



There is a time for everything...



A stopped clock in Llanfyllin led to great excitement when the clock repairers from Cumbria abseiled down the church tower to remove the clock face. First the hands were removed and then a rope was threaded through the centre before it was carefully lowered. When it reached ground level its 7½ foot diameter was bigger than expected. It wouldn't fit in a van so deputy warden Rob Castle came to the rescue, with the clock making its journey to Cumbria in his trailer!

Since it stopped working several months ago, the clock has been missed very much by the townspeople and it now seems very strange to look up at the tower and see a blank space. But it is hoped that the repaired shafts will be returned, together with the repainted clock face, well 'in time' for Christmas.

Christmas... a time for Bishop Gregory to reflect on conversion - and for us to think about ecology

Changes... parish clergy moves, and an ordination

Continuing... the Bishop's Visitation to the Diocese

Celebrating... parish life in the Harvest season

A new Chancellor... interviewed inside and a new Churches Conservation Officer welcomed

And

Easter... order your eggs now!



The Diocesan motto
for 2011

Dewch i Weld
Come and See

DIRNADAETH INSIGHT



Rwy'n ysgrifennu hwn pan mae'r rhaglenni newyddion newydd fy mrawychu a'm cyffroi. I ddechrau, daeth yr adroddiadau am yr arteithio dychrynlyd a ddeilliodd o'r llanast milwrol rydym wedi'i wneud yn Irac. Yna daeth y weithred o achubiaeth - hanesion o sut y peryglodd pobl gyffredin eu bywydau fel achubwyr yn dilyn y bomio yn Llundain yn 2005. Roedd fel gorymdaith o'r gorau a'r gwaethaf o ddynoliaeth.

Mae'r Nadolig ar ein gwarthaf ac unwaith eto, gelwir arnom i fyfyrion ar yr hyn mae'r Wyl fendigedig hon yn ei golygu i ni. Ysgrifennaf hwn yng nghyd-destun adroddiad papur newydd lleol, sy'n awgrymu nad yw'r Eglwys Anglicanaidd yn sefyll dros unrhyw beth mwyach, a blog ar y we sy'n awgrymu mai dim ond dau o Esgobion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru sy'n credu yng Nghrist.

Felly, gadewch i mi nodi yma: Mae'r Eglwys yn sefyll dros y chwyldro mwyaf yn hanes dynoliaeth y gellir ei ddychmygu: Iesu. Nid yw Duw ymhell i ffwrdd neu'r tu draw i'r gofod ac amser, daeth Duw yn fyw yn Jiwdea, Palestina, dwy fil o flynyddoedd yn ôl. Roedd Duw yn fyw, yn anadlu a dioddefodd y gwaethaf gallasai dynoliaeth ei daflu ato. Roedd y Nefoedd a Daeuar yn un. Gwnaeth Duw hyn i newid y bydysawd, ac i ddangos ei gariad angerddol dros gread y bydysawd. Yn dilyn y digwyddiad, a elwir yn ymgawdoliad gan y Cristnogion, ni all

bywyd fod yr un fath byth eto. Oherwydd mae Duw yn galw arnom i fod y gorau gallwn. Dylid ymgawdoli ei gariad yn ein cariad ni; ei ddogn darostyngol o ddynoliaeth i'w adlewyrchu yn ein gwasanaethu darostyngol.

Mae trasiedi'r Eglwys yn gorwedd yn yr amserau pan mae Cristnogion wedi cael eu denu i gorffori'r gwaethaf, gan ildio i'r casineb a hyd yn oed droi at artaith. Daw buddugoliaeth yr Eglwys pan fyddwn yn cymryd yr ymgawdoli o ddifrif, pan fyddwn yn gofyn i'r Iesu barhau ei ymgawdoliaeth yn ein bywydau ein hunain. Mae Offeren Crist y Nadolig yn ein galw i gofio a pharhau'r hyn a ddechreuwyd ym Methlehem ddwy fil o flynyddoedd yn ôl ynoch chi a minnau - mae Crist yn cynnig ei hunan i ni bob dydd mewn Gair a Sacrament. Gallwn wahodd yr Iesu "i gael ei eni ynom heddiw", i'n grymuso i fod yn fath o bobl sy'n caru bywyd a gwasanaeth sy'n cynrychioli dynoliaeth ar ei gorau.

Yr hyn mae'r Eglwys yn ei alw'n "dröedigaeth" yw troi at Grist a chydabod ei arglwyddiaeth. Gelwir rhai at dröedigaeth gyntaf; pob un ohonom at dröedigaeth barhaus, a dyddiol adnewyddol. Yr her yw a ydym yn fodlon bod yn weision yn y swyddogaeth o ehangu teyrnasiad Duw, neu wlyediadd mewn byd sydd mor aml yn demtasiwn i fod yn llai na'r hyn y gallai fod.

+ gregory flannery:

I'm writing this when the news programmes have just shocked and moved me. First came an account of stomach-churning torture born in the military mess we have made of Iraq. Then came an act of redemption – accounts of how ordinary folk risked themselves as rescuers following the London bombings of 2005. It was almost as if the worst and best of humanity were being paraded.

We are approaching Christmas, and again we are called upon to meditate upon the meaning of this great festival. I write this in the context of a local newspaper report which suggests that the Anglican Church doesn't stand for anything anymore, and a web-blog which suggests that only two of the Church in Wales bishops believe in Jesus.

So let me say here: The Church stands for the greatest revolution in the history of mankind that could be imagined: Jesus. God is not distant or beyond space and time, God became human in Judaea Palestine two thousand years ago. God lived, breathed, and suffered the sharp edge of the worst of humanity. Heaven and earth were united. God did this to change the universe, and to make his profound love which brooded over creation part of the fabric of the universe. After this event, which Christians call the Incarnation, life cannot be the same again. For God calls us all to be the highest that we can be. His love is to be embodied in our love; his humble serving of humanity to be reflected in our humble service.

The tragedy of the Church lies in the times when Christians have been tempted to embody the worst, to give in to hate and even resort to torture. The triumph of the Church comes when we take the Incarnation seriously, when we ask Jesus to continue his Incarnation in our own lives. The Christ Mass of Christmas calls us to remember that what was begun in Bethlehem two thousand years ago must be continued in you and me – that Christ offers himself to us each day in Word and Sacrament. We can invite Jesus to "be born in us today", to empower us to



When Mike Powell was ordained priest at St John the Evangelist, Pool Quay, on September 19, Bishop Gregory commented that this was almost certainly the first such service in the history of that church. He said, "Mike has served the Church faithfully for many years in different ways. It is a pleasure to welcome him to this new form of service - as a priest - in which I am sure he will be a bold but gentle witness to the Good News that all Christians receive in Jesus."

become the sort of lovers of life and service which represents humanity at its best.

Turning to Christ and acknowledging his lordship is what the Church calls "conversion". Some are called to a first conversion; all of us to a continuing and daily renewed conversion. The challenge is whether we will be servants in the task of advancing God's reign, or bystanders in a world which is so often tempted to become less than it could be.

+gregoryflanczyk:

HYSBYSFWRDD NOTICEBOARD



Journeying 2011

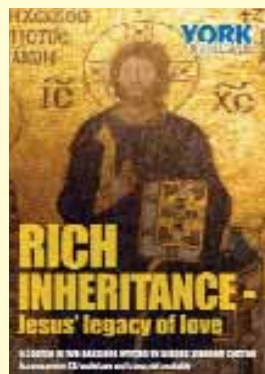
A simple Eucharist at the tide's edge... standing on a Hebridean island to watch the sun flash the waves with setting light... the strength shared by three of us sheltering from fierce wind on a remote hillside...

These are the things of Journeying, a non-profit-making organisation taking small groups to remote and not-so-remote spots in Britain and Ireland in the spirit of pilgrimage. Formerly known as Pilgrim Adventure the team has been doing this quietly and unobtrusively for over 20 years. Its origins lie in Celtic spirituality but people of any faith, denomination or none are welcomed openly.

For further information about the 2011 programme, contact **01799 513750** or info@journeying.co.uk
www.journeying.co.uk

York Course 2011

Jesus didn't write a will. He left no written instructions... Nevertheless, Jesus' message lived on, after his death on the cross.



What is his 'legacy of love'? This year's Lent course from York Courses addresses these questions, with participants Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Dr Paula Gooder, Jim Wallis, and Inderjit Singh Bhogal. Dr David Hope introduces the course CD and the course booklet is written by the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell.

More information:
www.yorkcourses.co.uk
Or e-mail info@yorkcourses.co.uk
or phone **01904 466516**

Diocese of St Asaph

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



with the
Rt Revd Dr Gregory Cameron

26th May - 4th June 2012

for more details please contact
the organiser, the Revd Ian Day
telephone: (01352) 752960
email: friday@virginmary.org.uk

A comprehensive 10-day pilgrimage based in Jerusalem and the Galilee



McCabe Pilgrimages



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.

It is not necessary for you to hold any particular office, so long as you have an interest in the subject.



So You're The Parish Treasurer – *Topics will cover keeping the books; communicating with the PCC; planning for the future and meeting the requirements of the charity commission.*

Tuesday 15th February (6.45pm – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE



So You're On The PCC – Exploring Roles and Responsibilities – *The speaker will be Llyr Williams, LLB – Associate Solicitor at Swayne Johnson Solicitors and Deputy Diocesan Registrar.*

Tuesday 15th March (6.45pm – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE



Funding Your Project – *Topics will include the funding environment; writing a case for support; putting together a funding strategy and understanding how funders award grants.*

Tuesday 17th May (6.45pm – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE



So You're A Churchwarden – Exploring Roles and Responsibilities – *Topics will include the role of the churchwarden in law; the Parish Team; Buildings; Congregations and Clergy.*

Tuesday 14th June (6.45pm – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE

Dates to be Advised . . .

Fun With A Faculty? – Explaining The Process – Topics will include when a faculty is needed; the process of De Minimis applications; how the faculty process works.

Learn to Use Grantfinder to fund your project – Participants need to be comfortable using a computer, and be prepared to run searches for other parishes within their deanery.

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults – A useful introduction to these important topics, and a refresher for those who need it. The speaker will be Revd Christine Owen, Diocesan Child Protection Officer.

To Book Your Place: contact Siân Connelly, giving your name, address, phone number and parish either by email sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk or by phone on **01745 532582**. Full details and directions will then be sent to you at least one week before the session takes place.



Pastoral assistants make a difference

There have been pastoral assistants at St Deiniol's Church, **Hawarden** since the commissioning of six people by Bishop John in the cathedral on 18 January 1998.



More training courses have taken place since and there are now pastoral assistants attached to St Deiniol's and others at St Francis, Sandycroft, St Mary's, Broughton and St John the Baptist, Pentrobin. They visit the sick, the housebound and people in local hospitals, and they assist in baptisms. The benefice hopes to start a bereavement drop-in afternoon and has recently started the Hawarden Tea Party, inviting the local residential homes and providing transport for anyone who can't get out without aid.

Sue Jones, Communications Officer for the benefice, said, "One lady told me that she had had the best slice of Victoria sandwich at

the Tea Party since she baked her own! High praise indeed. One rather nice feature about the afternoon is that there is a book stall which operates as a 'bring and share' lending library. Magazines are also available. Lovely idea!"

Nine pastoral assistants from Hawarden benefice enjoyed a Quiet Day in the summer, led by the Revd Paulette Gower in the home and garden of Mary and Mike Vellacott, just outside Wrexham. After coffee and opening worship, the pastoral assistants had two hours of 'open space', with four activities available, each based around one section of Psalm 23.

After a very pleasant lunch of home-made soup and bread and a chance to experiment with a musical marble run (!) there was a further quiet time where the pastoral assistants were encouraged to reflect on what being a pastoral assistant meant to them and what help and support they would like next.

The day finished with an informal communion service in the garden, followed by a cup of tea and cake.



Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God



Two Readers and a century of service

In August, Bryan and Rachel Huxley left **Worthenbury** for a new home 'over the border'. Bryan was born in Worthenbury in 1937 and continued to live and

farm in the parish for 63 years before moving to Cloy Lane, Overton ten years ago. Remembering his church involvement, he says, "One of my regular jobs was to pump the organ - long before electricity came into the church!" He continues, "What does going to church weekly mean to me? It has meant being able to serve God and his Church and its people. I have tried to serve the church in Worthenbury and elsewhere in many ways, as a lay reader, church warden, treasurer, secretary, bell ringer and a 101 other things that spring from these posts that need to be done to make God's house of prayer open for everyone to come into to pray, either alone or at a service with others."

The Revd Susan Blagden, Rector of Worthenbury, said, "Bryan has served on the P.C.C. for 51 years! Maybe not a record, but quite a marathon. He is pictured here receiving a gift of some books of prayers as a small token of thanks from Worthenbury congregation, past and present. We wish him and Rachel well in their new home."

Llandrillo-yn-Rhos's

parish Harvest Tea, held at Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, was a double celebration. Gordon Palliser had just completed fifty years as a Reader in the Church, which is a wonderful achievement. He has served in several parishes in England and for the last twenty three years here in Rhos. Revd Steven Green (Warden of Readers) paid tribute to Gordon and presented him with a framed picture of Old Trafford Cricket Ground. It was a memorable afternoon.



And other kinds of ministry...

The **Diocesan Office** team recently donned overalls and painted a house for 'Save the Family'. As a result of a successful team building day, the staff decided they would like to undertake a 'social action' type of project.

Tim Feak, Under 25s' Officer, writes, "I had thoroughly enjoyed the team building day, having learnt much about myself and my team, and was looking forward to the next step - painting! I was aware, however, that painting is not an area in which I excel. I managed to put myself under the watch-

Enabling and Encouraging the Whole People of God



ful eye of a representative from both the parsonage board and buildings and legal. With their direction I was able to do my bit without any dire consequences! We were accompanied throughout the day by selected music chosen by members of the team. I have to admit the choices were not as bad as I had thought they might have been. Having downed tools for the day we were informed that we had saved 'Save the Family' £3,000. This money could now be spent on other things that would directly impact lives of people who need help. So not only did I have fun with my friends and colleagues, I also felt that we had made a fairly substantial difference and helped the valuable work of 'Save the Family'."

September saw a run of licensings and inductions. Two new vicars have joined the **Wrexham** Benefice team of clergy. The Revd Sarah Errington is responsible for St John's, Rhosnesni and the Revd Emyr Owen is now at St Mark's, Caia Park. Sarah has moved from Halewood, Liverpool, with her husband and two sons; Emyr was formerly vicar in Nevin in the Bangor Diocese and is married with three daughters. Bishop Gregory told the large congregation at St Giles, "I look forward to hearing great things of their ministry and your ministry - because the

measure of the success of Sarah and Emyr will be the way in which you respond to them."

At the induction of the Revd Sally Rogers as Rector of **Petryal** and **Betws yn Rhos**, Bishop Gregory said, "Ministers might be given lots of pretty robes to wear and fancy instruments to carry and do very grand jobs in the life of the church. But the truth is that ministry is about service and the job of an ordained minister is to enable the people of God and the servants to God to fulfil their vocation to build a larger community." Sally was previously Chaplain of Royal Holloway, University of London.

The Revd Ian Forster has been licensed as Team Vicar in the benefice of **Hawarden** and has special responsibility for St Mary's, Broughton. He has moved from St David's Diocese. Ian is pictured here at the September clergy training day with Sally Rogers and Sarah Errington.



In September, in the Cathedral, His Honour Judge Roger Dutton DL was installed as **Chancellor of the Diocese** and the Venerable Shirley Griffiths was installed as **Archdeacon of Wrexham**. "May I give you this challenge," Bishop Gregory said, "Be always servants of the truth. Seek truth in your own lives and

minister that truth to those to whom you minister and of whom you have charge." *You can read an interview with the Chancellor on page 15.*

The Revd Carole Poolman was licensed in October as priest-in-charge of **Llanfynydd**. At the service, members of both St Michael's, Llanfynydd, and All Saints', Cymau, received Carole in a new



role; she has lived in Llanfynydd Rectory since her husband John became Rector of the parish in 1990. Bishop Gregory led the service, which was attended by members of Christ Church, Pontblyddyn, where Carole continues to serve, local friends and members of Deaf Church North Wales.

Celebrations

The 150th Anniversary of the formation of the parish of **Prestatyn** was marked by a celebratory champagne breakfast for the regular 8 a.m. communicants on Sunday 5 September, reports Dr Keith Wright. Served by the four sidesmen and held at the Vicarage, it comprised of an aperitif of a (carefully measured) glass of champagne (or a more generous glass of orange juice), fol-

lowed by cereal and scrambled egg and smoked salmon served with croissants. We were all agreed that we must not wait for the bicentenary for the next joint breakfast! Thanks to the Vicar and the Revd Kate Johnson for their hospitality and to expert cook Karl Andrews.

Sharing good news

St Cystennin's church, in the Rectorial benefice of **Rhos-cystennin**, held two 'Open Doors' days in September. Visitors, some of whom had been married in the church, enjoyed looking into the church records (pictured). Those investigating family trees popped in and out of the church looking at the old grave stones. Tea, coffee, home made cakes and apples picked from the garden of Team Vicar, the Revd Peter Walker, were all on sale in aid of church funds.



Llanasa has recently seen the start of a series of parish walks. "We decided it would be good to walk all the boundaries of the parish as we begun this new venture," reports Maureen Gillmore. "The Vicar, the Revd Stuart Elliott, led the first one and, being younger than most of the participants, almost walked our feet off! The last two walks have been led by parishioners and, although challenging, have been slightly shorter and more manageable. We take in natural or historic features on our way and that is

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why we found ourselves visiting Maen Achwyfan, near Whitford, on our second walk. The last one ended with a barbeque at the home of Garry Williams, one of the Churchwarden, which was very enjoyable. As this is a large, combined, parish we have a lot more walking to do!"



At the Mothers' Union Eucharist at St Matthew's, Buckley, seven new members were admitted to the branch, which is something of a record for **Buckley**. The new members are pictured here with the Diocesan Mothers' Union President, Carol Chamberlain, branch leader Pat Williams, and the Revd Alan Tiltman.

The **Cedewain** Mothers' Union and the churches of Newtown have for a number of years supported the Montgomeryshire

Family Crisis Centre. The Centre provides, amongst other things, shelters for victims of abuse including one of the first for male victims in the U.K. The Mothers' Union frequently provide hampers of basic food and toiletries for the shelters, which church members contribute to.

Jackie Richardson, Chief Executive of the charity, said, "Our work for many years has been to alleviate the crime and pain of domestic abuse in families; over the years the organisation has developed from a little house to the fourteen projects now operating providing services to agencies, families, police and social services from all over the country. But how has all this been achieved? We are truly guided by a higher source than the Directors, although they do a super job, chaired by the Revd Andy Grimwood. Then of course we come to the people without whom we could not have developed or been so successful, the members of the Newtown churches and Mothers' Union with their relentless support of money, food, toys and clothes. May I personally thank you for assisting me in my twenty years to promote love and give to others who have needed the service, especially our children."



Jackie Richardson is pictured with Managing Director Shirley Powell, Mothers' Union members and the Revd Andy Grimwood.

replaces Linda Mary Edwards in being responsible for the Shrine Church of St Melangell & the Melangell Centre within the Llanrhaeadr Y.M. group. The Deanery also has one vocational deacon, Judith Prust, and the first benefice in the Diocese to appoint a house for duty ministry, which is now exercised by Tony Dilworth who joined us in July. There are also four Readers. In recent years the Deanery has had annual training programmes in place for worship leaders and pastoral assistants, and we have been pleased that other Deaneries have sent participants to join with us in this training. The parish clergy meet every month for a mixture of worship, study, discussion and business. Every other month they are joined by the Readers and retired clergy for fellowship and a meal together. In Llanfyllin deanery we are very lucky to have nine retired clergy of calibre who are very generous in offering their ministries to the Deanery, and are very much appreciated by the parishes, especially in times of interregna or illness.

Deanery Mission Plan

Over the last five years the Deanery has been successfully fulfilling its Mission Action Plan in order to resource the life of the church in the Deanery and to engage with society:



- **The Living Stones Trail**

With the assistance of funding from the Community Welcome Scheme and Glasu, Jan Ratcliffe has been employed to co-ordinate the launch of the Living Stones Trail across the deanery and its periphery. The Trail has included not only our stock of Anglican churches but also five historic chapels, and the Trail Steering Group has involved a diverse number of people with religious, heritage & tourism interests. The Trail, launched in May 2010, aims to enhance the welcome our churches and chapels give to both visitors and pilgrims through special signage and accessible interpretative material to help them gain the most from their visit. The Trail logo is now a familiar site throughout the area. Bishop Gregory kindly launched our special Trail website www.living-stones.info and it has been very pleasing to see an increase in visitors to our churches and chapels from right across the U.K. and abroad. A key aim of the Trail is also to help in a small way with the economic sustainability of our rural communities, and we have information at each site highlighting the businesses and services available in the community. So do come and visit!



Bishop Gregory and the Revd Michael Balkwill launch the Trail website



• **Communications**

An enhanced communications strategy has also been a key aim in our Mission Strategy and the parishes advertise their services at Festivals altogether under the Deanery banner, in all the local media. We have also ensured that all our churches have a presence on the worldwide web through the creation of an attractive and informative deanery website:

www.llanfyllindeanery.org. The collaboration of the parishes on the website is an example of a philosophy that we seek to extend to every aspect of church life – when it can be done together, we do it together! This is especially important as each congregation has differing levels of expertise - so it is good to share it for the building up of the common life of the whole Deanery.

• **Deanery Property Advisor**

Geraint Roberts is an architect by profession. He has joined the Deanery team in a voluntary capacity as Deanery Property Advisor, and he is the first port of call should churchwardens and P.C.C.s have any queries or problems with their buildings. Geraint is particularly keen to assist churches deal with small problems so that they don't become large and expensive ones, and to this end he organises occasional workshops for the Deanery in the care and maintenance of our buildings.



• **Christian Nurture Courses**

Another element of deanery co-operation in recent months has been planning of the delivery of the Menter/ Adventure Christian nurture course around the Deanery. A dozen lay people have been meeting over summer 2010 with the clergy, to train for leading the course. The courses will be entirely lay led and two pilot projects have been organized for the Cain and Tanat Valleys in the autumn 2010. It is hoped that the courses will benefit the spiritual nurture of our congregations, as much as resourcing the enquirer. The Oswestry and Chirk Good News Christian Library visits both Llanrhaeadr and Llanfyllin each month with a wide selection of Christian books

and audio visual material that can be borrowed. There are books for all ages, including a selection of publications in Welsh. Those who use the service find it very helpful in their spiritual growth.



• Ministry to the Young

We have three Church in Wales schools in the deanery - Llansantffraid V.A., Llanfechain V.C. and Llangedwyn V.C. - along with community schools in the other main population centres.

Unfortunately, education strategy in Powys has been very unsettling for rural schools in recent years, with the ever recurring threats of closure and amalgamation. The schools and the churches value

their special relationship. Each year the Deanery holds a Confirmation activity day prior to the Deanery confirmation service. The activities help the candidates prepare for their important service and consolidate the preparation already received in their parishes. All-Age worship takes place around the Deanery, and some parishes hold special events for children and families, such as an Easter and Harvest Messy Church for Llanfyllin and Bwlch-y-Cibau, the regular 'Rainbow Army' at Llangedwyn, and Pathfinders in Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.

Deanery Travels

Recently a Deanery group enjoyed the thrilling experience of our visit to Oberammergau and found the Passion Play moving and spiritually uplifting. In 2011 we are planning a short pilgrimage to Ferns and St Mullin's in Eire to find out more about St Myllin, the patron of Llanfyllin, and hopefully form an enduring link with the churches there.

Hopefully this has given you a little taste of rural life in our Deanery. We face challenges like any other Deanery, such as buildings, finance and making the Christian faith welcoming and engaging. Please pray for us, as we pray for you, so that our common witness will be one of Joy and Hope.

The Revd Michael Balkwill, Area Dean.





Cyfweliad Interview

The new Diocesan Chancellor, His Honour Judge Roger Dutton, discusses criminal law and lawn mowers, faculties and families, with the Revd Peter Mackriell, in his chambers at Chester Crown Court.

Judge Dutton, you're a very new Chancellor, but can you explain a little about your role?

Well, the Letters Patent give me all sorts of peculiar powers over most people in the Diocese, apart from the Bishop! I'm told that if something serious happens in the Diocese and the Bishop is not present, then the Chancellor has got to step in. That's in extremis. But the general work I've experienced so far is looking after faculty applications. Since August, I've probably had eight very large envelopes from David Hooson, the Diocesan Registrar. They come to me after the D.A.C. [Diocesan Advisory Committee] meeting with applications for essential maintenance or for something really beneficial. I've had no contested applications as yet; that's bound to happen, although my predecessor tells me that in twenty-seven years he only had seven or eight consistory courts.

In what circumstances do you have to convene a court?

Where there is a debate, it comes before me to decide. I will see the papers, including P.C.C. minutes, and I will see the various objections that have been made during the consultation process. I would then ask for specific

arguments on paper from all the interested parties and, with their agreement, deal with it on paper or convene a court – and try to keep it in order!

The real issue of the day is reordering and the tension between our responsibility to hand over the treasures we look after to the next generation and the need to ensure that the building does serve the community in the best way. It gives rise to very strong views and I can understand why; the important thing is to try to deal sensitively with these things, which is not something I'm unused to as I have to do it every day here.

As a Christian Judge, how do you balance justice, mercy and humility, in the spirit of Micah 6.8?

Being a Christian is something I value very much. I always try to see the better side of somebody. When I'm sentencing someone, the facts can be quite dreadful but there's nearly always something in his background, a redeeming feature which, if only we can bring it out and develop it, can take over from the nastiness that he has shown.

But we have to do unpleasant things; sometimes it takes a lot of courage to

send somebody to prison when you don't want to. I have to be sure that the sentences that I impose are right for the offence, for the offender, for the victim, for the public interest. It's balancing all those particular needs that's the difficulty.

I can see that you are very passionate about your court work...

If you can enjoy these things, I enjoy it. You've no real idea what's going to happen from one minute to the next. You're sitting in public; you've got a jury of twelve people, witnesses, defendants, the press, advocates, and all sorts of things can happen. On open days, I say to visitors, we're open five days a week, from 9.30 to 4.30, come and see us, because you'll always find something interesting and we're doing everything here in your name.

And the Diocese of St Asaph is also important to you?

Yes, I was born and brought up in Wrexham; christened and confirmed at



St Giles; I lived in town as a boy, went off to University, and when I married Elaine in 1977 we went to live in Rossett, where we continue to worship even after we moved to Bersham in 1988. I've been on the P.C.C. for some years and I do my share of strimming in the churchyard! Elaine is the P.C.C. secretary, a worship leader and a chalice administrator.

As far as the diocese is concerned, most people will wish that they don't meet you too often!

Absolutely! But Bishop Gregory said to me that he was anxious that I should participate and be visible as the Chancellor, and that I'm delighted to do. I hope that people don't think I'm unapproachable.

And your other passions, that keep you sane?

Outside the Law? Sport; I'm an average club golfer but I have a lot of fun and good friends that I play with. The family are very important to us; three children, two now living away from home, but local, and one at university. They keep me down to earth. I've got a big garden and I do a lot of thinking there. It's very relaxing, as long as you can get the lawnmower to start!

You can read a fuller version of this interview on the Diocesan website www.dioceseofstasaph.org.uk

The Chancellor, the Bishop and the Archdeacon of Wrexham

Enlivening and Enriching our Worship

Changing churches, enriching worship

We'd like to make some changes in the layout of our church. Whom should we talk to? Archdeacon Bernard points us in the right direction.



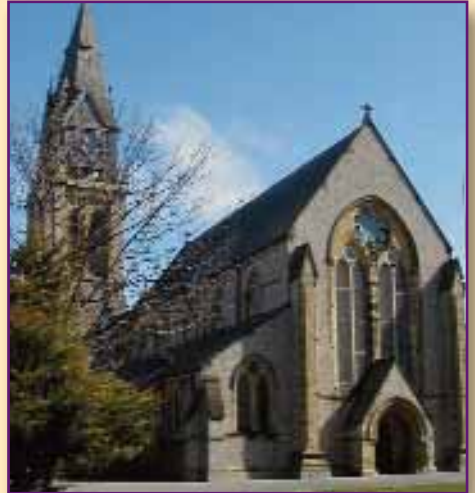
Jan Williams

Mention of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (D.A.C.) and the Archdeacon immediately conjures up nightmares about faculties, lengthy legal procedures and endless form filling. However there is good news, to allay any fears. The first bit of good news is that

the Diocese has appointed Jan Williams as a Conservation and Development Officer and Secretary to the D.A.C. (Diocesan Advisory Committee).

The second part of her title refers to the work that used to be done by June Scott before her retirement. We all remember the patient way in which June helped us through faculty applications, a task she has done with great devotion since the current system was set up many years ago. The first part of Jan's title is very exciting: it refers to a new role which the Diocese believes is now needed and is concerned with the two aspects of church buildings, conservation of their heritage for posterity and, equally important, the way they can and should be developed for future use.

The second bit of good



news is that the faculty application form has been revised and will be much more user-friendly, much easier to understand. It will be available in the New Year.

Many think that the D.A.C. is bureaucracy which exists to make life difficult for those

wanting to make changes in their churches. This is quite unfair. The D.A.C. is part of the church's system for approving work and it must be robust enough to be granted an exemption from having to apply for Listed Building Consent and Conservation Area consent, which would mean even more form-filling. The volunteers who serve it are experts in their fields and very experienced. So, the new face of your helpful D.A.C. is Jan. She, too, is





an expert and can help you at the outset when you are thinking about ways of re-inventing your church layout, whilst conserving its essential features.

One more thing. The D.A.C. is a group of people who like to say 'yes' not 'no'. Jan and the rest of us are there to help you transform your dreams into reality. My experience of visiting churches wanting to make changes, an experience which is shared by others on the D.A.C., is that we find that plans are not bold enough. People are often surprised that we want to encourage P.C.C.s to go further and be more - not less - radical. Speak to Jan, therefore, and invite her to your church. Indeed, she may advise you to invite the whole D.A.C. to share your thoughts and help you forward. Having done that, things will be so much easier when it comes to sending in that notorious faculty application!

The Parish of St Mary, **Ruabon** (Llangollen Deanery), is pleased to report the completion of re-roofing the whole of the Grade 1 listed building, which commenced January 2010, costing £143,000. Grants have been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund and CADW. Further work to the stained glass windows and surrounding stonework, together with some heating alterations, are scheduled for the near future.



The Bishop's Visitation to Wrexham

Journeying around the Diocese, Bishop Gregory continues his First Episcopal Visitation, visiting each of the eighteen deaneries in turn, in a varied programme that included Llanrwst and Wrexham deaneries in



September, Hawarden, Holywell, Dyffryn Clwyd and Pool in October, and Cedewain, Llanfyllin and Gresford in November.

The Rectorial Benefice of Wrexham also functions as a Deanery. Jackie Blore reports,

"Nearly 400 people of all ages attended an imaginative and innovative

Eucharist which celebrated the common life of the seven churches in the benefice. Music was provided by the orchestra and choir of St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, boosted by choristers from all the benefice churches. Sketches were performed by pupils from St Joseph's as well as two clerics who transformed themselves into 'John and John' (whilst Bishop Gregory gamely acted as 'The Management'!) to convey powerfully the theme of the service, 'One Shepherd, one flock'. The service was followed by a hog roast and a good time was had by all."

Almost 500 people attended Hawarden Deanery's Visitation service at Castell Alun School in Hope on 10 October (*below*). Items symbolising each parish and candles representing each church were used to create a focal point for worship. Over 80 children were involved in children's work during the service and lunch was provided for everyone. Worship was led by a Deanery choir and music group, and children from the three church schools in the Deanery sung some of their harvest songs at the beginning of the service. Area Dean, the Revd Martin Batchelor, said "Many people from across the deanery had worked hard to enable the visitation to happen. It was encouraging to feel that the day had a real sense of celebration as we came to worship and eat together. The whole day served to encourage



many people and to enable parishes to have a greater sense of belonging to this particular part of teulu Asaph."

Bishop Gregory presided at the Eucharist in the church of Ss Mary and Beuno, Whitford on Sunday 17 October as he began his Visitation to the Holywell Deanery (*above*). During the service, worship was led by a Deanery choir formed especially for the occasion.

St Peter's, Holywell, was the venue for lunch and the official Visitation meeting. In his address to clergy and church wardens, Bishop Gregory spoke of looking realistically and responsibly towards the future. The

Diocese of St Asaph has an average of 7000 people worshipping in its churches each Sunday, but, nonetheless, is having to face declining congregations who often have the task of continuing to maintain ancient buildings. Perhaps, the Bishop said,





some buildings will have to close – but worship can continue in the parish in homes or other suitable buildings.

"In the future," he said, "we will need to work together in structures bigger than a parish. The Deanery will become more important in the life of the Church." Ordinary worshippers are beginning to take more responsibility for their own churches, alongside the clergy. New ways need to be found to recruit and train ministers, some of whom might be ordained to serve in their own local church. He encouraged creativity in worship, warning that churches that hold on to traditional patterns of worship are not seeing growth. He asked, "Is worship welcoming when people come to church? A great deal of experimentation is going on in our churches and I want to encourage and affirm that."

Concluding the afternoon's discussions he said, "The conversation has begun, it must continue."

Bishop Gregory's Visitation continues through December and January and will conclude when he visits Llangollen Deanery in February.

For the fourth consecutive year, **Bangor Isycoed** Deanery held a Quiet Day, on Saturday 18 September. About twenty people from the parishes of the Deanery came together at the house of a member of one of the congregations for a day of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshment. Starting with Morning Prayer and finishing with a celebration of the Eucharist, the three addresses were given by Sister Margaret of the Convent of the Holy Name in Derby. She invited the participants to reflect on three of the questions asked by Jesus of His disciples, "What are you looking for?" "Who do you say that I am?" and "How may loaves have you?"



Pictured after the final Eucharist, indoors because of rain, are most of the participants, together with the Area Dean, the Revd David Lewis and the leader of the Quiet Day, Sister Margaret CHN.



What might a Diocese look like with ecology at its heart? asks the Revd Stuart Elliott, part of the Ecology Group. What would such a diocese feel like to be part of? How would it operate day to day? Would it really be much different to how we are now?

The ecology group has been looking at such questions recently. You might be surprised that the answers to these questions don't necessarily come down to taking drastic practical measures to mitigate the future effects of climate change although, individually, people or parish groups may be undertaking a wide variety of projects, all of which are wonderful to hear about. In future issues of Teulu Asaph we hope to be re-visiting some of those previously reported on to see how they have progressed. What worked well, what was not so successful, with hints and tips for others. In addition to this, we hope to have a day in the new year for all who involved in and enthused about ecology to help and encourage others to do what they can where they are. But, for now, here is a recipe for sharing...

Spiced Fruit Bread

This bread is a great way of exploring Christmas foods, it keeps really well and of course, tastes wonderful. Even better if made (and eaten) together!

You will need: gatherers, choppers, sifters, weighers, mixers and bakers.

For the fruit mix (can be prepared in advance)

100g fruit: dried figs, dates, prunes etc

30g nuts: hazelnuts, brazil nuts, walnuts, cashews etc

1 tsp mixed spice

20g warm water or if you wish, rum or brandy

Roughly chop all the fruit and nuts and put

them in a freezer bag with the spices and liquid. Give it a good shake to get everything wet and leave it to mull for a while.



For the ferment (can be prepared in advance)

5g sugar

1tsp dried yeast

60g warm milk

50g brown bread flour

Mix together the sugar, yeast and milk, then add the flour. You should have a soft, wet mixture. Leave covered for an hour somewhere warm.

Now for the main dough:

30g sugar

70g white bread flour

40g brown bread flour

1 egg

50g butter



Mix the sugar and all the flour, then add the egg and the ferment from above. Knead for a bit, then add the butter and knead for 10 minutes. Do not add more flour! Leave covered somewhere warm for an hour.

Drain the fruit mix and fold into the dough. Shape the dough into a cob loaf shape or

separate out into rolls, or use a 1lb loaf tin.

Leave covered again to rise. Bake at 180C / Gas mark 4 for 30-40 mins. (less for rolls). Check with a skewer to ensure it is cooked; cover if necessary to finish cooking without burning the top. Enjoy hot with butter, or even better, alongside a glass of mulled wine!

The seasons of Advent and Christmas may be the perfect time to reflect on our use of resources and how we are connected to those around us. The following links to resources, e-liturgies, prayers, sermon notes, reflections and music might help.

www.christian-ecology.org.uk/christmas.htm

www.ionabooks.com/Advent-Christmas.html

The Real Easter Egg

Available for your church to order now!

It is an astonishing fact that over 80 million chocolate Easter eggs are sold each year in the U.K. Even more astonishing is the fact that not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. The Real Easter Egg is the U.K.'s first and only Fairtrade Easter egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the pack and gives a sizeable donation from profits to charitable projects - buying everything from medical equipment for mums in the U.K., to chickens for farmers in Africa.

It would be great if all our supermarkets stocked the Real Easter Egg everywhere,

but we need to prove demand before they will. To do this, we need churches across the U.K. to order and pay for a supply of Real Easter Eggs for their church. It is hoped that

churches will put up a list in December/January and place an order by 1st February 2011. The Real Easter Egg costs £4.50, which includes the charitable donation, VAT, handling and delivery to a central drop off point. They are available in multiples of 12. Order forms, posters and magazine articles can be downloaded for free from www.realeasteregg.co.uk



30 pence from each egg will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange and a further 10% from profits will go to Baby Lifeline. Traidcraft Exchange is a development charity which helps small-scale farmers and producers gain the confidence, knowledge and

opportunities to work together effectively, find markets for their products, and trade successfully. Cocoa and sugar farmers also earn a Fairtrade Premium to invest in community projects that they choose, from chickens to fresh water. Baby Lifeline supports new mothers and new-born babies in the U.K. It supplies hospitals with life-saving equipment such as incubators and helps to give specialist training to doctors and midwives.

Lausanne III

The Revd Canon Dr Tudor Griffiths, Rector of Hawarden, reports on a historic conference.



Canon Tudor Griffiths with Bishop Joel Obetia from Uganda

October is Spring-time in Cape Town, and the International Conference Centre there was the venue for what was, arguably, the most diverse gathering of Christians ever. We were nearly 5000 including stewards, from over 190 countries and a rich diversity of church backgrounds and roles, both ordained and lay. What we had in common was our commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord as expressed in the Lausanne Covenant of 1974.

For the best part of a week we worshipped, listened, prayed, ate and talked together. There were just over a dozen of us from Wales, but we hardly saw

each other at the Conference. We were divided into table groups, and on my table I shared with a Brazilian businessman who chairs the International Committee of World Vision, a Presbyterian academic from North America, and an educationalist from Khartoum in Sudan. The one shadow over the conference was the absence of the expected delegation from China. The authorities detained the group of nearly 300 who were about to leave from Beijing.

It became clear very quickly that the dynamic of the church has shifted radically away from Europe and even North America. There was great power in seeing together on the platform an Israeli man and Palestinian woman united in Christ and determined to see justice in the Middle East through non-violent action. There was no dry eye among us as we heard the story of a teenager from North Korea whose father had returned to his country in 2006 to tell the story of Jesus. and who had disappeared, presumed dead. In a dream Jesus had come to her, and now she was to study law to be a diplomat concerned with human rights in North Korea. Putting the story so briefly does not do her justice.

We learnt many facts. Did you know that the church in Mongolia has grown over the last twenty years from a handful of believers to an estimated 100,000, and that this is indigenous growth?

But as well as the story, there was a clear sense of direction and steer given to the worldwide church. I took away a stronger sense of unity and impulse to work with other Christians and other churches. I heard that the church can be the greatest illustration of the Christian Gospel, but it can also be the greatest stumbling-block. I heard the call to the Church to show humility, integrity and simplicity if our witness to Christ is to be heard.



Amgylch yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

Light up a Life Service

in St Asaph Cathedral

- Friday 3 December at 6 p.m.

Christmas tree festival

at St Bridget's Church, Dyserth.

- Friday 3 to Sunday 5 December
from 11.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir Concert

in St Asaph Cathedral

- Sunday 5 December at 7.30 p.m.

Confirmation Service

in St Asaph Cathedral

- Tuesday 7 December at 6.30 p.m.

St Asaph Choral Society Christmas

Concert in St Asaph Cathedral

- Saturday 11 December at 7.30 p.m.

Sirenian Singers in concert

at All Saints' Church, Gresford

- Saturday 18 December at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets on the door

Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's

Collegiate Church, Ruthin -

- Sunday 19 December at 4 p.m.

Christingle at St Peter's Collegiate

Church, Ruthin

- Friday 24 December at 5 p.m.

Christmas in the Cathedral

Choral Evensong by Candlelight

- Sunday 19 December at 6 p.m.

*The service will be followed by
traditional Christmas refreshments.*

Nine Lessons and Carols

- Friday 24 December at 7 p.m.

Midnight Mass

- Friday 24 December at 11.30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

- Saturday 25 December at 8 a.m.

Choral Eucharist

- Saturday 25 December at 11 a.m.

Evening Prayer

- Saturday 25 December at 3.30 p.m.

Boxing Day Service

- Sunday 26 December at 11 a.m.

Midnight Mass (with Charpentier's

Misse de Minuit pour Noel) at St Peter's

Collegiate Church, Ruthin

- Friday 24 December at 11.45 p.m.

First Mass of Christmas, St Peter's

Collegiate Church, Ruthin

- Saturday 25 December at 10.30 a.m.

Plygain in St Asaph Cathedral

- Friday 28 January 2011

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

Editor: Revd Peter Mackriell, Diocesan Communications Officer.

Diocesan Office, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 ORD 01745 582245

petermackriell@churcheinwales.org.uk

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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