



Petertide Ordination 2010



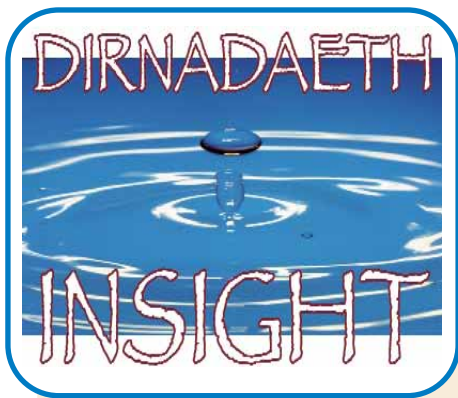
Dyrchefwch eich calonnau!
Lift up your hearts!

After training at St Michael's College, Llandaff, three candidates were ordained deacon on Saturday 26 June by Bishop Gregory. The Revd Deborah Swann (42) is now serving in the parish of Gwersyllt; her husband, the Revd Neil Kelly (40), in the parishes of Llangollen, Trevor and Llantysilio; and the Revd Adam Pawley (29) is in the parishes of Llanllwchaearn, Newtown and Aberhafesp.

"It is always a pleasure to welcome new people into ordained ministry," said Bishop Gregory, "Here we have three bright and enthusiastic young people who are keen to bear witness to their faith in Jesus, and I am sure that their commitment will inspire and encourage the life of the diocese."

Also Inside...

- ◆ Bishop Gregory reflects on social justice
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"Wrth ei ddrws gorweddaï dyn tlawd, o'r enw Lasarus." (Luc 16.20)

'Gwyddom stori'r dyn cyfoethog a Lasarus yn Efengyl Mathew mor dda fel y gallwn anghofio mai bwriad yr Iesu oedd i'r stori fod yn rhybudd mewn mwy nag un ffordd. Mae'n rhwydd i ni dderbyn y wers ein bod yn cael ein galw i wneud daioni ond ei adael fel dyhead cyffredinol - "Wrth gwrs rydym yn llawn o ewyllys da i bob cyd-ddyn!" Ond mae llymder pellach i'r stori: Mae Lasarus yn gorwedd wrth ddrws dyn cyfoethog.

Gelwir ar Gristnogion i newid eu cymdeithas, i fod yn asiantau o gyfiawnder a heddwoch Duw yn lle maent. Gallwn a dylem ofalu am yr amgylchedd, am y byd datblygiadol, am yr elusennau cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol ardderchog sy'n gwneud cymaint i leddfu bob mathau o ddiodefaint. Ond ni ddylem anwybyddu'r anghenion sydd wrth ein drws. Gwyddai'r dyn cyfoethog pwy oedd y dyn tlawd wrth ei ddrws - roedd yn gallu ei enwi yn y stori yn adnod 24 - ond ni wnaeth dim i newid na gwella ei sefyllfa.

Mae'n bosibl i ni fyw mewn cymuned - neu hyd yn oed yrru i gymuned Eglwys ar ddydd Sul ac oddi yno eto - neb hyd yn oed wybod pwy sydd mewn angen. Mae'n rhaid i mi gyfaddef nad wyf yn gwybod fawr o ddim, er enghraifft am yr anghenion cymdeithasol yn Llanelwy. Mae hen ddywediad yn Saesneg "Charity

Begins at home" - a'r gwrthateb wrth gwrs yw "ond mae angen iddo ddod i ben yno" - rwyf am ddeall pa mor dda yw enw da ein Heglwysi am y gwasanaeth caredig maen nhw'n ei gynnig i anghenion ar eu carreg drws.

Mae Bwrdd yr Eglwys a'r Gymdeithas yn yr Esgobaeth am ddechrau prosiect o'r enw "Atlas Anfantais". Bydd yn anelu at ddatgelu'r anghenion yn y cymunedau lleol i ni, ein llywio a'n hannog i weithredu fel dilynwyr Iesu i arddangos gweithgaredd a theyrnasiad Duw yn ein cymunedau ein hunain. Gobeithiaf bydd Duw yn agor ein llygaid i'r anghenion sydd wrth ein stepen drws. Rwy'n ymhyfrydu yn y prosiectau rwyf eisoes wedi'u darganfod lle mae teulu Asaff eisoes yn gweithio arnynt. Rwyf am i'r Eglwys fod yn fodd dros newid, sydd ag enw da yn ein cymunedau o weithio gydag a denu'r rhai mwyaf ymylol neu anghenus - er mwyn i'r Lasarusau yn ein cymunedau ein hadnabod fel pobl sy'n gwneud mwy na dim ond gyrru heibio.

+gregoryfleming:

“At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus” (Luke 16.20)



The **Revd Susan Blagden**, previously Chaplain at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, was inducted to the parishes of Bangor Monachorum, Marchwiell and Worthenbury by Bishop Gregory on Saturday 19 June.

It is possible for us to live in a community – or even drive to a Church community on a Sunday and out again – and never even know who is in need. I must admit that I know next to nothing, for example, about the social needs in St Asaph. There was an old saying “Charity begins at home” – to which the rejoinder of course was “but it needed end there” – and I want to understand how well our Churches are known for the loving service they offer to

the needs on their own doorsteps.

We know the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Matthew’s Gospel so well that we may forget that Jesus meant the story as a warning in more ways than one. It is easy to take the lesson that we are called to do good, and leave it in the air as a general aspiration – “Of course, we’re full of goodwill to all!” But there is a sharper sense in the story: Lazarus lives at the gate of the rich man.

The Board for Church and Society in the diocese is beginning a project called “The Atlas of Disadvantage”. It will aim to uncover for us the needs in our local communities, to prime us and prompt us to the action we as followers of Jesus can take to demonstrate God’s activity and reign in our own communities. I hope that God will open our eyes to the needs lying at our gates. I delight in the projects that I have already uncovered where the teulu Asaph is already at work. I want the Church to be a force for change, that has a reputation in our communities of working with and drawing in the most marginalised or needy – to be known to our Lazaruses as people who do more than drive by.

Christians are called to change their society, to be agents of God’s justice and peace where they are. We can and should care for the environment, for the developing world, for the great national and international charities which do so much to alleviate suffering of all kinds. But we shouldn’t overlook the needs that lie at our gate either. The rich man actually knew who the poor man at his gate was – he is able to name him in the story at verse 24 – but he did nothing to change or improve his situation.

+gregoryblagden:



Galluogi a Chalonogi holl bobl Dduw

At this year's **Diocesan Conference**, on Sunday 13 June, Bishop Gregory presented us with a challenge to change. In his presidential address, the Bishop of St Asaph said, "If we are going to grow, we need a complete change of culture. We have to shift away from the idea of the church as 'service provider' – quite literally – to a vision of the church as a movement – a gathering of disciples who are committed to the same vision of a God who redeems and renews the world, who establishes justice and peace in the world. Such a vision requires each of us not to ask how the Church can maintain what it does for us, but how we can all be agents in making space for God in the world."

The Conference was themed around the first of the three diocesan priorities, 'Enabling and encouraging the whole people of God'. Delegates were greeted by a video presentation about the work of the boards and could browse the stalls in the marquee, many of which were signposted during the short and snappy 'marketplace' presentation before the tea break. The keynote speaker was the Revd Canon Dr Sue Jones from Bangor Diocese, speaking about being a 'learning church'.

Tracey Pritchard gave a moving appeal on behalf of Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, launching the Diocesan Offering for this year. And, before a discussion in groups about the 'first steps' we could make in our own parishes, Rocky Bateman, evangelist in the Hawarden Deanery, shared her own story of being called by God into a new ministry. "Not everyone is being called to be an evangelist," she said, "But there are so many gifts and fruits that the Holy Spirit gives."



Parishes will soon be receiving a full report of the Diocesan Conference, with ideas about how to follow it up with your congregation and community.

Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God

Wales' only clergy training college is set to be transformed in a £1.1m refurbishment programme. St Michael's College is upgrading its historic listed building in the heart of Cardiff's prestigious suburb of Llandaff in order to offer first-class facilities for students and to accommodate conferences.

The work will be carried out thanks to an investment from the Church in Wales and began on Wednesday 23 June with a ceremony led by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan and the Principal of the College, the Revd Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick. As can be seen from the photo, they ceremonially moved the initial stones in preparation for the construction company, Andrew Scott Ltd, to take over. It is hoped the work, which will include improving disabled access and installing en-suite facilities, will be completed by mid October.

Dr Sedgwick said the investment was a vote of confidence in the college. He said, "Last summer the college had a very good inspection result. Now we have a large investment from the Church in Wales which will make the college buildings equal to any other college in Britain, as well as enabling us to offer excellent conference facilities. It all adds up to a very bright future for St Michael's."

Dr Morgan, who is chairman of the college's Trustees, said the refurbishment would enable St Michael's College to achieve its full potential. He said, "In many

ways, St Michael's has been hiding its light under a bushel. It's a gem of a building in a stunning location but, like many beautiful old buildings, has been held back because of the costs involved in maintaining it and adapting it for today's needs. The Church in Wales believes that investing in St Michael's now will enable it to play its full part in the training of clergy and in providing a tranquil location for conferences right in the heart of Cardiff."

The college's make-over began earlier this year with the launch of a new website.



The new design enables people from all over the world to find out about the 115-year-old college which trains candidates for ministry in the Anglican and other Christian denominations in Wales and beyond. To visit, go to www.stmichaels.ac.uk

Ceri Leeder has been Artist in Residence at her parish church, St Martin's in **Eglwysbach**, Conwy Valley, since the end of the second year of her degree in Fine Art at Coleg Menai. She says, "I began with the desire to immerse myself in the atmosphere of the valley in which this

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church stands and in particular in the burial ground next to the church which is hundreds of years old. After a while I was drawn to make a hanging from some of the grave markers in the churchyard and



was given permission by the Vicar in the parish, the Revd Christine Owen. I decided to cast these gravemarkers in latex, and was surprised to find the Parish so supportive of what I was doing, as it involves covering the gravestone with a thick layer of what looks like white gloss paint. In fact I had to make notices reassuring visitors to the churchyard that I wasn't vandalising the graves! As I began to assemble the casts I saw the correspondence between this hanging and the story of the cloak of St Martin, who famously cut his cloak in half and shared it with a beggar. That night, Martin had a dream in which he saw the risen Jesus wearing half of the cloak and it was from this point on that he began his exploration of Christianity.

"I stitched a cut into the hanging, which now became known as the 'Martinshalf', and agreed with our vicar that we could incorporate the cutting of the Martinshalf into a church service, as an act of memorial of the generosity of Martin towards the beggar."

Recently, St Silin's Church, **Llansilin**, experienced a rather special evening. Harp player, Harriet Earis, from Aberystwyth, gave a concert of music from the Celtic countries with introductions in Welsh, English and even Irish. Not only was that - more than likely - the first time the Irish language was ever heard in Llansilin but she also included a Caniad (song) to Sant Silin - our very own patron saint. Harriet said, "It was very special to bring one of the oldest ever harp tunes, 'Caniad San Silin' (the song of St Silin) back to St Silin's church. It's something I've wanted to do for ages and I was so grateful to everyone who helped make it possible and in particular to Valerie and Chris Burton for organising the concert so successfully. It



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was such a beautiful church to play in and it was wonderful to be able to bring the tune back home!"

This composition had been unearthed in a medieval manuscript written by Robert ap Huw from Anglesey; how wonderful to hear it played in the church dedicated to Saint Silin.

Andrey Chulovskiy has been principal organist at St Mary's, **Welshpool** since January 2009. "Andrey is an organist of great ability and note, having played in many of the great churches of Europe and also further afield," writes Canon Bill Rowell. "Since coming to the UK about four years ago he has continued to compose music for organ and piano, including many pieces based on English hymns, Welsh folk tunes, or inspired by the



local countryside and its history. His concerts and recitals at Kerry, Welshpool and elsewhere locally have been well attended and warmly received."

However, in order to qualify for permanent leave to remain in the UK he has needed to apply for a further temporary leave, and this had to be done, not under the rules by which he first came to the UK, in a scheme designed to attract artists, musicians etc, but under what are called First Tier

regulations, with more emphasis on qualifications and earnings.

Canon Rowell was able to accompany Andrey to his First Tier Tribunal, and to act as a witness. He was appealing against a decision in March that disallowed his application for residence, on the grounds that he had not provided sufficient evidence on three counts. In the appeal judgement, the judge now finds that Andrey has in fact provided adequate evidence both of academic qualifications and financial earnings, but has not been able to obtain the necessary English qualification. She has, bound by the rules, therefore disallowed his appeal, but with obvious reluctance, recognising both Andrey's musical ability and the way in which Andrey, Olga and their son Alexander (born here and baptised at St Mary's) have become integrated and valuable members of the communities of Kerry and Welshpool. Her judgement carries with it a strong recommendation that the Secretary of State consider Andrey's appeal "outside the Immigration Rules".

"We shall," says Canon Rowell, "be encouraging our newly-elected MP, Glyn Davies, to speak to the Secretary of State, and we shall be doing all we can to maintain the pressure of local support for the family. We consider ourselves remarkably fortunate that a musician of Andrey's ability and skill, and sincere Christian spirituality, has chosen to make his home in Montgomeryshire. He has composed tunes to several of my hymns, so I am personally very glad to be working with him. He has become a popular and well-loved member of our local communities, and we're glad to think that we're in with a fair chance of keeping him!"

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Bishop Stephen Lowe is one of the Honorary Assistant Bishops appointed by Bishop Gregory. Peter Mackriell went to meet him at his home in Bryn-y-maen. Here are some of the highlights of our conversation.



So Bishop Stephen...

Drop the Bishop bit – I'd much rather be simply Stephen - drop the handle!

So – Stephen – I believe you've come to be known as 'the urban bishop'?

Yes - after seven years as Bishop of Hulme in Manchester, I was probably as urban as anyone in the country – and then Archbishop Sentamu invited me for lunch and said that he and the Archbishop of Canterbury wanted me to go full time to be the first bishop for urban life and faith. This was with the task of following up the report 'Faithful Cities', twenty years after 'Faith in the City'. So, for three years, I visited every diocese in the Church of England, advising senior staff, meeting urban clergy, listening to lay people, looking at the work that was going on, trying to encourage, help and support. I also took away groups of twenty-four urban clergy at a time to smart hotels, to listen to them, in comfortable surroundings, to give them a chance to feel that the church valued them and took them seriously, and wanted to hear their stories. I don't think we listen to one another often enough in the church; as a result, very often self-esteem is quite low and the feeling that no-one really bothers about me is quite high.

And yet alongside that experience, you've also got a link with north Wales, where you are now living.

We've had the house here for five years or so before we retired; we used it as a bit of bolt hole from where we lived on a council estate in south Manchester, and then we retired here for a sabbatical; and we'll be here now for a few years.

So, does it still feel like a holiday?

No! The principle issue is trying to re-balance your life. I learnt how to work as an assistant curate in Colwyn Bay and Bryn-y-maen, which is very good for my soul, and accept the authority of the incumbent. I've begun to pick up on things in which I do have some expertise. For example, I'm pretty well rooted in broadbased organising; I was one of the first to be trained in the United States as an organiser and then got a fellowship from the Cadbury Trust to look at broadbased organising throughout the world, travelling to the Philippines, South Africa, South America and to Ireland.

I've already made links with T.C.C. here. I was fascinated to go along to a T.C.C. meeting to listen some of the leaders talk about their communities and what the issues were. The story, for example, of the Muslim community in Wrexham struggling to have a mosque was fascinating, and the hatred that there was in the Wrexham community against Muslims, I found quite disturbing. That's the sort of issues that might turn me into a prophet again!

I was impressed that there are some experienced leaders in T.C.C. but what was depressing to hear was that there are many clergy who just didn't seem to have the energy or will to commit themselves properly to organising. I can't cope with clergy who have a congregationalist approach to mission and ministry; one of the great gifts we have as Anglicans is the parochial system, which requires us to be concerned with all people, regardless of faith, church membership, or not. That is central to what I am about and we need to make sure there is no sacred/secular divide in our minds.

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What do you think lies behind such attitudes?

Fear. It's risky stuff. Risk is something we all find difficult. Some people may feel that in more rural or suburban settings at age 50/55 it's better to have a quieter life than to take risks. So, there's a danger that people lose the passion they had for mission and ministry when they were a bit younger, and we need to be constantly kept edgy and recognise that the gospel is a life force that can change communities as well as individuals.

Now, sitting here, with a Lowry picture on the wall and a lovely rural view out of your study window, I wonder if you could comment on the similarities between urban and rural ministries?

I think the issues as far as rural are concerned are poverty, which is largely unacknowledged; there are also similar problems to the urban in terms of young people feeling alienated and cut off, and subsequent problems with addiction. I'm also conscious that what is being asked of many of our rural clergy, in terms of the number of churches they are being asked to take on, is becoming impossible; and it requires a different model of ministry, an enabling of other colleagues' ministries, lay and ordained, rather than thinking they can do it all. I get worried when I see clergy working with an old model of ministry, doing it themselves, and the laity expecting this, rather than training and developing our clergy to enable a far wider range of ministries to develop in their parishes.

Buildings can be a challenge, too?

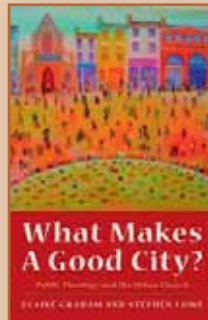
It's fascinating to see what they're doing in an urban project in Leicester, where they've got three churches in a population of 35,000 people, with 50 worshipping in one place, 20 in another, and together, in a third place, once a month, about 70; and they've got rid of two of the buildings,

with a major commitment to reorganise - on the grounds that the energy is going not into mission but to buildings and congregations and paying the quota. We've got to look at this for the rural churches, too. Unless the whole community want their church building to be used seven days a week, with the church worshipping there on Sundays, then maybe we should be getting rid of more.

I guess as our numbers of stipendiary clergy decrease, this is going to be a real issue.

If we're going to try to deliver the same number of services on Sunday, you're either going to kill the clergy or the system is going to collapse. Something radical has to be done. There has to be a fresh edge to the life of the church. We do need to adopt an entirely different approach to the way the church undertakes its mission and that requires some serious thinking about what we are doing and where we are all going, and not allowing the church to be run by two or three people who want the church to be kept in some kind of ecclesiastical aspic.

Bishop Stephen also talked about his experience of Manchester's links with Namibia. He is now to lead the first visit by a group from this diocese to our companion link diocese of South-west Tanganyika. Watch this space!



Stephen Lowe has co-written a book with Elaine Graham, **What Makes a Good City? Public Theology and the Urban Church.**

Available now from Amazon and all good booksellers!

guidelines). At Holy Trinity, Gwernaffield, a growing congregation meets monthly in the church hall for praise, singing, prayer, Bible reading - and dance! On the 4th Sunday there is a variety of short services at 6.30 p.m. – Taizé-style worship, Desert Island Hymns and Rural Liturgy. On the 5th Sunday all the churches come together for evensong in one of their churches in turn. A monthly Quiet Service is held in Llanferres, during which music and Gregorian Chant punctuates the silence. The service ends with Compline.

- **Pontblyddyn:** The adults have agreed to do without a morning service on the first Sunday of every month in order for the children to have the church to themselves. "Fun House" provides games, crafts, stories and singing for children aged 2 - 10 to learn about Jesus. The children come from both the parishes of Pontblyddyn and Llanfynydd (one of their nearest neighbours).



- **Llanfynydd:** The congregations of Llanfynydd and Cymau now join together every Sunday for worship, thereby creating a worship experience which is richer and more vibrant. The church buildings are used on alternative Sundays.

Making available our Sacred Spaces



Several of our churches are open to the public during the day and their visitors' books show just how many people enjoy the peace and quiet as well as the architecture of our wonderful buildings. People come from as far away as New Zealand as well as from all the corners of the British Isles. As in all churches in our diocese, the upkeep of our buildings is of great

importance and a financial concern, but many churches in our deanery are also trying to help the immediate environment around the churches too. Many volunteers help to keep the grass mown, the flowerbeds looking neat and colourful, and the car parks free from litter. However, in our deanery we have tried to go one step further:

- **Pontblyddyn:** Provision of an undisturbed area to encourage insect life
- **Nercwys:** A new Remembrance Garden with seat was opened this Easter (see *photograph above*) to allow time and space for personal reflection

- **Treuddyn:** Opened their church as part of the national Open Churches day last September and will do so again in 2010
- **Gwernaffield:** Part of the churchyard is cultivated as a Butterfly Garden



- **Cilcain:** An 'ecology board' displaying flora and fauna seen in the churchyard has recently been installed at St Mary's, Cilcain. It was commissioned by Mrs Gwyn Harvey in memory of her mother who was a missionary in Japan, and was painted by local artist Wendi Williams-Shiel and received part-funding from a Sustainable Development Fund grant
- **Connah's Quay:** St Mark's welcomes school groups as they explore the R.E. National Curriculum in colour and art. A monthly Luncheon Club provides a friendly venue for its diners

- **Mold:** Visits by local schools enable our children to experience the wonderful 'sacred space' which is St Mary's. Also, our VirginArt exhibition not only provides an opportunity for people to exhibit their art (and sell it!) but also lets people see and experience the spiritual ambiance of the church. The daughter church, St James in New Brighton, brings people together for a monthly Lunch



- **Northop:** Many couples have been returning to church on their special wedding anniversaries, i.e. silver, ruby and golden, and are delighted to find the church open
- **Nercwys:** Our school has always had close connections with St Mary's and is now in the planning stages for a change of status from VC (voluntary controlled) to VA (voluntary aided).

Welcome to the Deaf community

In the Deanery we try to provide, whenever possible, access to worship for the hearing-impaired. Once a month a service for the deaf community is provided in Pontblyddyn.

Deanery Conference

Over the last two years, an Executive Committee has been attempting to focus the work of the Deanery to try to bring quite diverse parishes together. After the meeting of the Executive and the full Conference a newsletter is circulated to all of the churches for them to distribute to their congregations. This contains short articles on events that have taken place within the Deanery and promotes future events.

The conference received a presentation by the Revd Aidan Coleman from 'Together Creating Communities' (TCC) and as a result of this the parish of Rhydymwyn has become a member of TCC. The Police and a representative from the EIG spoke to a meeting of the Deanery Conference about 'Security for Churches'. This meeting was open to churchwardens and others who felt they could benefit from the information being presented.

Deanery things we've done and are going to do

- A reading of Mark's Gospel during Holy Week at Cilcain Church
- A Deanery Quiet Day at Cilcain
- Two Alpha Courses and a study group following 'At Sea with God' in the Bryn Awel Hotel in Mold.
- Two Worship Leaders' Courses
- Northop Parish holds the Deanery resources for 'Godly Play', a method of presenting Biblical stories to children of all ages, from 3 years upwards. Volunteers from the church have given presentations to groups of children in local primary schools, children of Mothers Union members and groups from our own family services. We can offer a comprehensive range of Godly Play stories to any groups or churches within the Deanery (Contact Sheila & Jack Wolstenholme on 01352 840739)
- 'Grants for Churches', a presentation by Tracey White. An open meeting of the Conference for all interested
- A Deanery Quiet Day to be held at Bersham in October
- Deanery Eucharist in 2011 on the feast of Corpus Christi in Connah's Quay

Enlivening and Enriching our Worship



Susan Varah recently led a large group of pilgrims to Rome and Assisi. Rome was dramatic – but exhausting! Some members of the party went to the weekly audience, in St Peter's Square, of the Pope, who announced the name of each group present – introducing our group as from St Mark's Church, **Connah's Quay**, ENGLAND!! Oh, dear. Assisi was totally different and we stayed in a beautiful, peaceful convent with the Bridgettine Nuns (the same order who have come to Holywell recently) and the highlight was when we all went to Sunday Mass in the Basilica of St Francis. It is a wonderful experience to go on pilgrimage with a group of strangers who very soon seem like old friends. Thank you Susan . . .

LOCAL CHURCH, LOCAL SCHOOL

A number of churches across the UK are asking questions about how to relate to local primary schools. The new Local Church, Local School website at

www.localchurchlocalschool.org.uk is the result of collaboration by a number of organizations including BRF, The Stapleford Centre, The Girls' Brigade, Viz a Viz and Scripture Union, and aims to provide practical and varied suggestions on how churches can engage with primary schools. The site also provides information for schools so that they can understand how churches operate and the kind of contributions they can make. Do visit the website and pass the web address onto those in your church with an interest in children's and youth ministry, your church council or church leadership team.

The website looks at the area of common interest which schools and churches share. In a partnership between schools and churches, both have a lot to give and a lot to gain! Most importantly, when schools and churches work together, the pupils benefit. The website has distinct entry points for both churches and schools in

Bywiogi a Chyfoethogi ein Haddoliad!



Graham Kendrick enjoyed this foray into Wales as well. To God be the glory!

The Sad Rejected Clown

Two familiar faces looked quite different at a recent Family Service at All Saints Church **Deganwy!** Lay Reader Judy Williams had felt for some time that God wanted her to use the

recognition of what both can give, and receive from the other. Creating mutually beneficial relationships will also play a part in strengthening the cohesion of the local community.

For further information contact Sue Fulford on 01865 319708 or sue.fulford@brf.org.uk

St Deiniol's Church has never quite looked or sounded as it did on May 6th when we hosted Graham Kendrick and two friends for a concert. Around two hundred people came to hear an inspiring and challenging concert as Graham took us through the Gospel story in song. We were challenged by his preaching and healing ministry and then deeply moved by the story of the wounded man on the cross before recognising Jesus as Lord risen from the dead. The Gospel message is both timeless and contemporary; it challenges and comforts. This was the good news proclaimed and celebrated and enjoyed - people left with smiles on their faces - and

story of a clown in her ministry. Along with fellow church member, Pat Chapman, Judy dressed up as a clown and performed a sketch to illustrate that the Gospel of Jesus Christ reaches out to and includes us all. As is often the case with clowns, the performance was both entertaining and



moving for the children and adults who were lucky enough to be there. Judy has now also visited a local school where the pupils really enjoyed this new interpretation of God's love.



morning congregation re-stating their own vows taken at their own Christening, and with the cutting of a specially baked celebration 'Christening Cake'.

Cilcain Vicar, the Revd Adrian Copping, said " It has been very enjoyable to see how people have been so keen to lend their own Christening gowns and other memorabilia, and to join in the celebration of an ongoing part of the church's work".

Celebrating Christening at Cilcain – a unique event

People from **Cilcain** and nearby gathered in St Mary's Church during June to celebrate a unique event. 'Celebrating Christening' offered a mixture of historic Christening gowns, photographs, the historic parish Baptism registers, information about Christening and a chance to learn more about Christening.

The event climaxed with the Sunday

Choral Festival

St Asaph Cathedral was filled with uplifting choral music for the annual Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) festival in June. All affiliated choirs from across the diocese were invited to join in the festival which was directed by Gordon Appleton from the RSCM. The choirs came together to sing an exhilarating programme of music selected from 'Psallam', an RSCM publication to celebrate the 80th anniversary of its founding. The organist was John Hosking,

deputy organist at the Cathedral. Master of the Choristers and Organist at St Asaph Cathedral, Alan McGuinness

commented that, "The Choral Festival is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the role that music plays in enriching our worship. It was a particular pleasure to see four choristers from across the diocese receive awards for their musical achievements.



The Dean of St Asaph with recipients of the Bishop's award and Dean's award for choral singing and Stuart Robinson and Gordon Appleton from the RSCM



When the pupils return for the new academic year at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School in **Wrexham**, it will be a significant moment. None of the students will have been to school in the old building which pre-dated the current premises and was solely a Catholic institution. It is now four years since the opening of the new building and the launch of the joint school on Sontley Road; it is also fifty years since St Joseph's was founded.



Bishop Gregory, supported by clergy from the Rectorial Benefice of Wrexham, celebrating the Eucharist at St Joseph's High School in April this year

Year 7 will also be the first new intake to be greeted by headteacher Mrs Maria Rimmer and will bring the school to its optimum size of 680 pupils, which includes a number of children with additional learning needs. Mrs Rimmer took up her position in January and has been getting to know the school in the months since then. Deputy head, Mr Richard Woods, has only been in post since May 2009 so it's a real time of change for the school; "We're very excited about this time of new beginnings," said Mrs Rimmer, "and I'd like to take this opportunity to pay credit to my predecessor, Mr John Kenworthy, for he has not only done a fine job in leading the school but also a very sensitive job of preparing the school community for this transition."

Mrs Rimmer is familiar with north Wales, where she has been living since 1991; her son is in the bilingual stream of a Denbighshire secondary school. She comes from being a headteacher of a large Catholic Technology College in the north-west of England; for about four and a half years she was also, at the same time, running a community High School that was in special measures. That, she said, was a tremendous privilege, having never previously worked in a community school. Most of Mrs Rimmer's experience has been in faith schools; she began her teaching career at another joint church school, St Bede's in Redhill, Surrey, after graduating in theology at Oxford. Appointed head of department in due course, in the late 1980s she was invited to join the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission and worked with



Priscilla Chadwick on a pamphlet about joint church provision. She is clearly very experienced in considering the issues that are relevant to her new post in Wrexham.

Her journey to school is much more 'green' now, she says, as she has a shorter run than when she was working in England. "The time I had on the road before, particularly when I knew I had the job at St Joseph's," she says, "was



when I could do lots of thinking and planning – and praying." Mrs Rimmer sees part of her role now in enabling the school community to move into the next phase of what it means to work together as Catholics and Anglicans. "I think the forthcoming papal visit will be an interesting point of reflection for us because we aren't looking at that visit as an exclusive community of Catholics but as Christian brothers and sisters." A small party of Anglican and Catholic pupils will journey together to St Mary's University College Twickenham in September to hear the Pope speak.

It is still early days for the school in discovering its new joint identity. "We're very aware that there may be new and different ways to live our lives together; we're learning in schools more about

how to listen to the voice of learners and to engage with parents - and the joint nature of the school could be part of that dialogue."

Clearly Mrs Rimmer has a whole range of issues to consider in her new post as headteacher of a modern school; but, for her, faith is not an optional extra. "It's inseparable, it's in the bloodstream; I'm indebted to my parents and those who educated me for passing on to me the tradition of a lived life of faith alongside service to others. I believe teaching is a vocation."

Peace Garden and School Cross Ysgol y Llan, Whitford Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School.

The idea of creating a Peace Garden at Ysgol y Llan evolved following the flooding and subsequent demolition of the "Old Canteen" in February 2009. The extra playground space we inherited was out of sight of the main playground and therefore difficult to supervise.

The children came up with the idea of creating a space where pupils could sit quietly to read, pray or just chat with their friends away from the hurly burly of the footballs and skipping ropes on the main playground.

We have been very lucky to obtain funding for this project from Community Focused Schools, The Archbishop of Wales' Fund for Children and the Friends of Ysgol y Llan. Many members of the local community and our extended school family have made contributions in terms of time, energy, plants, soil, rubble, planters and plants! The theme



for the Peace Garden is Plants from the Bible – we have planted lilies, herbs, a vine and a palm tree to name just a few. The central bed is planted with flowers which reflect the colours of the church year – red, white, purple and green.

Pupils, ex-pupils who now attend High School, parents, staff friends and neighbours of the school came together to create a wonderful mural for a bare wall which was exposed when the Old Canteen was demolished. Under the guidance of artists Hilary and Graham Roberts every child, member of staff (plus many members of our extended school family) had a hand in creating a mural for the Peace Garden. We worked with clay, metal and glass to produce the mural.

Whilst we were busy making plans for our Peace Garden, we discussed how

important it was to have special places in our school where we could reflect and pray. Our school hall is used for assemblies, but it is also our canteen and gym and is used for playgroup, concerts etc. We decided that we needed a permanent reminder that we are a church school and came up with the idea of having a competition to design a cross for our school hall. Mike Williams (Trelogan), is our school photographer (although he used to be an ecclesiastical carpenter) and he very kindly agreed to make the cross for us (refusing payment) using Whitford oak and Sycamore donated by Mostyn Estates. The winning design was by Dion Thomas, year 6, and when Bishop Gregory visits Ysgol y Llan on Wednesday, as well as opening our Peace Garden he will consecrate Dion's cross. It will then be mounted permanently in the school hall.

Sizzling Send Off for the Montgomeryshire Trail!



Blessed with glorious weather, Meini Bywiol – the Living Stones Heritage Trail was launched on 22 May 2010 in **Llanfyllin**.

Outdoor activities in the morning included music from the Porthywaen Silver Band plus a Carousel on the Town Square, and a performance by Vagabondi Puppets in St Myllin's churchyard.

Just before lunchtime the band marched on to Pendref Chapel where Ann Griffiths



Church, people were treated to an organ recital by Reverend Edward Yendall, and two splendid talks by Tim Hughes (author of *Wales 100 Best Churches*) and John Harvey (Professor of Art, Aberystwyth University) in St Myllin's church.

The day was completed when the Venerable John Thelwell, Archdeacon

hymns were played and there was the chance to see the interior of the building. Over lunchtime, several local buildings were opened for viewings, including by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Danby the opportunity to see the French Prisoner of War Paintings in the Council House.

In the afternoon, inside St Myllin's

of Montgomery, officially declared *Meini Bywiol – Living Stones* open.

So, we invite everyone to come and take time to explore this lovely Trail covering three local valleys – the Tanat, the Cain and the Vyrnwy—and encourage others to do so as well. There is much to discover and wonder at, both in the buildings and



the surrounding areas which are truly treasure houses of local history and craftsmanship.

The Churches and Chapels involved are:

Trail 1 – St Silins, Llansilin; St Cedwyn's Llangedwyn; St Dogfan's, Llanrhaeadr Y.M.; Seion Chapel, Llanrhaeadr Y.M. & St Melangell's Pennant Melangell.

Trail 2 – St Ffraid's, Llansantffraid; St Garmon's, Llanfechain; St Myllin's, Llanfyllin; Christ Church, Bwlch-y-Cibau; and Pendref Chapel, Llanfyllin.

Trail 3 – St Tysilio & St Mary, Meifod; the John Hughes Memorial Chapel, Pontrobert; the Ann Griffiths Memorial Chapel, Dolanog; St Wddyn's Llanwddyn; & Sardis Chapel, Llanwddyn. *A publicity leaflet and map are available at all the sites or for download from www.living-stones.info*

Financial support to the Project has been provided via Powys County Council, from its GLASU and Community Welcome Grant schemes, for which the Steering Group is most grateful.



Save the Family

Following a talk to our Mothers' Union by the Revd David Pryce Morris, the parish of Buckley St Matthew's decided

to devote the month of May to supporting the work of Save the Family at Plas Bellin, Northop.

We were delighted with the response to our parish project. There were two boxes at the rear of the church throughout the month to receive gifts of toiletries, and tinned and dried foods. After four weeks the boxes were overflowing! Our Sunday School held a successful coffee morning, and to the amount raised we added special weekly donations from our congregation. On the evening of 8 June, at the end of National Family Week, members of our MU branch and friends from the congregation on behalf of the whole parish delivered over £120 worth of goods to Plas Bellin. They handed over a cheque from the parish, as well as a donation from our Generations toddler group.

We were met by David and given a guided tour of the community. It is absolutely amazing to see what is being done to help the many homeless families who are fortunate enough to have found a temporary refuge there.

Our thanks to the dedicated staff who welcomed us so warmly.

HOW MANY MILES IN YOUR FRUIT BOWL?

Halkyn Mountain Parishes Youth Group aka 'Biscuits' completed a 15 minute worldwide shop from Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, France and Italy without using the internet. In fact all the produce was found on the local supermarket shelves. Yes! You guessed it! They bought some fruit for the week. Of the 12 items of fruit on their list, they could not find one

sourced in the UK. In fact their 12 items had travelled a total distance of 55,526 miles – more than enough miles to go twice round the world or to put it in a more local context to make 9 trips from Halkyn to Chester, every day, for a whole year!!!!.

The group then visited the Blue Bell Inn in Halkyn to find out from Steve Marquis

Sue Kelly, Diocesan Tourism Officer introduces the 'Sacred Space' churchyard project that began in rural Wrexham in September 2008. Currently 13 churches are involved in the project.

The 'Sacred Space' churchyard project commenced in rural **Wrexham** in September 2008, and currently 13 churches are involved in the project.



how the Blue Bell menu is made up with foods, beer and soft drinks sourced locally. The group is now busy planning a diary of year round produce which can be grown locally. Recipes that use local produce AND get your mouth watering can be found in the parish magazine.

So, how many miles are there in YOUR fruit bowl?



The aims were to raise awareness of the ecology, biodiversity, heritage and educational value of churchyards, and to encourage community members to become involved. This was done by organizing

workshops on such diverse subjects as lichens; butterflies; trees and particularly yew trees; churchyard history and heritage; wildflowers and also using volunteers to help records fast-disappearing headstone inscriptions. Professional photographer Jim Saunders of Prints of Wales produced some stunning photographs and competitions have been held for amateur photographers to participate in a calendar which was distributed free to churches.

The project involves a website designed for the project where headstone inscriptions for the churches will be accessible on-line; professionally designed and produced interpretation panels and leaflets tailored to individual churches; churchyard management plans and wildlife identification leaflets for each



church, and an extensive programme involving local schools.

And much more!

The project has been very fortunate to have received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007 – 2013 which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European



Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and is delivered by Northern Marches Cymru. A dedicated project officer Heather Williams has organised and co-ordinated the workshops and events, and volunteers give their time which match funds the project.

To find out more, visit the project website <http://www.delwedd.com/sacredspacedelwedd/index.html> or contact Sue Kelly through the Diocesan Office.

What can you bring?

Harvest Resources are now available FREE from USPG. The good news for our diocese in particular is that the resources are focused on our companion

diocese of South West Tanganyika. Some of the material is written and presented by Bishop John Similenga who has visited our diocese on several occasions, most recently in February this year. Resources are available in Welsh and English:

to find out more and to order, please visit

www.uspg.org.uk/harvest



Share the Gifts of the Kingdom – Rhannwch Roddion y Deyrnas



Diocesan Winter project.



There will be a special Diocesan Appeal for the work of Christian Aid's partner, Deccan Development Society (DDS) this autumn/winter. DDS work with poor, marginalised dalit women in India – through agricultural and media projects which have transformed lives and livelihoods. Resources for worship from Harvest through to Candlemass can be downloaded from the Diocesan website. Posters and prayer cards will be distributed at the CME day September 21st. *Contact Anna Jane Evans, aevans@christian-aid.org 01248 353574 for more information or support.*





Organ Recital by Gareth Price and Graham Howell, 'Pipe Dreams Organ Duo' in St Asaph Cathedral
– **Wednesday 4 August** at 7.30 p.m.
£4 Admission including programme.

Mary Sumner Day

Family Fun to 'Lift up your hearts' with the Mothers' Union
– **Monday 9 August**

in the Archdeaconry of Wrexham, at Cilcain Church and Village Hall from 11 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Bring your own picnic and enjoy a day of fellowship and fun. Lots to do, including crafts, games, tombola, cake stall and children's activities.

in the Archdeaconry of Montgomery, at Berriew Community Centre from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Sideshows, competitions, games and fun for all the family. Entry Free.

in the Archdeaconry of St Asaph, MUMM's the word - Mothers' Union Make Music.
Singing, making & playing instruments; a fun day for all the family in and around St Peter's Church, Ruthin from 10 a.m.

Cymanfa Ganu – at St Martin's Church, Eglwysbach (following the Eglwysbach Show on the previous day)
– **Sunday 15 August** at 5 p.m.

North Wales International Music Festival in St Asaph Cathedral, with The Sixteen, Ian Tracey, Ensemble Cymru, Red Priest, BBC NOW and more.
Call 01745 584508 or see www.northwalesmusicfestival.com
– **Saturday 18 – Saturday 25 September**

Organ Recital by Meirion Wynn Jones in St Asaph Cathedral
– **Wednesday 1 September** at 7.30 p.m.
Admission £4 including programme

St Asaph Theological Society in St Deiniol's Library with speaker, the Revd Dr Richard Kidd, Joint Principal of the Northern Baptist Learning Community
– **Monday 27 September** at 7.15 p.m.

Diocesan Offering Service in St Asaph Cathedral
– **Monday 11 October** at 7 p.m.

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

Editor: Revd Peter Mackriell, Diocesan Communications 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 eiriau, yn Saesneg. Diolch yn fawr.

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