam Pawley** who is Assistant Curate in Newtown was also ordained as a Priest.

## Commenting on the ordinations, Bishop Gregory said:

*"The ordinations reflect the diversity of ministry in today's church – we have a married couple ordained to the priesthood, young and mature candidates, entering full-time ministry and part-time ministry, from farming and professional backgrounds.*

*"All these are united by their desire to serve Jesus Christ, and to bear witness to his love in today's world – that's great."*

## Revd John Lomas to become Transition Missioner

The Diocese of St Asaph is following in the footsteps of the United States and Australia after Bishop Gregory appointed Revd John Lomas as the new Transition Missioner.

Transition Ministry is undertaken in Parishes where there may be significant challenges – particularly when a group of churches is facing an interregnum.

In our Diocese it is already being tried out in Towyn with Bishop Stephen Lowe and Revd Canon Clive Southerton. Now Bishop Gregory wants to make this ministry a more permanent fixture of Diocesan life.



John's challenge will be to spend a fixed amount of time – up to 18 months – working with a Parish to help them identify some strategic plans and goals for growth. He will help Parishes to assess mission priorities,

their buildings and to source any available support.

## Commenting on his new ministry, which will start in September, John said:

*"Transition ministry is big in America but if you Google it here in the UK, nothing comes up.*

*"It's a big thing over there and it has proved very successful, but for me it's all about opening up the communication in a Parish – that's really important I think."*



John has seen significant experience of church growth having spent ten years as Vicar in the Parish of Holywell. He's pictured here at the opening of St Peter's in Holywell.

You can read an interview with John about his new role on the Diocesan website.

### Visitations Focus on Lay Ministry

The Visitations in May focussed on the importance of Lay Ministry as the three Archdeacon's issued their charge to members of the Clergy and Congregation, outlining their plans for the year ahead.

In Wrexham, **The Ven Shirley Griffiths** explained that the Laity are invaluable as the Diocese continues to reduce the number of paid clergy.

The Ven John Thelwell used his Archdeacon's Charge in Kerry to praise the work of the Laity and retired Clergy for taking on more work in vacant parishes.

In St Asaph it was The Ven Bernard Thomas' last round of Visitations ahead of his retirement. At a service in Prestatyn he cut a cake to commemorate the occasion.



### Diocese gathers for Retirement Service

Bishop Gregory used a retirement service at St Asaph Cathedral to wish three faithful servants of the Diocese a fond farewell.

On 22 May **David Hooson**, **Glenys Croft** and **The Venerable Malcolm Squires** were thanked for their dedicated ministries while the Bishop took the opportunity to pray that God would bless their retirements with peace and fulfilment.

David started work as Diocesan Registrar and Bishop's Legal Secretary in 1974 before handing over the job to **Llyr Williams** in March 2011.

Glenys has worked as the Bishop's Secretary for the past 8 years while Malcolm has served in the Diocese since 1996 – first as Rector of Wrexham and then as Archdeacon of Wrexham and Rector of Llandegla from 2002. He has been the Bishop's Chaplain for the last 12 months.

Malcolm preached during the service and reflected on his time in ministry before reminding the congregation that despite the busyness of life we must all give our time to Jesus.

# Cyfweliad Interview

## New Dean looks forward to Cathedral Challenge

St Asaph Cathedral is getting ready to welcome a new Dean in the Autumn after Revd Nigel Williams was appointed to the role by Bishop Gregory. A fluent Welsh speaker, Nigel is currently Vicar of Colwyn Bay and will start his new role at the Cathedral in September as the current Dean the Very Revd Chris Potter becomes Archdeacon of St Asaph. Teulu Asaph editor Phil Topham spent a few minutes getting to know Nigel and finding out his plans for the Mother Church of the Diocese.

### **Congratulations Nigel, just how pleased are you to be taking on the role of Dean?**

*I am pleased now – it's taken a while to sink in – but I am delighted. It feels quite daunting but it's exciting at the same time. It will be a case of prioritising and hearing from the people who are involved here to find out what their passions and expectations are.*

### **What's your vision for the Cathedral?**

*To build on what's already happening here – there's a huge amount happening and Chris has done an enormous amount of work in developing the Cathedral, certainly with the music festival and a whole manner of other things.*

*What I am looking forward to most of all is the worship. Working with Val, Vittoria and Michael, with Alan and John, the choir and the Cathedral congregation and utilising all the resources available to celebrate the Christian Faith in our observance of the festivals and the liturgical year.*

*I also want to develop the pilgrimage side of it. I want us to reach out to the community of St Asaph and the people who live here and interact with them.*

### **That builds on the work Chris and Jenny Potter have done with the Pilgrim's Way, doesn't it?**

*Yes I hope it will be one of the key stages on that pilgrimage. It would be nice to*



You can read the full interview with Nigel on the news pages of the Diocesan Website.

*work on something that can be a bit more of a Pilgrim's rest where people can have some refreshments I think as well but we'll have to see how things go.*

### **Now, the Cathedral is famous for the William Morgan Bible and you're a first language Welsh speaker. How important is that for the heritage of the Cathedral?**

*Extremely important. There's something about Welsh spirituality in terms of the language and as soon as the service moves into Welsh it seems to switch something on inside for those who are from that spiritual background. To have worship in your own native tongue is important. People pray in Welsh and they expect God to speak to them in Welsh. In the Cathedral church people have the right to expect worship in Welsh.*

### **The Cathedral itself is a magnificent building, how do you feel about taking that on?**

*Architecturally it's amazing but it does offer some challenges! It's also going to be a very delicate operation to do anything in there because we don't want it to look cluttered. It has a fantastic architect in Robin Wolley who is daring and bold but of course it is very sensitive in terms of conservation and ambiance. Overall it's tremendous, it offers so much scope and of course it has no pews, which is absolutely fantastic!*

# Deanery Focus

## The Deanery of Wrexham



Every two months, Teulu Asaph likes to take a tour round a Deanery – this time we're looking at the Rectorial Benefice of Wrexham, the town which is hosting this year's National Eisteddfod. Revd Matthew Burns gives us a flavour of what's going on.

If you go to St Giles' Church (pictured below) at the moment you might be forgiven for thinking that you have walked onto a building site. The workmen are creating new facilities in the church that will house the Centre for Religious Education and Faith Development. The project, in collaboration with the Wrexham Parochial Educational Foundation, St Mary's Centre, the Local Authority, the Diocese and Glyndwr University is designed to promote research based, innovative work in Religious Education in schools. It will also provide a centre for the development in youth and children's work in our churches.

Placing the Centre inside Wrexham's historic parish church affirms the church's commitment to young people and gives the Wrexham Benefice a focus for a key area of its witness in the years ahead. The Centre, paid for entirely from grant aid and bespoke historic resources, will provide a working base for its director, administrator, a team of three Local Authority RE advisers and a School's Development Officer. A project to develop ways in which RE can be taught in and through the medium of music is due to begin in January.



We are looking forward to welcoming the Revd Canon Mary Stallard to the team in September. Mary is to be the Anglican chaplain to St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, and the School's Development officer for the two Wrexham Deaneries.

**Mary said:**

*"This is a great opportunity to work with young people and with churches and communities who are passionate about developing youth ministry."*

*"I'm really looking forward to learning with and from those who are already engaged with this and trying to assist local churches in the development of work in this area. "I have some background in teaching from the time before I was ordained and I've always been interested in issues to do with how people learn about their faith."*

## Ascension Day Celebrations

Staying with St Giles, members of the benefice gathered on the tower at 7am on Ascension Day to celebrate the Eucharist together.

There were 23 people, including two children and the Church took the opportunity to look over the town centre and pray for the people of Wrexham.

**Revd Anthapurusha said:**

*"The climate was ideal and the atmosphere was excellent.*

*"As we came down a hot breakfast was awaiting us to continue the celebration of Jesus' Ascension into heaven.*

*"There were several people who stayed back to prepare a breakfast for us so a big thank you to them."*

One of the members who took part said it was a "life time privilege" to have come to celebrate Ascension Day in an historic Church like St Giles and it meant a lot to him.

## Handwritten Bible Project

Churches across Wrexham took over the foyer of the town's library at the end of May to spend time writing out sections of Matthew's Gospel as part of the "Year of the Bible".

It's 400 years since the King James Version was published and this event encouraged those of all denominations or none to spend some time copying out the text of the Gospel and get involved in conversations with those who visited the stand.

Through the week around two thirds of Matthew's Gospel was successfully copied out as chapters 1 – 18 were completed.

There are now plans to send the copy around to churches across Wrexham in the coming weeks so that the manuscript can be finished.

**Methodist Minister Revd Richard Sharples headed up the Ecumenical initiative and said:**

*"Each day approximately twenty people stopped and wrote; some simply writing out the next verse, others a whole chapter.*

*"Many more conversations took place, and a small number of booklets were given away relating to the scriptures and local Churches."*



## A Church for the Future

The benefice has been examining how we might best express church here in Wrexham in the future. As a part of this process, a group of 65 parishioners from across the benefice have been meeting to explore the question: "What is God calling me to be and do during the next part of my life?"

A number of exciting new ministries are emerging from this process. Some are exploring a vocation to express their ministry locally as priests and deacons, while others are exploring reader ministry, pastoral ministry, work with children and young people and the ministry of an evangelist.

Working with the Diocese and St Michael's Theological College, a course will begin in Wrexham in the autumn called 'Exploring Faith'. This will allow individuals to continue that process of exploration and discernment and will provide opportunities for those who want to be more effective disciples to learn alongside those who will be selected to train for particular ministries in the local church.

## Parish Nurse

Perhaps one of the most exciting ministries to develop in Wrexham is that of a parish nurse. Parish Nursing is a developing area of nursing practice in the United Kingdom, having been developed in America some 25 years ago. It is founded on a view of healthcare that derives from the life of Jesus Christ and the belief that spiritual care cannot be separated from physical, emotional and social care.

Some possible functions of a parish nurse include Health Educator, Health Advocate, Referral Agent, and Integrator of Faith and Health. Parish nurses are members of the relevant professional bodies, and are accountable to them, as well as to the ministry teams of the parish.

Amanda Berry has just been commissioned to this role in Wrexham, having been trained over the last year. She hopes that in her role as Parish Nurse she will be able to minister both to the regular congregations, but also to those on the margins of society. Amanda plans to visit the Salvation Army drop-in centre, asylum seekers session, and feeding the roofless evenings.



## Confirmations

On Sunday 26th June, Bishop Gregory confirmed 40 people at the parish church of St Giles. The candidates came from all the churches in the benefice. It is good to see so many young people choosing to make the next step in their journey of faith. A number of the Churches in Wrexham have strong Sunday schools and youth clubs and we are working on developing this ministry with the Diocese.



## St Margaret's to be transformed

St Margaret's on Chester Road is applying for grants to raise £80,000 to transform their church building into a modern space for the whole community.

This growing, all-age church is looking to improve the facilities it can offer both to its regular congregations and to those living in the surrounding areas. Their vision is to ensure the building is as well equipped as it can be to enable mission to take place in the future.

The church has already created a high quality 'Toddler Area' (pictured) in one aisle of the church and this has already made services more accessible to families with young children, both on Sundays and for Baptisms and Weddings.

**Reverend Richard Hainsworth is Vicar at St Margaret's and said:**

*"It's been well received and we hope it clearly sends the message that children are welcome and a valued part of the church family.*

*"We also intend to install a digital projection system to enable use of multi-media in all-age services and also to encourage use of the church for training seminars, talks and presentations, as well as film nights to help us connect to a generation used to visual learning.*

*"A computer games console will be connected to this for use by the teenagers – and the Vicar – after services!"*

As well as re-equipping the church with new chairs, heating and double glazing to provide a more comfortable worship environment, St Margaret's hope to re-design the entrance to the church and fit a new kitchen so that the church can be used as a community facility.



Through the hard work and generosity of the congregation, over £10,000 has been raised towards this work in the last year and applications for grants to complete the fund-raising are now getting underway.

*The coming year is a time of celebration in Wrexham, St Marks is about to celebrate 50 years on Caia Park, and All Saints' is celebrating its centenary next year, as well as development projects in St*

*Giles and St Margaret's. We are positive about the future of the Church in Wrexham, through enabling and encouraging the whole people of God, through prayer, liturgy, and teaching. We want to make full use of our buildings within the communities they serve, enabling God's mission in our communities.*

# Bywiogi a Chyfoethogi ein Haddoliad

## Pilgrims take trip to Turkey

*Philip and Frances Culver were among a group from the Diocese who took part in a pilgrimage to Turkey back in April. Here's their report on the trip.*

Looking through our copy of Teulu Asaph one day last autumn we noticed an advertisement for a trip to Turkey, visiting Istanbul and the Seven Churches of Asia. On a previous visit to Ephesus we had bought a book about the Seven Churches, thinking it would be good to visit them some time. Clearly this tour was meant for us! The deadline for booking places was very close, so we had to make a quick decision. A phone-call to the group leader, Susan Clarke Varah of Connah's Quay, secured our places.

In early 2011 Susan organised a meeting so that she could give us more details about travel arrangements and we could all get to know one another before our departure in April.

We managed to fit in a lot of sight-seeing in Istanbul, and then we moved on to visit some wonderful sites in what used to be Asia Minor - now western Turkey - in-

cluding, of course, the seven churches addressed by St John in the Book of Revelation.

At each of the churches, one of the group read the message St John had written to encourage the Christians there, struggling to keep their faith in a time of persecution during the first century. The holiday lived up to all expectations: the travel company was excellent, the hotels were very good and our coach driver and tour guide were obliging and knowledgeable. Susan's leadership ensured that we had an entirely enjoyable and hassle-free holiday. Meanwhile here, the Book of Revelation will bring back vivid memories whenever we hear it read again in church.



## Pilgrims urged to join Holy Land trip

*A year on from their Pilgrimage to Jordan and the Sinai, John and Sue Last are*

*encouraging others to join Bishop Gregory as he leads a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2012.*

### John and Sue said:

*"We knew the pilgrimage was going to be special but it exceeded all our expectations.*

*"The accommodation was second to none, the guides superb, the travel*

# Enlivening and Enriching our Worship

*arrangements excellent and the group of pilgrims formed strong bonds from sharing the many wonderful experiences that were in so many ways very spiritual.*

*"So for any of you considering the Pilgrimage with Bishop Gregory to the Holy Land we would say 'go for it!'"*

Anyone keen on joining Bishop Gregory for the 2012 Pilgrimage can find out more details on the Diocesan website or by contacting Revd Ian Day on 01352 752960.

## Open air service for Ascension Day

Church members gathered for an open air service in Mold Deanery on Ascension Day to celebrate the Eucharist.

Meeting near the village of Cilcain, Revd Adrian Copping led the service in warm sunny weather, surrounded by the green fields and trees of open countryside with a view of Moel Famau in the distance.

The Deanery is grateful to John and Anne

Prior-Egerton who opened their home, Ty Gwyn, and hosted the event, with the refreshments kindly provided afterwards.

The open air, surrounded by God's Creation, contributed so much to the spiritual experience, and most of the people present expressed the hope that we could have more outdoor worship in the future.

## Birthday wishes for church in Pontblyddyn

Christ Church Pontblyddyn celebrated its 175th Anniversary with a huge party as churches around the area joined the congregation for a day of celebration.

Bishop Gregory preached at the service on 15 May, while local Methodists and Baptists shut their churches for the day to join the celebrations – as a result Christ Church was full for the service.

Afterwards there was a meal at Leeswood Community Centre before everyone enjoyed a slice of Anniversary Cake baked by Mrs Evelyn Jones.



### Christians gather to remember Martyr

From the time of the Early Church onwards Christians have celebrated the feast of martyrs, but not many Church in Wales parishes have a martyr in living memory from within their own ranks.

**St Tudfil's, Coedpoeth**, in the parish of Minera, has a martyr to commemorate in the person of Winnie Davies, a local woman who went as a nurse with a Christian mission to the Congo in 1946,



served there for many years before being kidnapped and murdered during fighting in the 1960s.

A tall cross was erected in her memory in front of St Tudfil's and a special ceremony takes place during worship on the Sunday nearest to the anniversary of her death on 27 May 1967 – this year it was 29 May.

### Gresford Deanery service blesses Farming Community

The congregation was rather rowdy at the Gresford Deanery Service at the end of May but Revd Canon Alan Suter was unperturbed.

Among the noisy ones were sheep, cows, a horse, and a slightly excited labradoodle. The less noisy ones included a barn owl, some hamsters and a good-sized human congregation – except when they were singing about Noah and his arky arky!



The Deanery Rogation Service took place in Is-y-Coed in a farmyard where the local churches gathered and the Priests blessed the farming community and its work.

Area Dean of Gresford, Revd Canon Sue Huyton said:

“Our Deanery has a variety of environments so for some of us this was an eye-opener, but for others their normal habitat.

“It was great fun and we look forward to next year.”

### Community celebrates their gifts on Pentecost weekend

St Ffraid's Church in **Llansanffraid Glan Conwy** held a weekend of Pentecost celebrations for their community in June with an “Exhibition of Talents” on Saturday 11 June before a Pentecost Party on the Sunday.

Members of the village brought samples of their talents to the Saturday event including cross stitch and embroidery, photography and artwork, cake



decorating and jewellery and even glass work.

The following day, Pentecost, the congregations of St Ffraid's and St Martin's, Eglwysbach joined together for a united service which was followed by a party. The congregation enjoyed a glass of wine and a piece of the Pentecost Cake - which had been provided as a surprise by Mr and Mrs Cyril Jones.

### **Ruthin Church lit by solar panels**

At dusk on the longest day of the year, the gates of St Peter's Church, Ruthin came to life to celebrate the new solar powered lighting which illuminates them at night.

Local artist, Jessica Lloyd-Jones was responsible for developing the new lighting scheme, which includes illumination for the pathway.

The 18th Century decorative wrought iron gates of St Peter's were designed and made by Robert Davies who produced work for many buildings throughout the region, including the gates of Chirk Castle and St Giles Church in Wrexham.

At St Peter's, the gates display elaborate scrollwork, impressive overthrows, a central cherub and beautiful Corinthian caps to the

piers.

The gates have been restored by local companies and are now illuminated at night, beautifully highlighting the decorative features as a celebration of their historical importance.

Artist Jessica Lloyd-Jones said:

"The illumination of the gates is a key feature of the town square. The contemporary lighting of the historically important gates reinforces Ruthin as a town of

history and culture."

The photovoltaic solar panel installation on the roof will offset the cost of the lighting scheme and other energy use.

Revd Stuart Evans, Warden of St Peter's added:

"The Church is very pleased to have been given the opportunity to conserve the history of St Peter's Gates and to develop a modern identity for them, as well as receive the investment made by Cadwyn Clwyd and the Town Council, helping to secure the future of the Church for the local community."

The St Peter's Gates Lighting Project is part of a wider scheme for a Ruthin Art Trail, which will see newly commissioned works by craftspeople connecting Ruthin Craft Centre via Market Street with St Peter's Square.



Photograph by Andrew Gale



## Newtown Churches Make Life Work

Hundreds of people in **Llanllwchaiarn, Newtown** and **Aberhafesp** heard the Good News of the Christian faith during the parish's LLANfest event in June.

Church members were joined by former Wales' Rugby International Garin Jenkins, the Riverside School of Performing Arts (RSPA), University students from St. Michael's Church, Aberystwyth and Bishop Gregory to help share the Gospel.



The churches used these events and social projects to explain how the Christian faith helps them in "Making Life Work".

On Carnival Day in Newtown, they hosted their own float and had a stall on the field, while the RSPA performed a play called "You are Special".

The Carnival is held every year and Revd Adam Pawley, Curate in Newtown said:

"The Carnival Trust is such a small but dedicated and hard-working team of people, who meet every month

throughout the year and on Carnival weekend work all the hours of the day, to host such a tremendous event, year on year.

"As a church we wanted to say thank you but show that our thanks is genuine too by offering our support."

During the week, Garin Jenkins, Wales' most-capped hooker, gave an inspiring address to more than 70 men, challenging those at the event to recognise that "we're all a work in progress".

University students and church members performed "The Bible Comes To Life" to more than 300 school children and 100 adults – a dramatic retelling of the

Bible story as part of the UK-wide celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

The students led assemblies in schools before helping out across the community in picking litter, sweeping the streets, painting a community centre and taking part in gardening projects for housebound parishioners.

Revd Andy Grimwood, Rector of Newtown said:

"One of the key things that came out of the mission was regular prayer, here and



across the world. We had people praying for us in Russia, the USA, China and the Ukraine!



"To know that you are surrounded by prayer during the preparations and during the week was tremendous and we are grateful to all across Teulu Asaph for their prayers and support."

The churches in Llanllwchaiarn, Newtown and Aberhafesp now plan to run follow up courses for those exploring faith including "Christianity Explored" and "Soul".

## Communion Wafers on sale from SWT

As part of our Diocesan link up with South West Tanganyika, you can now buy Communion Wafers that have been hand made by the Nuns there.

We're offering competitive prices and special offers for multiple purchases – on top of that, every sale helps the work of our friends in Tanzania.

You can order the Wafers online – just

follow the link from the front page of the Diocesan website.

Each individual bag contains 300 congregation wafers and costs £4.50. You can buy two bags for £8.00 or three for just £10.00.

We can also provide Priests wafers. Each bag contains 50 wafers for just £4.50 and again you can benefit from two bags for £8.00



## SWT says thank you to Llangollen

St Collen's Church in Llangollen has raised enough money to buy a motorbike



and two push bikes for our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika.

Bishop John Simalenga said:

"The bike has made a tremendous difference in being more mobile to do God's mission work."

The Bishop asked that the heartfelt gratitude of the parishioners of South West Tanganyika was passed on to brothers and sisters at St Collen.



talking him through the William Morgan Bible and its importance to the Welsh language.

Chris used to restore antique furniture before coming into the ministry and said:

"I have always had an interest in how things are made and the skill that has gone into a piece has always fascinated me.

"I was able to show David the cultural and spiritual significance of the William Morgan Bible. We read 1 Corinthians 13 where Paul speaks of 'faith, hope and charity' which seemed to fit very well with the ethos of the show."

Antiques Road Trip, featuring St Asaph Cathedral is due on our screens later this year.

### Antiques show films at Cathedral

BBC TV cameras rolled into St Asaph in June to film part of a new series of Antiques Road Trip.

The show follows two antiques experts around the country as they buy items to sell at auction in the hope of making a profit for charity. As part of the show there is always some background about the area the experts are visiting and this time it was St Asaph's turn.

Dean Chris Potter showed presenter David Harper around the Cathedral before

### Hundreds hear the Gospel at Festival Mission

26 people were confirmed by Bishop Gregory at a special service in a marquee to conclude a Festival Mission weekend put on by the **Bangor Is y Coed Deanery** in May.

After 18 months of detailed planning, the event included a children's evangelist, a hog roast as well as songs and testimonies from a popstar before the confirmation service.

Paul and Fiona Jones told everyone how God changed their lives. Paul sang with



60's pop band Manfred Mann and Fiona is an actress.

Children's evangelist John Bonner used

the marquee tent reminded everyone of the Holy Spirit's power.

illusions, singing and dancing to give a simple gospel message of Jesus' love for us all.

The weekend took place in the beautiful grounds of Gredington, Hanmer and during the confirmation service Bishop Gregory said that the strong wind on

## Outreach outside at Open Garden's Day

Fourteen gardens were opened to the public as part of **St Michael's Church, Nannerch's** ongoing commitment to "Engaging the World".

Church goers and non-attendees came together to stage the event with visitors coming along from inside and outside the village to look at the plants and shrubs on display.

There were a whole range of gardens from those that showed off excellent organisation skills to those for relaxation and even sensory experiences.

More than 150 people visited the gardens to share in a celebration of living and growing together.





## Footballer returns to his roots

Football star Michael Owen took a trip down memory lane as he was shown around the school he attended as a boy in Hawarden.

It was part of the joint **St. Deiniol's Church and Rector Drew School** Spring Fair, which was opened by the Manchester United star who grew up in the village.

Headteacher Liz Andrews showed him around the school and he reminisced that his football career began on the field there. The England striker then signed autographs before travelling to join his Man United team-mates at their hotel ahead of the final match of the Premier League season against West Brom.



The fair itself was a great success and raised £1900 which was split equally between Rector Drew School and St. Deiniol's church.

It was the first time an event like this has been put on and the church hope to do something similar next year.

## School celebrates 150th anniversary

Pupils at **Ysgol Trefnant** dressed in Victorian clothes to help celebrate the School's 150th anniversary.



Among the visitors was 99-year-old Margaret Enid Roberts who was a pupil at the school in the 1920s.

Children enjoyed traditional Victorian activities including a Punch and Judy show, hoopla and ferret racing.

Bishop Gregory officially opened the day and headteacher Sue Van Loock said:

"It was a really good turn out, the children were entertained and we had a special cake made for the day.

"It's been really interesting to hear about all the history of the school – back then there were just two classrooms and the toilets were outside!"

## Wrexham School to represent Diocese in London

Children from Year 5 at St Paul's School in Isycoed have won the chance to represent the Diocese of St Asaph at Westminster Abbey in October.

They will travel to the service in London which is being held to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the National Society.

Schools were invited to enter a competition to design a banner with the theme "Nets and Fish". They were presented at St Asaph Cathedral's National Society celebration in June before Bishop Gregory picked a winner.

St Paul's School (pictured below) will now reproduce their banner for the invitation only service at Westminster.

Headteacher Nicola Booth said:

"The hard work starts now; we will reproduce the banner using stronger materials before taking it to Westminster – but we designed it with that in mind.

"We're really pleased to have won and the children are very excited at representing the Diocese in London."

30 schools took part in the competition and congratulations must also go to St Giles Junior School, Wrexham who came 2nd and Ysgol Dyffryn Ial, Llandegla who finished 3rd.



The anniversary celebration of the National Society at Westminster takes place on 14 October 2011.

## Children Celebrate Church Anniversary

Children at Carrog Primary School enjoyed a day of special workshops to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and St Ffraid's Church.

As part of Carrog Parish Church's weekend of celebrations, exciting and thought provoking workshops were held in the local primary school.



They were organised by BRF – Barnabas in School and were run by Martyn Payne. The theme was – 'The Bible – its importance to all people of all ages throughout the ages'.

The pupils also designed a Father's Day card which was presented to Bishop Gregory on the Sunday.





# Amgylch yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

**Coffee for the Community** served by Worthenbury Church in the Village Hall – every Thursday morning through the school holidays, 10.30 -12, from 21 July All ages, and visitors, welcome!

**Jazz in the Pews** – Jamie Brownfield's "Brownfield Byrne Quartet" will play St Dogfan's Parish Church on **Friday 17 August. 7.30pm, tickets £6 to include a glass of wine or soft drink.** More details from Frances Hunt on 01691 780139

**How Green is our Valley?** A weekend of celebrations including displays, exhibitions and competitions. **Friday 26 August - Tuesday 30 August** at St Silin's Church, Llansilin SY10 7PX.

**Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo** – the Parish of Colwyn Bay is holding a week-long music workshop for children aged 7-11 **from August 15 – 19.** More details from Revd Ginny Burton on 01492 512160

**Mothers Union Treasurer**  
The Mother's Union in the Diocese of St Asaph is looking for a new Treasurer to succeed Margaret West who is retiring. A small honorarium is available for the

right person and they are keen to hear from someone who has experience in banking or accounting.

*If you're interested, please contact the MU Diocesan President on 01978 313773 or the MU Diocesan Secretary on 01352 741042.*

**Are you a rural parish (or urban for that matter) in the Diocese with no regular choir?**

Would you be interested in having a carol service at Christmastide?

If so, the Buckley Singers might be able to help. We could arrange, with you, a service with choir items, congregational carols and readings as required. The cost would be negotiable – but minimal.

*Please contact:  
Philip Culver  
(01352 754609; pajculver@aol.com)  
or Gill Ellis (01244 660677).*

**St Paul's Church, Craig y Don, Llandudno** is looking for an Organist, Choir Leader and Director of Music. 3 manual Hill Organ; RSCM affiliated; good & enthusiastic choir. *More details from Revd Canon R H Griffiths on 01492 541615*

## Teulu Asaph - Sharing Good News with the Family of the Diocese

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*What is your good news? Let us know what is happening in your parish or deanery. Interesting photographs and short articles particularly welcome. Croesewir unrhyw erthyglau ynglyn a digwyddiadau eglwysig yn Gymraeg. Gellir cynnwys crynodeb byr o'r erthygl, na ddylai fod yn fwy na 250 o eriau, yn Saesneg. Diolch yn fawr.*

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