



## £1m Community Centre opens in Pensarn



Rina Lingham cuts the ribbon with Archdeacon Shirley Griffiths and Bishop Gregory

After six years of fundraising to gather £1m, a new community centre has opened in Pensarn, Abergele on the site of the former St David's Church.

Bishop Gregory opened Canolfan Dewi Sant on March 7 and church members gathered with local residents, architects and even politicians to see the new facilities which include a large hall, meeting rooms and even a bistro.



The vision for the centre was to create a space for the whole community. IT classes have begun almost immediately for those seeking employment, while the large hall has a semi-sprung floor to accommodate dance lessons.

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## Sul Gweinidogaeth a Galwad



Dyma fi – anfon fi. Prin fod llawer o ddatganiadau grymusach o ffydd na'r pedwar gair syml hyn, geiriau'r proffwyd Esea yn yr Hen Destament, sy'n taro cloch i unrhyw un a'i cynigiodd ei hun i'w ordeinio. Y

maent yn crynhoi natur gweinidogaeth – ymateb hyderus, llawn a gwirfoddol i'r allwad i wasanaethu Duw.

Dyna pam y dewisodd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru y geiriau hyn i gynyddu ymwybyddiaeth o natur galwad i'r weinidogaeth – galwad i fyw bywyd yn wasanaethu Duw trwy dderbyn urdd offeiriad ac arwain yr eglwys i'r dyfodol. Yn y byd prysur a swnllyd sydd ohoni nid yw bob amser yn hawdd clywed y 'llef ddistaw fain' sy'n ein galw i fyw bywyd gwahanol. Y mae cynifer o bethau i fynd â'n sylw fel ei bod hi'n anodd canolbwyntio ar yr hyn y gelwir ni i'w wneud mewn gwirionedd neu i ofyn cwestiynau ynglŷn â'r llwybr yr ydym yn ei ddilyn. Weithiau, y mae gofyn i eraill, sy'n ein hadnabod yn dda, ddangos y ffordd inni a pheri inni wrando'n fwy astud.

Eleni, am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol, yr ydym yn neilltuo un Sul i weddio'n benodol dros bobl a elwir i'r weinidogaeth ac i annog eraill i ystyried a ydynt hwythau'n cael eu galw. Cynhelir Sul Gweinidogaeth a Galwad mewn eglwysi ledled Cymru ar 5 Mehefin, y Sul ar ôl y Dyrchafael. Daw'r Sul hwn ar yr union adeg o'r flwyddyn pan fyddwn yn cofio

am y disgyblion yn disgwyl am nerth yr Ysbryd Glân wrth i ninnau ddisgwyl am i ysbryd Duw adnewyddu'r Eglwys yn ein dyddiau ni.

Caiiff pob eglwys becyn adnoddau yn cynnwys darlenniadau perthnasol, myfyrdodau a gweddiâu ar gyfer y rhai hynny sy'n ystyried cael eu hordeinio. Fe fydd hefyd gardiau post y gall pobl eu llenwi os ydynt yn meddwl eu bod yn cael eu galw a bod arnynt cyngor beth i'w wneud nesaf, a chardiau y gallwch eu rhoi i rai yr ydych chiw'n meddwl eu bod yn cael eu galw ond bod arnynt angen rhyw broc bach. Bydd yr adnoddau hyn i'w cael ar-lein ar [www.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk/galwad/](http://www.eglwysyngnghymru.org.uk/galwad/).



Ar 5 Mehefin byddwn hefyd yn lawnsio gwefan ar-lein ar [www.galwadcymru.org.uk](http://www.galwadcymru.org.uk) i roi cyngor, manylion cyswllt, newyddion ac adnoddau i'r rhai hynny sydd am archwilio'r weinidogaeth yn fanylach. Os ydych ar Facebook, nia chwiliwch am 'Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru – Galwad i'r Weinidogaeth'.

Mae'r Eglwys yng Nghymru'n dymuno chwilio am genhedlaeth newydd o arweinwyr eglwysig a'i hannog. Ar lawer ystyr, dyhead ymarferol yw hwn – bydd traean o'n clerigion yn ymddeol yn ystod y pum mlynedd nesaf. Nid ydym yn credu bod Duw wedi peidio â galw pobl, ond credwn ei fod yn ein galw i geisio ac i ddatblygu ffyrdd newydd o fod yn Eglwys

ac o ymarfer gweinidogaeth i gynnal ein bywyd. Y mae i'r weinidogaeth ordeiniedig o hyd swyddogaeth bwysig, a

rhaid inni i gyd weithio gyda'n gilydd i chwilio am rai a elwir iddi – yn enwedig o blith pobl iau.

## Here I am – send me: Ministry and Calling Sunday

Here I am – send me. There are few more powerful affirmations of faith than these simple five words. They were the words uttered by the Old Testament prophet Isaiah and they resonate with everyone who has offered themselves for ordination. They sum up the nature of ministry – a confident, complete and voluntary response of service to the work of God.

This is why these words have been chosen by the Church in Wales to help raise awareness of the nature of vocation – a calling to live a life of serving God by being ordained as a priest and leading the church into the future. In this busy, noisy world in which we live today, it's not always easy to hear the "still, small voice of calm" calling us to a different way of life. There are so many distractions and other demands it is difficult to pay attention to what we are really being called to do or to question the path we're on. Sometimes, it takes others who know us well to point it out to us before we start listening more carefully.

This year, for the second year running, we're putting one Sunday aside especially to pray for people who have a calling to ministry and to encourage others to consider whether they may have one too. Ministry and Calling Sunday will be held in Churches across Wales on June 5, the Sunday after Ascension. This Sunday comes just at that point of the Church's year when the disciples were waiting for the empowering of the Holy Spirit, as we are waiting for God's spirit to renew our Church in our own time.

Each church will be given a resource pack with relevant readings, reflections and



prayers for those thinking about ordinations.

There will also be postcards people can fill in if they feel they have a vocation and need advice about what to do next as well as cards you can pass on to those you feel may have a vocation but who need a little nudge. These resources will also be available online at [www.churchinwales.org.uk/call](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/call) or in Welsh, at [www.churchinwales.org.uk/galwad/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/galwad/).

We'll also be launching a website, which will be online at [www.vocationswales.org.uk](http://www.vocationswales.org.uk) from June 5, giving advice, contact details, news and resources for those who want to look into vocations more closely. If you're on Facebook then look up "Church in Wales Vocations".

The Church in Wales wants to seek and inspire a new generation of church leaders. In many ways, it's a practical desire – a third of our clergy currently serving are due to retire in the next five years. We don't believe God has stopped calling people but we do believe He is calling us to search out and develop new ways of being Church, and exercising ministry to sustain our life. Ordained ministry has still got an important role to undertake, and we all need to work together to seek out vocations – especially among younger people.

*+gregoryfleming:*

Continued from the front page...

## **£1m Community Centre opens in Pensarn**

The Venerable Shirley Griffiths, Archdeacon of Wrexham was heavily involved in the project during her time as vicar of Abergele and St George. She hosted the launch event and said:

"With Pensarn being identified as a deprived area we hope that the building will provide an impetus for the regeneration of the whole area.

"In the meantime it is hoped that the facility will provide opportunities for developing work with both children and their families as well as with the elderly."



*Bishop Gregory unveils the plaque*



*Worship area in progress*

Councillor Jean Stubbs is Vice-Chair of the Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre Committee and gave her reaction on behalf of the community. She said:

"I can't describe how pleased I am.

"I think we have something for everyone and the response from local residents has been really positive - now we just have to use it!"

**On top of being state of the art, the Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre is eco-friendly and groups or individuals can book the building by calling Mrs Barbara Pilley on 01745 823534.**

Before Bishop Gregory Cameron declared the new facility open, Rina Lingham, 96, cut the ribbon at the front doors. She has been a member of St David's Church for many years and helped with the fundraising.

On top of money raised locally, grants also came from the Big Lottery People and Places Fund, the Welsh Assembly's Community Activities and Facilities Programme, WREN, Conwy Council and other grant making bodies.



*Worship area completed*



## Spring & Summer Programme 2011

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

| Course   | Date & Time                                | Venue                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Fun With A Faculty? – Explaining The Process</b>                            | Tuesday <b>5th April</b><br>(6.45pm – 9pm) | St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham. |
| <b>How Safe Is Your Church?</b>  | Tuesday <b>10th May</b><br>(6.45pm – 9pm)  | St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham. |
| <b>Faith In The Home – Faith and Discipleship For Families (over 18s only)</b> | Saturday <b>14th May</b><br>(11am – 3pm)   | St Joseph's School, Wrexham.        |
| <b>Funding Your Project</b>  | Tuesday <b>17th May</b><br>(6.45pm – 9pm)  | St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham. |
| <b>So You're A Churchwarden – Exploring Roles and Responsibilities</b>         | Tuesday <b>14th June</b><br>(6.45pm – 9pm) | St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham. |
| <b>Safeguarding – Child Protection &amp; Vulnerable Adults</b>                 | Tuesday <b>28th June</b><br>(6.45pm – 9pm) | St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham. |

**To Book Your Place:** give your name, address, phone number, parish name and email address to [sianconnelly@churcheinwales.org.uk](mailto:sianconnelly@churcheinwales.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.





# Galluogi a Chalonogi holl bobl Dduw

After 10 years as Dean at our Cathedral, the Very Reverend Chris Potter has been appointed the next Archdeacon of St Asaph.

He will take over from Venerable E. Bernard Thomas who is retiring from full-time ministry at the end of August.

For the past decade Chris Potter has led the ministry and mission of the Cathedral Church in St Asaph and his background in the Fine Arts, prior to his Ordination, has clearly inspired his vision for the Cathedral during his tenure as Dean. Visitors can witness the ways he has worked creatively to enhance the ambiance of the Mother Church of the diocese.

He will bring to his new role the experience of the valuable contribution he has made to many institutions across the diocese. These include the North Wales International Music Festival, and TCC: Together Creating Communities, an organisation assisting individuals and groups to develop their skills and confidence in shaping the life of their communities.

As Archdeacon, Chris Potter will also serve

as Rector of Caerwys and Bodfari.

**He said:**



*"There is always sadness when you leave somewhere that has been home for as long as my wife Jenny and I have been in St Asaph. Being Dean has been a rewarding as*

*well as a humbling experience for me and it has been an enormous privilege to have served here with my colleagues, clergy and lay, who have been an ideal team.*

*"I shall miss them, and their ongoing support and encouragement over the years has been wonderful.*

*"I have a hard act to follow: Archdeacon Bernard has been much loved and respected for his ministry and the breadth of his experience in the Church in Wales."*



**Commenting on the appointment, the Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr Gregory K. Cameron said:**

*"Chris has been a respected and successful dean for the last ten years. He will now bring his considerable talents to bear on the task of supporting and encouraging the clergy. I am delighted to welcome him to this new role as Archdeacon Bernard approaches his retirement."*

# Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God

## Exciting New Ministry for Towyn & Kinmel Bay

A man who's held the Guinness World Record for after-dinner speaking is teaming up with the former Bishop of Hulme to look after the Parish of Towyn.



For the next twelve months, **Bishop Stephen Lowe** will serve as Priest-in-Charge and Canon Clive Southerton as Associate Priest.

It's a new challenge for these two senior clergymen who bring to Towyn & Kinmel Bay a wealth of experience from their ministries prior to retirement.

Bishop Stephen Lowe has already made a distinctive contribution to church and community life since moving to North Wales from the Diocese of Manchester – especially heading up the diocesan link with South West Tanganyika.

**Canon Clive Southerton** will be familiar to many on the North Wales coast having served as a faithful and innovative Vicar of Prestatyn, along with his inspiring leadership in many community activities. In 2001 he was



awarded the MBE for charitable services to the community in Denbighshire and has twice held the Guinness World Record for after-dinner speaking.

Their joint ministry will be experimental because their appointment is for 12 months. It's known as an 'Interim' or 'Transition' ministry and is widely used in the United States but will be an experiment here in Wales.

Bishop Stephen has high hopes for what can be achieved during the next year.

### He said:

*"We want to double the congregation, reorder the Church, reconnect with the community and put St Mary's back at the centre of life in Towyn and Kinmel Bay.*

*"It won't be easy but we have a great group of people to work with who seem determined to help their church grow and enable change to take place. Both Clive Southerton and I are looking forward to it enormously."*

**Bishop of St Asaph, Gregory Cameron, appointed them to their new ministries on St David's Day and said:**

*"Bishop Stephen and Canon Clive will offer to the Parish of Towyn their immense experience in ministry and their enthusiasm for the proclamation of the Good News in Jesus Christ."*



The induction of **Reverend Jackie Carter** was held on 22 January 2011 at St. Mary's Church, Johnstown.

The service was conducted by **Bishop Gregory**. Reverend Carter is now the vicar of the parish of Rhosllanerchrugog which includes St David's in Rhos and St Mary's in Johnstown.

A teenager who worships in the Deanery of Hawarden has been presented with a certificate for her school Record of Achievement to acknowledge the work she does for St Cecilia's Church, Bistre.



**Reverend Martin Batchelor** presented it to **Ashleigh Woodland** to mark her contribution to the music and worship at the church.

15-year-old Ashleigh plays the flute and has organised several family services that she has led herself.

She is also an altar server, reader and contributor to the intercessions in the worship at St Cecilia's Sunday by Sunday.



*Reverend Edward Yendall together with some of the ladies who helped to prepare the refreshments for the Social Evening on 19 January 2011.*

### **Bon Voyage . . .**

At the end of January, a warm farewell was said to **Reverend Edward Yendall** who left as Vicar of the Grouped Parishes of St Dogfan's, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant; St Mary's, Brithdir; St Thomas's, Penybontfawr; St Garmon's,



Llanarmon Mynedd Mawr; St Cynog's Llangynog; St Wddyn's Llanwddyn; and St Melangell, Pennant Melangell, to take up

## Enabling and Encouraging the Whole People of God

the post of Priest in Charge of the Glyn Ceiriog Group of Parishes.

At his last service in St Dogfan's Parish Church, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant on Sunday 30 January, a presentation - on behalf of the congregations of St Dogfan's and St Mary's Brithdir - of a framed original painting of the Pistyll Rhaeadr by local artist Ken Taylor, was made to Edward. Earlier, on 19 January, a Social Evening was held at the Vicarage to say an informal goodbye. We wish Edward every blessing, health and happiness for the future.



### **Are you 18-25? Read on . . .**

**For young adults the world can be a pretty frightening place – especially at the moment with concerns about career opportunities and recession. St Asaph's Under 25s Officer Tim Feak is urging 18-25 year-olds to be part of a response...**



In a society increasingly concerned with recession and lack of employment the future may seem bleak for those who have graduated from University or are looking to make their first foray into work.

There appears to be a great deal of injustice and despair in our world. It would be easy to think that we may as well just give up now and accept our situation.

However, it is my firm belief that hope can be found in even the most desperate situations and that the church has the responsibility to bring about this hope within our communities.

In my late teens and early 20s I met with other Christians my own age and this concept of hope inspired me in my faith.

Jesus was a revolutionary bringer of hope with a radical stance against corruption and injustice. Check out the Beatitudes in Matthew 5 – he was arguably setting out his manifesto for the poor. He says “Blessed are the poor in spirit...blessed are those who mourn...blessed are the meek...blessed are those who are persecuted”.

For the first time I had a good look at the world around me and realised that the Christian message was as relevant to my world as it was back in the days when Jesus walked the earth.

With this in mind I would ask you, if you are aged 18-25, to consider being part of a group aiming to support one another in the world that we find ourselves in. The group will also try to make sense of our faith and look at ways we can apply it in our lives and within our communities.

**If you're interested in being part of the start of this group please contact me by email on [timfeak@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:timfeak@churchinwales.org.uk) or telephone 01745 532 595. If having read this article you know someone aged 18-25 and think they would be interested please pass this article onto them.**



we're used to but this project is still about the spiritual wellbeing of local people. In fact the spiritual needs of people are at the heart of it.

An area of land like this is a valuable asset in terms of being something which local non-church people might want to be involved with. We hope it will put them in touch with Christ at the 'hem of the garment'.

The project is part of 'Flintshare' a local community supported agriculture project and is also helped along by 'Growzones' a model for community gardening.

**For more information contact the Vicar of All Saints Church Revd Stuart Elliott on [stu@stubiedoo.co.uk](mailto:stu@stubiedoo.co.uk) or on 01745 888797.**

## Greenfield

The refurbishment of an old church doesn't necessarily mean new life but it certainly helps!

Since the opening of Holy Trinity church after a full refurbishment that included under floor heating (ah bliss), comfortable chairs, a new kitchen and toilet facilities, the congregation of this church in Greenfield have been able to open their doors to truly welcome the community in.



This means the church isn't just used on a Sunday or for occasional office space but instead it can be used anytime for a whole range of purposes.

A barn dance has been held, coffee mornings have taken place, a knitting club has been formed - just a few things that were almost impossible to hold before the refurbishment.

It has also given a new lease of life to the present congregation who are busy thinking and praying about how best to use this new space.

A family service has been introduced with children especially in mind and has proved to be popular.

We have also been able to hold an Alpha course, again in a warm and friendly environment, while the events over Christmas proved to be so popular that there was standing room only for the Candlelit Carol Service.

Being able to offer such a wonderful facility to the community has begun to bring us back into the centre of Greenfield and we feel we have something relevant to offer, spiritually as well as physically.

The community has embraced the work that has been accomplished and the Residents Committee and Councillors have all played their part in raising money and the profile of the church here.

It should be noted that Holy Trinity has always been held as dear to all the people of Greenfield, our problem was never that we had lost the good will of the community but rather that we had lost the ability to serve the community through the use of what is a superb location and now a superb building.

It is good to see it back to its full potential once more, and though it is very true to say that the church is not a building but a worshipping community of believers, Holy Trinity has given us a new focus and new impetus to get out and share the good news of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters living all around us.

## Flint

Like all clergy, The Reverend Brian Harvey's ministry as Rector of Flint gets him involved with all kinds of groups in the community.



*Children from Cornist Park School on a visit to the Parish Church in Flint.*

As well as looking after the Parish Church of St Mary & St David in the town centre and St Thomas' Church in Flint Mountain, Brian is chaplain to the local Air Cadets Squadron and to the Flint Lifeboat Station.

He's also on the organising committee of the annual Flint Festival and a governor of The Gwynedd School.

He goes into that school regularly to take assemblies, as well as to Cornist Park School and Ysgol Pen Coch.

He says that this is a tremendous chance to meet people, most of whom he wouldn't see in church on a Sunday morning.

### He said:

*"I'm really pleased that all of the schools in Flint regularly come into church for events like Christmas carol services and Harvest Thanksgivings and they also visit throughout the year as part of their curriculum studies."*

He feels it's a good opportunity for mission and outreach, adding:

*"The children are never shy about coming up for a chat in Sainsbury's on a Saturday afternoon. I just have to be careful about what I'm putting in my trolley!"*

## Brynford, Gorsedd, Whitford & Ysceifiog

The grouped parishes of Brynford, Gorsedd, Whitford, and Ysceifiog lie to the west and south of Holywell. The parishes range from the River Dee, with the parish of



Whitford, to the Moel y Parc television mast, in the Parish of Ysceifiog.

Each parish has its own Parochial Church Council and each church has at least one service every Sunday, except on the fifth Sunday of the month when the four churches come together for a joint group Eucharist in one of the four churches.

At each service a speaker is invited to talk to the congregation instead of the traditional sermon. Speakers have included representatives from Archbishop Alwyn's Fund, Chester Retreat House,

Gideon's Society, Hope 37, Messy Church, Ministry to the Deaf, Mothers' Union, Pets at Home, Samaritan's Purse, St. Kentigern's Hospice, and the U.M.E.E.D. Partnership.

We are always looking for speakers for future fifth Sundays and we would encourage any volunteers to contact Revd Graham on 01352 711675.

Brynford and Whitford both have a branch of the Mothers' Union and Gorsedd has a Ladies Guild – all these groups meet monthly. Ysceifiog Church is the only Church in the group to have a Sunday school.

We have close links with local schools having one church school in the Parish of Whitford and one County Primary school in each of the other parishes. Ysgol y Llan, Whitford, attend the church of St. Beuno & Mary every Wednesday morning for their assembly and each first Sunday in the month to join in the family Eucharist. This quadruples the attendance of a normal Sunday.



The children read all the appointed readings and the head teacher plays the organ. The school use the church throughout the year and towards the end of last year were involved in a production of "Joseph", under the direction of Canon Clive Southerton from the U.M.E.E.D. Partnership, in Whitford Church.

Assemblies are taken in Brynford School, Carmel School and Lixwm School. Brynford School hold their Christmas Carol Service and Harvest Festival services in St.

Michael's Church and Lixwm School hold their Carol Service in St. Mary's Church. It was encouraging that during Advent, Bishop Gregory confirmed seventeen of our young people from the four parishes in the Cathedral.



### **And finally...Some words from retired Reverend Brian Taylor**

When I started work at the tender age of 15, there was an argument raging. Should the retirement age come down from 70 years to 65?

Mass meetings took place and arguments for and against were ironed out on the shop floor and the retirement age came down to 65.

To a 15-year-old all this sounded far off and irrelevant but now I am retired I can understand the fear of my older colleagues in those days gone by.

But a priest does not retire they simply resign from their parishes. It is not because we don't love them anymore, it's the Church's way of resting and refreshing us for another kind of ministry and Bishop Gregory kindly gave me permission to do just that.

I resigned from my parishes the Easter following my 65th birthday. This had a theological significance to me. Firstly, I was able to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection with my parishes and, secondly, that a new ministry was opening to me. If you think I wasn't scared you would be very wrong.

I see the ministry of retired clergy as complementary to the beneficed clergy (as honorary assistant curates), giving them valuable time out to refresh and renew themselves.

Of course, it's good now and again to sit with the congregation and join with them in worship and the resounding message of our Lord comes back to us from our Ordination: "feed my sheep".

May we continue in this ministry not as masters but as servants of the Lord.



## After Two Decades – the bells rang out for Christmas!

After 20 years, the church bells are finally ringing again at St Cynbryd's in **Llanddulas**. Its chime of 8 tubular bells have been restored after the hangings and other parts of the assembly deteriorated. Many in Llanddulas village had asked for the bells to be restored and the work has finally been completed.

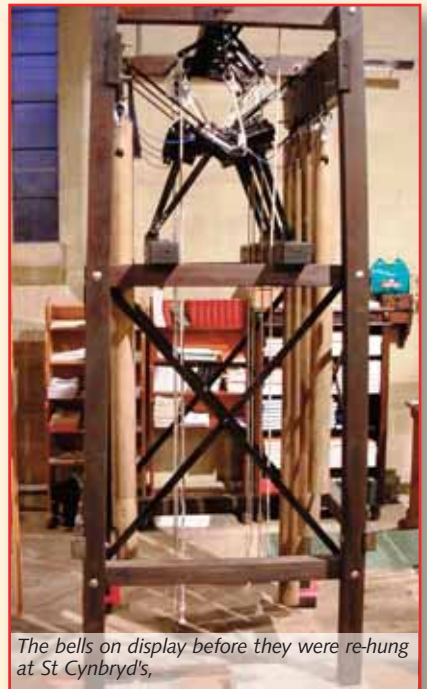
The PCC decided to go ahead with the repairs when it became apparent that the scheme for reclaiming VAT was likely to end and there was no time to apply for grants. The money was borrowed from the ring-fenced re-ordering fund and a specialist company from Leicestershire was tasked with the job.

It didn't come cheap though – the work cost £6236 but already just over £4000 has been raised through donations and fundraising to help pay back the loan.

### Here's how the work unfolded.

In October bellhangers dismantled the bells' assembly in the very cramped belfry, lowered the pieces down through the narrow tower, and took them away for restoration.

The work was completed in early December and the bells were assembled for display on the floor of the Church for a week, and many people came to see them. Everything was then dismantled and re-assembled in the top of the Church tower where the bells are very inaccessible and cannot be seen.



*The bells on display before they were re-hung at St Cynbryd's,*

The bells were re-dedicated at the annual village carol service on 20 December and rung out over the village officially for the first time for over 20 years. It was great having the bells working for Christmas even though we are still learning how to play them!

The photo shows the bells on display and the striking hammers can be seen. The wood frame is about 2.7m (9 feet) tall. The Church was built in 1869 with two conventional bells but these were replaced in 1909 by six brass tubular bells made by Harrington & Latham of Coventry, and in 1912 two more were added to complete the chime.

The bells are inscribed with their notes which are F, F#, G#, A, B, C#, D#, E. The largest bell (F) is 2.06m long and weighs about 142kg. **If anyone would like more information, or would like to come and play the bells, please contact Brian Bell on 01492 517312, or e-mail [brian.bell@lifeboathouse.co.uk](mailto:brian.bell@lifeboathouse.co.uk)**

# Enlivening and Enriching our Worship

## Blessing the Light

This year Candlemas was celebrated in style at St Asaph Cathedral.



A special candlelit choral evensong for the eve of Candlemas was held, sung by the Cathedral boys choir and the Cathedral layclerks.

This service – which sees the Cathedral candles for use in the coming year blessed – is growing in popularity and it was good to see so many people attend the event.

People had been invited to bring their own candles for use at home over the coming year and these were blessed as well.

The idea is that the candles will be used at home at mealtimes and on high days and holidays, to remind us that Christ is the

Light who lives in our homes and our hearts.

Blessing of the Light at Candlemas is an ancient tradition and it was good to see it restored.

## Plygain 2011

Daeth partion Plygain ledled yr Esgobaeth at eu gilydd i ddathlu G yl Fair y Canhwyllau yn y Gadeirlan i Wasanaeth Blynyddol y Blygain Esgobaethol.

Yn canu yn ddi-gyfeiliant bu i'r partion unigol ganu amrywiaeth o garolau Plygain traddodiadol a rhai mwy modern.

Arweiniwyd y gwasanaeth gan y Parchedig David Francis a'r organydd oedd y Parchedig Edward Yendall. Daeth oddeutu 200 o bobl ynghyd a gweinyddwyd lluni-aeth wedi'r gwasanaeth.



### EGLWYS Y SANTES FARCHELL - DATHLIAD PRIODAS

### A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE – ST. MARCELLA'S CHURCH

As a fitting close to National Marriage Week a service was held in St. Marcella's Church on Sunday February 13 to celebrate marriage.



The service was led and devised using materials provided by the Mothers' Union Winchester Diocese and Common Worship, Church of England, by the Rector Jonathan Smith. The congregation was made up of regular church goers and couples about to tie the knot later in 2011.

Eirwyn Edwards and Kat Saby, who are to be married on April 29 (does that ring any bells?) read Bible passages about the nature of love from the Song of Solomon and St. John's Gospel. Gwen Cawthray, who will celebrate the 59th anniversary of her wedding to Alan this year, composed and read a reflection on the enduring nature of married love.

Gill and Russ Wood, who will mark their sapphire wedding anniversary this year, led the prayers.

In his short talk Jonathan reflected on the different aspects of love emphasising how enduring human love, whatever the situation we find ourselves in, is a reflection of God's love for us. During the service favourite wedding hymns were sung accompanied by Ann Hughes at the organ.

The high point of the service was the very moving renewal of vows where the married couples joined hands and assured each other of their continued love and commitment.

After the service everyone enjoyed a glass of fairly traded sparkling rosé, along with a piece of cake kindly supplied by Gill and Gareth Williams, who had just celebrated their silver wedding.

Everyone who attended the service agreed it had been an uplifting experience.

Gill Wood.

### Looking Forward to Ascension Day and Pentecost

Ascension Day and Pentecost are two major festivals in the year of the church but how many non-churchgoers know of their existence?

If you mention Pentecost by its other name – Whit Sunday – you may get a vague nod of recognition as it reminds many of a Bank Holiday and another chance for a day off.

So how do we set about sharing these festivals and their meanings with

others? How can we engage these people who know nothing of Ascension Day and Pentecost into our worship? How do we start communicating these truths to our communities?

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

### Taking Church into the Community

- Have a balloon race – you could ask people to sponsor them for a local charity, or maybe use them as prayer balloons.
- Have a community picnic – maybe combine this with a 'Songs of Praise', or a 'Fun Day'.
- Try a kite-flying competition.
- Give away origami cranes as a sign of God's peace.
- Have a "Pentecost Party" or at least have some birthday cake.

### Bridging the gaps

- Have an open garden day.
- Or how about a churchyard day with a barbeque at the end?
- Why not invite the local school to join in a teddy bear parachute jump?
- Decorate the community with paper windmills – perhaps they could be signs for a treasure hunt?

### Bringing Community into Church

- Invite the community to share in your church birthday party – just make sure there's plenty of cake!



## Inspiring Giving

What do you do when the money is running out and things are getting so serious that it's all a church is thinking about?

For the parish of Northop, that became a reality last year and radical steps were taken to sort the problem out.

Revd Ray Billingsley explains how prayer, courage and a willingness to use the Church in Wales' Gift Direct scheme, helped to move things forward.

### He said:

*"We owed £5000 in Quota arrears and our budget for 2010 showed a likely overdraft of £12000 by 31 December which would continue to escalate year on year.*

*"Our church decided to do two things; firstly put our trust in God, and then tell 'the world' about our situation.*

*"The church does not belong to the worshippers; it belongs to the parish, a parish of approximately 4000 souls."*

The churchwardens were told about Gift Direct and how the Church in Wales would look after all the administration and even arrange for the gift aid to be refunded to the parish by the tax office.

### Ray continued:

*"We wrote a letter to every house in the parish explaining our financial needs,*

*simply stating that we wanted the church to continue to be there for them to celebrate their weddings and baptisms and to be there for their children for school visits and lots more.*

*"We knew how much people appreciated the building being left open all day, every day for them to simply visit or pray in."*

After delivering the letters the money slowly began to come in and £5000 was soon raised to clear the deficit. On top of that, regular giving increased hugely and £2000 is now coming in every year via Gift Direct from people who don't even attend the church.



**It's been huge encouragement to the church and Ray added:**

*"God has answered our prayers and people have not only been generous but become more aware of the church's role in the parish.*

*"By the end of the year we had a surplus of around £1500. Have faith and try Gift Direct yourselves."*

Another parish that's done just that is Llanllwchaiarn & Newtown.

Parish Treasurer Glynis Jones says it helps with planning and controlling cash flow as well as saving a considerable amount of time.

**She said:**

*"The scheme is easy to set up. All church members have to do is complete a commitment form and a direct debit form.*

*"Although it was initially 'pushed' from the front and posters displayed, it was by quiet conversations that most people responded – people had to be spoken to individually about it."*

One of the main advantages of Gift Direct is that the tax relief is paid monthly which helps regularise church income over the year.

Once you have applied a letter is sent to confirm receipt and to inform when the first payment is to be taken.

The donor then can cease envelope donations or cancel a current mandate so that there is no chance of the money being taken twice from someone at the change-over.

**Of course, donations can be reviewed at any time and Glynis added:**

*"In Newtown we will continue to encourage our church members to give through 'Gift Direct' as it's easy, costs us and the donor nothing, encourages people to give regularly in a planned way, and saves the treasurer a lot of work."*

**If you want more information on how you can give to your church through Gift Direct, please contact our Parish Funding Officer Tracey White on [traceywhite@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:traceywhite@churchinwales.org.uk) or call her on 01745 532589.**



## New Community Hall officially opened

More than 150 people joined celebrations to mark the official opening of **Llangollen's** newest community facility.

St Collen's Community Hall was formally opened on Saturday 8 January by Phyllis Reeves, who is soon to celebrate her 90th birthday and has long been associated with the church.

She was joined by the MP for Clwyd South, Susan Elan Jones, Meirick Ll. Davies, the chairman of Denbighshire County Council and the Mayor and Mayoress of Llangollen, Mike and Barbara Pugh.

The hall has undergone a £120,000 redevelopment programme creating modern, accessible and affordable meeting facilities in the town.

Visitors to the opening were encouraged to tour the redesigned hall which includes new kitchen facilities, a more efficient heating system and the addition of a first floor, including two offices and informal meeting space.

The Reverend Andrew Sully, vicar of St Collen's Church said: "We were delighted by the overwhelming response to our open invitation to the official opening of the hall.

"So many people came along to see for themselves the extensive re-development work and were very impressed by the new facilities.

"We are confident that the hall will provide an extremely useful community facility,



which is likely to become a popular venue for local groups to meet as well as providing centrally located conference space."

Later, celebrations continued at the hall with an evening of music. More than 50 people enjoyed music provided by Alison and Arwel Jarvis.

The redevelopment of St Collen's community hall has been funded mostly by grants, including £25,000 from the Rural Key Fund and £15,000 from Denbighshire County Council's Community Capital project fund.

£17,470 was awarded through the Landfill Communities Fund of Waste Recycling Group (WRG), administered and distributed by Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN).

£60,000 has been given by Friends of Llangollen Hospital in return for the use of the two new offices on the first floor.

These will provide a base for Llangollen's social workers and mental health staff, recently displaced from their local offices.



The community hall was also successful in Llangollen's UDECIDE which voted to give the hall £899 for a new cooker and larder for the refurbished kitchen.

**If you are interested in booking St Collen's Community Hall, either for a regular meeting or a one-off event, please contact Nancy Chase on 01978 861395.**

## **A little goes a long way...**

**As the Diocese raises money for South West Tanganyika in Tanzania during Lent, one parish explains how their support has helped orphans in another part of the African country.**

In 2007 the parish of Shotton started donating money to a community in East Africa – four years on their donations have helped six orphans to pass school exams, while 25 have been given new uniforms and learning materials.

Thanks to the money raised, bicycles have been purchased for the orphans, allowing them to ride to school instead of walking the 16km round trip.

So how did this link-up come about?

In March 2007 a lady called Clara who was born in the village of Mpdindimbi in the Mtwara Region of Tanzania started attending a church in the parish of Shotton.

She worked as a volunteer in the community there and explained the many difficulties her village faced. As a result,

the parish donated £200 that she was able to take home with her for the ongoing work in Mpdindimbi.



*Felicitas Msamati with two members of St. Ethelwold's church congregation on her recent visit to the parish*

Clara works alongside Prof. Boniface Curtis Msamati and his wife Felicitas in the village and this first donation was instrumental in setting up a charity called Sparrows Nest Foundation (Spanef).

The charity's goals are simple:

*"Our core value is to subscribe to and support, in practical terms, the creed that the hungry shall be fed, the meek shall be clothed, the sick shall be nourished, the infants shall be cared for and the disadvantaged groups shall be protected".*

Spanef initially decided to focus on the educational needs of the village orphans.

Further donations from the parish of Shotton's Christmas Crib and a Strawberry Tea helped orphans receive shoes and enabled some to move on to secondary education.

A project was also set up to involve the young people in HIV/AIDS awareness and later projects include new activities such as the rearing of chickens and goats.

### South West Tanganyika fundraising update

The Parish of Welshpool are more than halfway to raising their £800 for a motorbike for South West Tanganyika.

So far they have collected £430 thanks to fundraising initiatives.

Meanwhile, make sure you look out for your fundraising pack to mark the launch of the South West Tanganyika Association.

It includes details of how you can give, some ideas to raise money, a prayer card in Swahili, Welsh and English along with some authentic Tanzanian recipes.

Here's one to whet your appetite!

### Tanzanian Beef Stew

#### Ingredients:

700g stewing meat (beef, lamb, goat etc), cubed

120ml oil

1 tbsp salt

juice of 1 lemon

240ml water

1 tsp curry powder (optional)

1 onion, sliced

3 potatoes, cubed

3 tomatoes, chopped

2 carrots, chopped

#### Method:

1. Fry the meat in half the oil in a pan. Add the salt, lemon juice and water then reduce the heat to a simmer.
2. Add the remaining oil to another pan and add the curry powder whilst stirring frequently.
3. Add the onions, potatoes, tomatoes and carrots to the curry powder and fry over medium heat until the onions are transparent.
4. At this stage add the onion and potato mix to the meat.
5. Continue simmering the pot until the meat is tender and the potatoes are done.



### Flipping good fun!

Children, parents and teachers from schools in **Ruthin** packed out the town square on Shrove Tuesday for the annual Pancake Race.

The aim? To win the race around the town clock and back to St Peter's Church gates having "flipped" your pancake at least three times!

Races are included for each year of Primary and Junior School as well as the first two years of Secondary education – there's even a race for adults brave enough to give it a go.

For many years now the church community has promoted the event and more and more local schools seem to want to take part. This year the Pancake Race raised money for St Kentigern's Hospice in St Asaph.

Warden of Ruthin, the Revd Stuart Evans, experienced his first Pancake Race and



said: "It's great to see people putting their faith into action and everyone having such flipping good fun!"

### Lenten Pilgrimage for St Mary's Welshpool

When Christians think of a pilgrimage it normally means a trip to a far off land to visit the shrine of a famous saint or even to visit regions steeped in church history like Rome or Canterbury.

For the Parish of Welshpool it means staying much closer to home and reflecting on the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and encouraging the "pilgrims" to consider their own calling to ministry.

In the run up to Easter St Mary's Church are holding a Lenten Pilgrimage which takes visitors around seven areas of the church building, each with a different reflection based on the life of Jesus. In every area there is an opportunity for prayer and reflection as well as selected Psalms to help focus the mind.

The Lenten Pilgrimage is open every day

from 11a.m. until 4.30p.m. and will stay open until Easter.

**Revd Canon Bill Rowell said:**

*"We hope everyone will gain something as they travel the road - what they gain may well be very different one from another and you may want to do this more than once.*

*"Please take the walk at your own pace - fast or slow, overtaking others if you want to - but be aware that they might be deep in prayer, so try not to disturb them."*

The seven stations take in Christ's baptism and temptations as well as His teaching and healing ministries. There will be a focus on His friendship before the pilgrimage takes you to the cross, looking at Christ's sacrifice and triumph.

# Amgylch yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

**St Asaph Organ Recital by Alan McGuiness** – 6 April at 7:30 p.m.  
in St Asaph Cathedral. *Admission £5 including programme.*

**St Asaph Organ Recital by Tim Mills**  
– 4 May at 7:30 p.m. in St Asaph Cathedral. *Admission £5 including programme.*

**Pilgrims Together** – Tuesday 10 May  
at St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, Flintshire. This is a day to explore the idea and experience of pilgrimage in

the Christian tradition. *The speaker will be Andrew Jones.*

**St Asaph Choir Association Summer Garden Party** – 21 May at 1 p.m.

**A Teddy Bear's picnic**, with bears abseiling from the Church Tower in St. Giles' Churchyard on **Bank Holiday Monday 30 May from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Stalls will include teddy tombola, teddy biscuits, name that bear and a teddy raffle. There will also be bedding plants for sale and refreshments available.

## Art Exhibition in Mold

Artists from across the Diocese are being encouraged to enter their work into the third annual "Virgin Art" exhibition at St Mary's Parish Church, **Mold**.

The exhibition runs from Monday 2 May until Saturday 7 May and there will be a preview on April 30.

Amateur and professional artists are being encouraged to submit framed work which can be fine art work, two dimensional and photography. Artists must send in their work by April 11.

**Anybody interested can find details and entry forms on the website:**



*Virgin Art Exhibition 2010*

**[www.virginartmold.org.uk](http://www.virginartmold.org.uk) or by contacting the secretary, Mrs Denise Owens on 01352 752473.**

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

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

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