

Teulu Asaph



Sharing Good News with the Family of the Diocese

October/November 2011

Evangelist ready for Diocesan Conference

What is Church for? That's the question this year's Diocesan Conference hopes to get us thinking about on 9 October. What is the point of Church in the 21st Century? How do we reflect the importance of worship, prayer and the Bible in our modern culture? How do we become relevant to our communities?



Helping us to answer some of these questions will be our

keynote speaker Revd Robin Gamble, Diocesan Evangelist from the Diocese of Bradford.

Robin's latest book "Jesus the Evangelist" looks at the way Jesus made disciples and his address will help the Diocese to explore that crucial question of what Church is for in the 21st Century and how we can best express it.

He's pictured here taking part in a charity "bake off" in his Bradford parish.

As well as the keynote address, Bishop Gregory will also speak to us before a time of worship, prayer, discussion groups and a question and answer session.

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DIRNADAETH INSIGHT



Rwyf newydd dreulio penwythnos yn archwilio dyfodol Anglicaniaeth. Ai'r patrwm yw "by schisms rent asunder", fel y dywed yr hen emyn Saesneg cyfarwydd? Mewn gwirionedd, roedd y cwrs yn eithaf gobeithiol, oherwydd er

bod y rhai a ddaeth ynghyd yn Llyfrgell Deiniol o gefndiroedd amrywiol, roeddem oll yn frwd ynghylch ein Anglicaniaeth. Pam?

Gan siarad dros fy hunan, rwy'n meddwl mai'r rheswm dros hynny oedd ein bod ni'n ystyried Anglicaniaeth yn "ysgol berffaith o feddwl am Grist". Wel, mewn gwirionedd, mae hi ymhell o fod yn berffaith – ond mae'n cynnig ffyrdd aneirif o gwrdd â phresenoldeb Duw. Yn rhy aml, rydym fel plant yn chwarae ar lan y cefnfor, heb fod yn ymwybodol o bresenoldeb Ysbryd Duw yn ein bywydau. Mae'r dreftadaeth sy'n rhan o'n ffydd Anglicanaidd yn cynnig ffyrdd o dawelu'r enaid ac ehangu ein gorwelion, fel y gallwn gael ein synnu gan Dduw.

Wrth gwrs, gwelir bod Crist y tu draw i unrhyw rwystrau a godir gennym ar draws y traddodiadau Cristnogol a thu hwnt, ond mae'n bosibl fod Anglicaniaeth yn cynrychioli'r hyn a elwid gan ei arweinwyr yn ystod y Diwygiad yn 'Via Media', sef ffordd ganol a ffordd gytbwys, sy'n cydbwyso datganiad cryf gyda synnwyr agored o oddefgarwch ac ymholi. Mae gan y ffydd Anglicanaidd graidd cryf, yn tystiolaethu i'r maddeuant a'r cymod sydd i'w gael yng Nghrist, ac eto'n rhoi lle i amrywiaeth anferth wrth fynegi'r ffydd, o ymrwymiad efengylaidd i'r Beibl a thröedigaeth bersonol, i'r addoli traddodiadol a sacramentau cysegredig y

traddodiad Catholig; o ddibyniaeth garismataidd ar yr Ysbryd, i gwestiynau rhyddfrydol. Yr ehangder hwn sy'n apelio cymaint - wedi ei dymheru gan barodrwydd i dderbyn ein gilydd ac estyn croeso.

Mae gan Eglwys Esgobol yr Alban (ein chwaer-Eglwys Geltaidd) arwyddair i ddisgrifio ei hun: "Gwirionedd Efengylaidd a Threfn Apostolaidd", sydd bron yn crynhoi'r cyfan: rydym yn canoli ar yr Efengyl, ac yn trefnu ein hunain yn unol â thraddodiadau mwyaf hynafol yr Eglwys. Ac eto, rydym yn agored i'r byd modern (ac mae'n rhaid i ni wneud hynny), yn cynnig ein hunain mewn cariad, ac yn rhannu pererindod, yn cyd-deithio ac yn gwahodd eraill i ymuno â'r daith.

Mae'r myfyrdod hwn yn rhyw fath o fawlgan i'r Eglwys i'r Eglwys rydym yn rhan ohoni, ond nid wydd yn cywilyddio wrth wneud hynny, oherwydd mae'n bosibl ein bod ni wedi mynd i arferiad o ymddiheuro'n ormodol am ein ffydd erbyn hyn, ac am y pethau y gallwn eu dathlu yn ein brand penodol o ddealltwriaeth Gristnogol.

Mae arwyddair ein hesgobaeth eleni yn gwahodd pob un gyda'r geiriau "Dewch i weld". Pe bai rhywun yn ddigon dewr i dderbyn y gwahoddiad hwnnw, ac yn ymuno â'n cynulleidfaoedd, beth fydden nhw'n ei weld? Rwy'n gobeithio y byddai'n cynnwys y gorau o'r hyn rydw i wedi ei ddisgrifio uchod. Ond nid yw ein holl adeiladau na'r traddodiadau sy'n annwyl gennym yn cyfrif am ddim oni bai eu bod nhw'n gwahodd pobl at orsedd yr Oen, at bresenoldeb Crist, fel y gallwn fynd i weddnewid y byd o gael ein meithrin gan ei gariad gweddnewidiol.

+gregoryfleming:

I've just spent a weekend exploring the future of Anglicanism. Is it all "by schisms rent asunder" as the old hymn says? Actually, the course was rather hopeful, because although those gathered at Gladstone's Library were rather diverse, we were all enthusiastic about our Anglicanism. Why?

Speaking personally, I think it was because we had all found in Anglicanism a "perfect school of Christ". Well actually, far from perfect – but offering a myriad of ways to encounter the presence of God. Too often we are like children playing on the ocean shore, and not conscious of the presence of God's Spirit in our lives. The heritage waiting in our Anglican faith offers ways to still the soul and widen our perception so that we may be surprised by God.

Of course, Christ is found beyond any barriers we put up across the Christian traditions and beyond, but Anglicanism does perhaps represent what its Reformation leaders called a "Via Media", a balanced way, balancing a strong proclamation with an openness to toleration and inquiry. Anglican faith has a strong core, witnessing to the forgiveness and reconciliation found in Christ, and yet allowing tremendous diversity in the expression of faith, from evangelical commitment to the Bible and personal conversion, to the traditional worship and hallowed sacraments of the Catholic tradition; from charismatic reliance on the Spirit, to liberal enquiry. It is this breadth which is so appealing – tempered by a readiness to make accommodation for one another, and to offer hospitality.

The Scottish Episcopal Church (our sister Celtic Church) has a motto to describe itself: "Evangelical Truth and Apostolic Order", which just about sums it up: we are centred on the Gospel, and ordered in accordance with the most ancient traditions of the Church. And yet we are, and must be, open to the modern world, offering ourselves in love, and sharing in

pilgrimage, in journeying together and inviting others to join the journey.

This reflection is something of a paean of praise to the Church to which we belong, but I'm not ashamed of this, because perhaps we've become too apologetic these days of our faith and those things we can celebrate in our particular brand of Christian understanding.

Our diocesan motto this year invites one and all to "Come and See". Should any be so bold as to accept that invitation, if they joined our congregations, what would they see? I hope it would be the best that I have described above. But all our buildings and cherished traditions mean nothing unless they invite people to the throne of the Lamb, to the presence of Christ, so that, nourished by his transforming love, we can go out and transform the world.

+gregoryflourney:

Bishop receives Watercolour gift

Two members of St Mary's Church in the Parish of Bagillt have presented Bishop Gregory with a watercolour painting of St Asaph Cathedral.



Mr and Mrs Urwin had the work specially commissioned by artist Harold S Scott before handing their gift to the Bishop at Esgobty.

GRANTS

Equipping our Churches for the Future

As a Diocese we want to make sure we are building for the future and there are plenty of resources available to help your church to be equipped for the 21st Century. Whether it's the fabric of the building, youth and community work or new ministries you're passionate about, we're here to help. Here's an outline of some of the grants available to parishes in the Diocese. You can find the application forms for all these grants on the Funding pages of the Diocesan website.

Church in Society

These grants are for churches who want to develop a social conscience. Do you want to do more community work to help people in your parish? Then this could be the grant for you.

Church in Society grants will be given to churches who want to develop their work with those outside of the church who are in need. In recent times there have been funds handed to CAIS who deal with young people and addiction as well as a project in Newtown to help people in the community with learning difficulties to engage in Worship.

Supporting Initiative in Ministry

Has your parish got big plans for new ways to minister to the community but isn't sure where to find the money? Help is at hand.

There's £50,000 a year available for the next three years to fund projects that help you share the Good News of Christ with people in new and creative ways.

The money could help you employ a new member of staff to minister to groups you haven't been able to effectively reach in the past. In other words, this grant could help your parish vision to become a reality.

The DBF will consider all applications but this "Ministry Fund" is about new initiatives in church or parish growth, not supporting what is already in place. It's about offering money to fund a salary, not a building project.

The next deadlines for these applications are 17 October 2011 and 10 February 2012.

Youth Grants

The Diocese also has funds available for those who are keen to invest in youth and children's work.

These funds might help you to buy resources to enable a youth project to get off the ground, or the materials you need to set up a "Messy Church" or something similar.

Tim Feak, our Diocesan Under 25's Officer is keen to hear new and creative ideas on how to engage in youth and children's work and says there are various amounts of funding available for different projects.

Churches & Pastoral Committee

If you need some funds to help repair parts of your building that have seen better days or to make worshipping more comfortable with new heating and lighting, this is the grant for you.

These grants are for the fabric of your building or to help develop it and can include essential work like heating and lighting.

One of the parishes to benefit from such a grant was Cilcain. The grant paid to rewire and improve the lighting at St Mary the Virgin meaning that parishioners can better see their order of service sheets and the wonderful wooden roof is now visible to those coming into the building.



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
REACH Tapestry of Faith	Saturday 1st October (2pm – 5pm)	St Peter's Church, Holywell.
REACH Ecology & Faith	Saturday 15th October (11am – 3pm)	Wrexham Methodist Church
Adolescence – a Workshop for Parents & Guardians	Tuesday 18th October (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
Setting The Parish Budget	Tuesday 25th October (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
Using The Standard Form of Accounts	Tuesday 8th November (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
Faith Development in Young People	Tuesday 15th November (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** or phone on **01745 532582**.

Full details and directions will then be sent to you at least one week before the session takes place.

. . . continued from front page.

Our worship will have an African theme as we're being joined by Canon John and Sister Aneth from our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika.

There will also be a book stall, a chance to buy a copy of the new Diocesan Directory as well as other stalls from Christian charities and organisations.

As ever, we have allocated time to deal with the business of the day. You can read an edited version of the reports of the Boards in the centre pages of this edition of Teulu Asaph and the full versions are available for download from the Church Life pages of the Diocesan Website.

Grants

Keynote speaker Revd Robin Gamble set up the "Leading Your Church into Growth" course and grants are available from the Diocese to help fund your attendance on it.

It's a four day residential course which costs around £250 but by applying for a grant, the Diocese could meet half of that cost.

Simply download an application form from the Evangelism section of the Diocesan website.

Galluogi a Chalonogi holl I bobl Dduw

All Change in St Asaph

It's been a busy summer in St Asaph as the Cathedral welcomed a new Dean, the former Dean became Archdeacon of St Asaph and the Bishop's Office welcomed a new Secretary.



The Very Revd Nigel Williams began his ministry as Dean on September 17 after the Venerable Chris Potter became Archdeacon. A farewell hog-roast was held at St Asaph Cathedral for Chris as those connected with the Mother Church of the Diocese gathered to wish him and Jenny well for the next chapter of their ministry.



The Venerable Bernard Thomas has now retired as Archdeacon of St Asaph, but not before he inducted Chris as Rector of Caerwys and Bodfari. Chris will serve in the parish alongside his duties as Archdeacon. Speaking at the installation service, Bishop Gregory spoke of Chris's

ministry taking root and flourishing in Caerwys.

Meanwhile in Esgobty, the Bishop has appointed Sian Sweeting-Jones to serve as Bishop's Secretary. It means the team said goodbye to Barbara Card who has been serving as Secretary since Glenys Croft retired.



To see a full report on the inductions of Nigel Williams and Chris Potter, please visit the news pages of the Diocesan Website.

Christian Institute heads to Newtown



The Christian Institute is a nondenominational group that seeks to campaign on social, moral and ethical issues and bring a Christian perspective to the national political debate.

Specifically, it deals with issues affecting family life, child protection, religious liberty, education and freedom of speech. It campaigns at a national level, but is also concerned with equipping Christians with knowledge, arguments and legal advice at a local level.

Earlier this year, a group of a dozen church members from All Saints, Newtown attended a meeting in Shrewsbury where the Institute addressed employment of non Christians in church organisations, the arguments around euthanasia and abortion, as well as freedom of speech in public places.

So impressed were the members of All

Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God

Saints and motivated to get involved on these issues that they have invited the Christian Institute to hold an open meeting on Wednesday 16 November at 7.30pm in All Saints, Newtown.

For more about the Institute visit www.christian.org.uk and about the event visit www.newtownparishes.co.uk

Tim represents Wales at Global Youth Meeting

Our under 25s officer Tim Feak reports on his trip to Asia...

I have just returned from Hong Kong where I attended the Inter Anglican Youth Network meeting (IAYN). This network is made up of representatives involved in working with young people for the Anglican Church in their country or Province. The network is made up of Anglicans from all over the world and I represented our wonderful Province of Wales.

We worked on numerous resources and policy that will potentially benefit the lives of young people across the world. The creativity and wisdom present in our discussions and work highlighted to me the importance of collaboration and sharing experiences. I will be sharing more of our work over the coming months so that you may benefit from it too.

We spent time looking at the role of Baptism, producing a report that will act as a guide to youth workers and young people on the subject of living out our baptismal vows.

We also spent time working on a resource

which encourages churches to move youth from a written priority to it being a part of the very consciousness of the church. This resource and collection of reports aims to demystify some of the areas around youth work in an attempt to show churches, deaneries, dioceses and provinces what is achievable.

There was also much work done to respond to the riots in the UK over the month of August and the numerous countries where young people have been at the very forefront of protest. The paper aims to encourage the worldwide church to take seriously the voice of young people and respond appropriately to their needs.

Over the next year IAYN will release a journal with all of the content I have mentioned above and a great deal more. The Journal, Buenos Nuevas will be available to anyone who wants it and will hopefully be a source of encouragement and resource to those who work with young people within the Anglican Communion.

For more information about my trip to Hong Kong please read my September blog on the Diocesan website.



The Revd Lynette Norman was formally commissioned as Priest-Guardian of the Shrine Church of St

Melangell, Pennant Melangell in July by Bishop Gregory who also dedicated sacred items with special association to the Church.

providing a venue to house mental health services in our community.

Honey Service proving popular

With the support of the PCC's at St John's Rhos-y-Medre, St Thomas' Pen-y-Cae and St Mary's and All Saints Ruabon, the Priest continues to offer a very popular service of Thanksgiving and Blessing for the Gift of a Child that has become known locally as the Honey Service.

It's not an alternative to baptism but it does allow the Church to offer parents a service that doesn't carry quite the same expectation of commitment and promise to the Church as baptism does.

Area Dean cycles to Paris for Charity

Llangollen's Area Dean, Revd Andrew Sully cycled 300 miles from London to Paris in July to raise money for Christian Aid.

He was joined by 70 others and he raised more than £2000 in sponsorship.

St Mary's churchyard volunteer group

Ferelith Smith reports on the work going on in Chirk:

In 2009 a group of volunteers at St Marys in Chirk got together to form a group to look after the churchyard. We wanted to maintain and enhance the natural history and historic interest whilst presenting an attractive and cared for appearance. Seven people regularly help on Friday afternoons and some of the team are hard at work during the week as well. To date we have planted a Rosa Rogosa hedge, created wild areas for wild life, made 2 compost bins, made log piles for small animals, planted shrubs for butterflies and insects as well as the normal maintenance. Several benches have been placed in quiet areas.

The wider community get involved as well.



Local school children have made a willow edge to the wild flower area and made bird boxes. Guides have planted wild flower plants. We have hosted several excellent talks on wild flowers, yew trees and birds.

We have an interpretation panel at the entrance to churchyard. There are informative leaflets for adults and children to use and explore the area.

Sacred Space has helped and encouraged us with support and grants to do many things. Environment Wales, AVOW, Keep Wales Tidy and the local council have also helped with the project.

We aim to welcome the local community and tourists into the church and churchyard. The church is for everyone and we need to make people feel comfortable coming here – I feel we are starting to do that in a small way.

Parish of Rhos reaches out to children and families

Every week mums and dads bring their pre-school children to St Mary's Church Hall in Johnstown for Chatterboxes.



Each Thursday at 9.30am parents gather for a cup of tea while their children play together. Chatterboxes is free of charge and the photograph shows the children enjoying a teddy bear's picnic in the summer.

Meanwhile the Parish of Rhosllanerchrugog has been running Messy Church for the past three years.

The short act of worship – attended some weeks by up to 35 children and family members – enjoys drama and songs, but it is the crafts that capture the imagination. We've decorated cup cakes for 'the Marvellous Picnic' and explored the theme of creation by transforming a box of twigs, soft materials and play-dough into Johnstown's answer to the Garden of Eden!

Bywiogi a Chyfoethogi ein Haddoliad

First walkers complete North Wales Pilgrim's Way

The first walk along the North Wales Pilgrim's Way was hailed a success as the pilgrims arrived at Bardsey Island on schedule at the end of their 11 day trip.

The new Archdeacon of St Asaph, the Venerable Chris Potter led the trip which started with a blessing from Bishop Gregory at Basingwerk Abbey on Sunday 7 August. The pilgrims arrived at Bardsey on the morning of Thursday 18 August.

This first pilgrimage was designed to check the route and "waymark" it with stickers of a Celtic Cross to allow other people to do the same route for years to come.



It turns out the walk is far longer than was initially thought with the pilgrims walking around 150 miles rather than the 127 that were first estimated.

Chris says there may now be some fine tuning to the route but overall this first pilgrimage was a complete success.

He said:

"It's not so much an achievement but a sense of fulfilment."



"We've walked through the worst of weather and the sweetest weather, through towns and cities, hamlets and villages, along pavements and grass and there's been an incredible welcome from parishes along the way."

"Overall it's been delightful and the little services we've had along the way have been so moving and powerful, while the relationships and conversations along the route have blossomed."

St Sannan Pilgrimage could become annual event

Members of the Parish of Petryal have already tried out part of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way after braving the wet weather by trekking to Gwytherin from Llansannan – part of the new route.

It was the first time the Parish had taken part in such a pilgrimage and even though the rain teemed down for most of the day, the pilgrims were able to enjoy lunch along the way before celebrating the Eucharist in Gwytherin Church.

They were joined at the church by those who were unable to take part in the walk.

Enlivening and Enriching our Worship



It doesn't sound like the weather put them off – they are now discussing plans to turn this pilgrimage into an annual event.

Refurbished weather vane hides war secret

The weather vane on top of St Gwyddelan's Church near Newtown has been restored to its perch after being rescued from the roof by a local builder.

Gareth Jones brought the weathercock down during work to repair the roof of the Church tower.

It was so rusty that it wouldn't rotate anymore, so former churchwarden Mervyn Foulkes set about giving the copper cockerel a welcome facelift, which also revealed a local secret.

Mervyn said:

"There were two or three bullet holes in the cockerel, which was apparently used

as target practice by members of the local home guard during the Second World War, also lead pellet indentations.

"Only one of the suspected culprits who is now 92, is still alive to tell the story!

Mr Foulkes filled the bullet holes with solder and totally refurbished the cockerel. He and his wife, Beryl, the church treasurer, then added a few coats of paint before the cockerel was blessed by Priest in Charge, Revd Terence Bryan, and returned to the top of the church.

Christ Church, Pontblyddyn plan for the future

After finally selling their church hall in Pontblyddyn, Christ Church are planning to spend the money raised on refurbishing their church building on Mold Road so it will become a facility for the whole community.

Currently there's no kitchen or toilet in church so the Priest in Charge – Revd Carole Poolman – wants to add those facilities as well as re-ordering the church so the pews are replaced by individual seating.

There's already been some minor re-ordering at the front and back of the church which includes a children's area with toys and games but Carole says there's a real need to make the space more flexible.

She said:

"The whole community see this as their church and my vision is to have a building that's not only multi-purpose but also has modern conveniences.

"I would love to be able to put on 'Cafe



Church' and I have church members that are longing to do 'Messy Church' but we have no kitchen or toilet facilities to let this happen."

The project was officially launched on September 25 with a community meeting about the plans in Leeswood. A steering group which includes church and community members will now take the project forward.



Carole added:

"Things should start to move along in 2012 when we will start applying for grants to get the extra money we need to do the work."

The church's place in the community was highlighted by their 175th anniversary service in May which saw the church full to capacity as Bishop Gregory preached at the celebration.

Community gathers for Patronal Festival

St James' Church in Wrexham celebrated their Patronal Festival at the end of July.

Many faces from around the community joined the church for the day and all those who attended were able to enjoy sharing food and fellowship.

Revd Richard Hainsworth preached on "greatness lies in being small".



Revd Anthapurusha said:

"Richard exhorted the congregation in his sermon and everyone enjoyed the delicious meal."

"A big thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the feast of St James."

Dozens gather for Mother's Union Outreach Day

The Mother's Union held an outreach day at St Asaph Cathedral in July.

Esther Chiquimo from Rhyl Branch making Botswana-type necklaces.



Members from every Deanery organised displays with information about countries across the world where the Mother's Union has members – 40 out of 81 countries were represented.

The afternoon ended with a short, well-attended service in the Cathedral, led by the MU Chaplain, Revd Colin Mansley, and the Revd Mary Brotherston, Leader of the Faith and Policy Unit.

A number of families with children attended and there were activities for young and old alike, so that everyone had a fascinating and enjoyable day in the sunshine.

New Organ installed at Christ Church, Prestatyn

A brand new custom-built Wyvern Phoenix Digital organ has been installed in Christ Church, Prestatyn.

It has three manuals and pedals and is controlled by a handsome drawstop console in oak.



Parish Organist Huw Ellis-Williams and Quentin with the new organ.

Revd D Quentin Bellamy is Vicar at Christ Church and said:

"At long last we have an instrument which is thoroughly worthy of our Parish Church."

The organ was formally dedicated at the end of July and there will be a celebration concert with Nigel Ogden from BBC Radio 2's The Organist Entertains on 14 October at 7.30pm. Admission is £8.

New noticeboard in memory of faithful couple

A new noticeboard was dedicated at St John's in Pool Quay on 21 August in memory of the late Dilys and Frank



Hillidge who both served the local community with so much energy and commitment.

The new board is of an exceptional high quality and will serve the Church well for many decades.

The photo shows the Revd Mike Powell with the daughter and son of Mr & Mrs Hillidge, Beryl and Keith who donated this gift.

Diocese to gather for Offering Service

People from across the Diocese are being encouraged to gather at St Asaph Cathedral on Monday 10 October for the Diocesan Offering service in support of our link-up with South West Tanganyika.



We will be supporting our friends from Africa and the service will have a Tanzanian theme as we are joined by Canon John and Sister Aneth.

There will be prayers for Tanzania, an address from Canon John and the offering will be done on a motorbike to demonstrate the importance of providing transport for our linked Diocese.

Currently clergy have to walk huge distances to see their parishioners in South West Tanganyika. Being able to use motorbikes will transform their ministry.

This service will be "tri-lingual" with hymns and prayers in Welsh, English and Swahili.

Revd David Lewis is helping to organise the service and said:

"When we travelled to Tanzania we were impressed by the hope and joy in their liturgy and I hope we can express that same faith and hope in this service.

"It needs us as a Diocese to gather together to welcome our Tanzanian friends."



Hurio'r Byd

TV stars among acts at REACH comedy night



Barbara Nice

Two of the stars of Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights will take to the stage at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse in February for a

comedy night organised as part of the REACH programme.

REACH is a series of events in the Diocese aimed at bridging the gap between God, spirituality and everyday life.

The comedy evening will feature Barbara Nice and Jo Enright who play Holy Mary and Beverly in Phoenix Nights, as well as a talk from Helen Tomlin who founded the Laughing Sole – a comedy club with a clean ethos.

Dinner will be provided and the bar opened before Tony Vino compères the evening. You

can read profiles of each of the acts on the REACH pages of the Diocesan website.

To book a ticket for this event on Saturday 4 February 2012 at 7pm, please contact Sian Connelly on sianconnelly@churcheinwales.org.uk or 01745 582245. Tickets cost £10 and include dinner. They are available now and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis – so be quick!



Jo Enright

Rector swaps Pulpit for Physics at Eisteddfod

Revd Martin Snellgrove was one of a number of Anglicans from the across the Diocese who played their part in the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham over the summer – but he wasn't just leading worship in the Churches tent.



Instead, Martin was demonstrating his skills and knowledge as a chartered civil engineer in the Science and Technology tent.

Before he was ordained, the Rector of Hope worked in engineering and was able to pass on some of his ex-

perience to those at the Eisteddfod.

He said:

"I had as many faith conversations in the Science and Technology tent as I did in the Churches tent.

"The Eisteddfod had a tremendous buzz to it and I think it's great for clergy to get alongside those with no church connection."

Martin also led one of the Church services which were held every morning in Welsh at the Cytun tent.

It also offered refreshments, a meeting place and information about local churches as well as Christian charities and organisations.

Bishop Gregory attended the festival on the Friday and Diocesan Language



Officer Revd Mair Jones spent the week at the Eisteddfod.

She said:

"The tent has been very busy throughout the week. It was a slow start but by Thursday a lot of people were coming through and there has been a lot of sharing."

Bangladesh suffering in Changing Climate

Revd Kate Tiltman reports on climate change in Bangladesh after her visit to St Andrew's Theological College in Dhaka:

Not long ago I spent four days with a priest whose two brothers had been killed by a tiger. I was in Bangladesh. As part of my visit I went to look at the effects of climate change on one of the villages near the Bay of Bengal.



The priest who took me back to his home village was Revd Hemen Halder of St Thomas' Church in Dhaka. Hemen was born in the south of Bangladesh, and his father owned land near the port of Mongla.

When he was a child the government purchased his father's land, but never gave him any money for it. The stress caused the heart attack which killed his father, leaving his mother and her seven children penniless. Hemen's mother sold

her jewellery to raise the money to build a house and took the children to Kanainagar, a village near to the Sunderban jungle and the home of the Royal Bengal tiger. Not long afterwards the three eldest boys went to collect firewood in the jungle, and the two eldest boys were attacked and killed.

This story could be a parable of life in Bangladesh. Kanainagar was once a fertile area, with rice paddies and coconut palms as well as fishing in the Bay of Bengal. Now rising sea levels mean that salt water has destroyed crops, leaving only shrimp farms, providing for an overseas market and enriching a land-owning minority.

The rise in the level of salt water means that there is no drinking water. The Church of Bangladesh has provided containers to collect the rainwater during the rainy season – it lasts for two or three months before it becomes contaminated by dirt and insects. The population then have to drink whatever water they can find, with the real risk of sickness and diarrhoea.

My visit to Kanainager brought home to me the impact that small changes in the climate can have on individuals and on Christian congregations. When I asked Hemen what the future might be for his brother's grandson the reply was that there wasn't one. The child, named Joy, lives in a village which has lost the means of growing food. There is no education available for a Christian child like Joy, and so his only option is to be a fisherman in an area where cyclones are becoming more and more common.

As Christians we should be asking ourselves what we can do in our lives to reduce the effects of global warming and to consume less so that others may live.

Retired Cleric ready for South Sudan trip

A retired cleric from Rhos-Cystennin is preparing to take a team to the new Diocese of Nzara in South Sudan at the end of October.

It will be Revd Peter Marshall's sixth visit there and he will take part in clergy training along with Peter Stewart – a reader from his previous parish and the Bishop of Nzara, the Right Revd Samuel Enosa Peni.

Also in the team are David and Ruth Raggett from All Saints in Deganwy.



David is a water engineer and Ruth is a music teacher. The team will also be accompanied by three people from the Diocese of Salisbury who will encourage Mother's Union members.

Peter said:

"Please pray for good health, safety – as the area has been much troubled by L.R.A. terrorists – and the ability to relate quickly in a challenging situation.

"Amidst poverty and persecution, the Anglican church is experiencing remarkable growth."

For Peter the highlight of the trip will be the dedication of a new church building near Yambio on 6 November which he has been involved since November 2005.

If you would like more information please email Peter at peter@revpetermarshall.co.uk

Vicar gets Poetry Published

A Vicar in the Rhos-Cystennin Rectorial Benefice has had a book of poems published based on his spiritual experiences in north Wales.

Revd Peter Walker joined the Diocese 18 months ago and has been writing poetry since he was a teenager.

This work is called "Penmon Point" and is a collection of his work from the last decade – although most has been written since he started working in the Diocese.



Peter's collection of work also includes four of the Psalms written as sonnets. His book has been published by Welsh publishers Y Lolfa.

Bible exhibition in Dyserth attracts hundreds

More than 200 people visited a Bible Exhibition held by St Bridget's Church in Dyserth to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

The church got together with the United Reformed Church in Dyserth to display 167 Bibles and put on a Biblical Feast which was attended by more than 40 people.



Deanery hosts tent at Denbigh Show

Hundreds of people visited a tent at the Denbigh and Flint Show hosted by churches in the **Denbigh** Deanery.

It was the first time they'd had a tent at the annual agricultural show and they offered fair-trade refreshments, a fair-trade food stall and family activities.

Caerwys provided "Messy Church" which took the theme of Creation as children coloured in their favourite animals before sticking them to a collage.



The Deanery serves the agricultural community and on the day served hundreds of teas and coffees. They want to thank everyone who was involved in organising, volunteering or praying for the venture.

Church ladies see Charity at Work

A group of ladies from the Parish of **St Asaph** have visited a hospital in Manchester to see the work being done by the Humane Research Trust.

St Mary's Hospital receives funding from the Trust for the detection of early stage ovarian cancer.

The picture shows the ladies from the



Parish with Drs Lynne and Ian Hampson who are responsible for this research.

You can find out more information about the Trust at www.humaneresearch.org.uk

Transformed churchyard wins award

St Cystennin's Church in **Llangystennin** near Mochdre have transformed their churchyard, winning a £150 Keep Wales Tidy award in the process.

The project has been supplied with tools and butterfly attracting plants from local garden centre Batty's nurseries and have now created a rubble garden feature to attract butterflies.



Participation in the national Big Butterfly Count in July showed five species of butterfly in the churchyard and they are hoping to improve that next year.



For the second time, two teachers from a school in Nepal have visited one of our Church schools to form links and to allow both school cultures to learn from one another.

Mr and Mrs Gurung from Paramount School in Pokhara, Nepal were impressed with the children's attitude to school at **Eyton Primary in Wrexham** and they both participated in the school's International Day.



Teachers from Eyton have also visited Nepal, pursuing the topic "water", while the focus for the new term will be "Religion".

While in Wrexham, Mr and Mrs Gurung met the mayor and they are both looking forward to developing their links with Eyton in the future.

Children to help celebrate Church Anniversary



Children from **Arddleen CP School** enjoyed a visit to St John's Church in **Pool Quay** just before the summer break.

The 3 hour visit included a tour of the church and a study of its history.

Even though the school is not actually within the parish, they have agreed to help celebrate the Church's 150th anniversary in 2012.

Children learn about Christian Aid work in Ghana

The Parish of **Bistre** welcomed 300 children from **Southdown Community Primary School** at the end of the summer term to learn about the work of



Christian Aid in Ghana.

It was part of the school's annual Global Day where they learn all about a different country and culture.

Revd Martin Batchelor spoke to the children, teaching them about how the charity changes people's lives in other parts of the world.

School celebrates Bicentenary

Madras VA Primary School in Penley will celebrate its 200th birthday in November.

It was built in 1811 by George Lord Kenyon II and was the first free school in Wales.

Its unique design includes a thatched roof which the school believe is the only one of its kind in the country.

The commemoration plaque at the front of the school depicts a Bible giving indication of the original religious style of education offered at Madras VA.

Recognising its historical foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan levels.

To mark this anniversary, there will be services for pupils, current parents and invited guests on Thursday 10 November.

Anyone with an interest in or connection to our school is welcome to attend one of two concerts which will be performed on Thursday 10 November at 6:30pm and Friday 11 November at 1:30pm. Please contact the school office on 01978 710419 for your free ticket.

Archbishop Rice Jones Charitable Trust

Are you looking for some financial help in buying resources for your School for collective worship and religious education? The Archbishop Rice Jones Charitable Trust welcomes applications from schools to develop their resources; application forms and guidelines can be found on its website www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/learn/schools/archbpRiceJones.html

The Closing Date for Applications for the new school year is Friday 21 October.

New Chaplain for St Joseph's

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School in **Wrexham** welcomed Revd Mary Stallard as a new chaplain during a special



Revd Mary Stallard with Bishop Gregory and pupils at St Joseph's

service in the school chapel on 6 September.

Bishop Gregory preached on Isaiah 61 before handing Mary her licence.

Children from Year 7 took part in the service too and clergy from across the Diocese gathered to wish Mary well in her new role.

Floating Zoo

During the summer holidays, St Paul's Church in **Colwyn Bay** echoed to the strains of Joseph Horowitz' and Michael



Flanders' cantata, "Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo" for their second holiday musical workshop.

Children from Parish clubs and local primary schools performed on the Friday afternoon in St Paul's.

The workshop was led by Mr Bryn Heywood and Chloe Jones choreographed the musical with the assistance of her mum, Nicky.



Amgylch yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

Worship Leader Training –
Saturday 1 October and Saturday 8 October in Llanfyllin Deanery but open to the Diocese. *More information from Revd Pam Powell on 01691 828244.*

Exploring Faith – New discipleship course begins on **Saturday 1 October**. *More details from the ministry pages of the Diocesan Website or from Revd Manon Parry on 01492 516728.*

Diocesan Conference –
Sunday 9 October, 2pm at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse. *Keynote Speaker is Revd Robin Gamble, Diocesan Evangelist from Bradford Diocese.*

Diocesan Offering Service –
Monday 10 October, 7pm at St Asaph Cathedral *to support the work of our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika.*

Organ Concert – to officially mark the new Organ at Christ Church Prestatyn, Nigel Ogden from BBC Radio 2's The Organist Entertains will be in concert on **14 October at 7.30pm**. *Admission £8.*

Church in Wales Review – A review group will visit the Diocese of St Asaph on **Monday 28 November**. It will allow parishioners to share concerns and ideas about the future of the Church. St Asaph Cathedral, **6.30pm**.

Charity wants us to make Christmas special

Are you staying at home for Christmas? Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university? **HOST** invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special. **HOST** will match you with one or two guests to suit your household.

More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 2-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round. Please see www.hostuk.org or call your local voluntary organiser for a chat: *Soili Barker on 01948 830549.*

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

Editor: Phil Topham, Diocesan Communication Officer
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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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