



Increase in Trainees welcome, but new Diocesan Director of Ordinands warns

We Need More

NEWLY appointed Director of Ordinands, Revd Dennis Wight has welcomed a recent upturn in numbers seeking ordination and exploring other ministry vocations.

At least four new students will embark on full time training for stipendiary ministry in September this year, making a total of at least nine. There is still the possibility of more, depending on the outcome of selection conferences. In addition three people are training for non-stipendiary ministry, and there are ten people in various stages of Reader training. Figures released by the senior staff team show that the age profile of the present stipendiary clergy means that during the next few

years a large proportion will reach retirement age, and that as a diocese we need to ordain five people each year until 2020 to reach the relatively modest numbers that are essential to provide ministry here. Writing in this edition of *Pobl Dewi*, Dennis throws out a challenge to congregations to grow ministers. Bishop Wyn added his support to this call, saying: "This will be a testing time for us as a church, with many retirements pending. It is up to us to regard it as a time of opportunity and discernment."

Where is our next Parish Priest?

by Dennis Wight

CONGREGATIONS will commonly ask this towards, or during, an interregnum – that is, when their most recent minister has left or retired. Clearly this scenario concentrates the mind when a parish

is praying for, and seeking, a new leader.

However, it is a question which should more regularly be in our minds and on our parochial church
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Left to right: Peter Jones, Richard Wood, John McHale, John Neil, Peter Radcliffe, Marianne Osbourne



Ffenestr Liw Newydd yn Ysgol Penboyr

In a special service at Penboyr School, Bishop Wyn Evans unveiled and consecrated a new stained glass window created by Mr Stan Williams. Monies kindly left in the will of the late Mrs Nesta Howells were used to create the window

MEWN gwasanaeth arbenning ar 30 Ebrill, dadorchuddwyd a chysegrwyd ffenestr liw newydd Ysgol Penboyr gan yr Esgob Wyn Evans. Defnyddiodd yr ysgol arian a adawyd iddi yn ewylllys y

diweddar Mrs Nesta Howells i greu'r ffenestr liw. Mr Stan Williams fu'n gyfrifol am lunio'r ffenestr a bu plant dosbarth 3 (blynyddoedd 3 a 4) yn rhan o'r cynllunio. Daeth Mr Williams i'r

ysgol i gynnal gweithdy i'r disgyblion a'r gymuned er mwyn iddynt weld y ffenestr yn cael ei chreu. Mae'r ffenestr liw yn cynnwys pedwar panel sy'n

parhad ar dudalen 3

Diocesan appointments



Revd Christopher Bolton,
Vicar and Area Dean,
Llanarth & Capel Cynon w
Talgarreg & St Mark, to be
also Canon of the Cathedral,
10 July 2009



Revd Canon Roger Hughes,
Vicar and Area Dean and
Honorary Canon,
Llangathen, Cwrt Henri &
Llanfihangel Aberbythych, to
be also Canon of the
Cathedral, 10 July 2009



Revd Sian Jones,
Rector in the Rectorial
Benefice of Llanelli,
to be also Canon of the
Cathedral, 10 July 2009



Revd Bryan Witt,
Vicar of St Clears with
Llangynin & Llanddowror &
Llanfihangel Abercwylyn, to
be also Diocesan Director of
Education, 6 April 2009

continued from front page

council agendas. Over 90% of the Ministry Share goes towards clergy training, supporting the present incumbent, providing a pension for retired priests, and training for Lay Readers and lay ministry.

It has often been said that those congregations which encourage the ministry of lay people are more likely to produce people who sense a call to ordained ministry. So it is important to encourage participation in, for example, leading intercessions or reading in church, evangelism, the organising of occasional special services, pastoral visiting or prayer and study groups. As this ministry is developed, in collaboration with the parish priest, many more will understand that all Christians are called to be active disciples in the church and in the world. Thus "Where is our next parish priest?" could be changed into: "Have we grown someone in our parishes to serve the church locally or elsewhere in mission and ministry?" Christianity is not something done to us – it is a



movement of a people of hope and salvation.

There is joyful news around the diocese about many Venturing in Mission projects and the Lord is adding to our number. God's glory is being seen in significant ways. This includes some steps towards encouraging vocations from all age groups and deaneries. We have teams of Vocations Advisers and facilitators for lay development who are ready and willing to help churches and individuals recognise potential and nurture a wide range of ministry.

I pray that, as we encourage Christian discipleship, people will

begin to recognise that they may have a vocation to the priesthood. It is a long and interesting road of discernment and some have set out recently. And, who knows, one of the people reading this might be your future parish priest – they might even be someone in your parish who could eventually be the leader of another parish! It may be a suggestion or an encouragement from you that will lead someone to make the first move and get in touch with me.

If you would like to know more about ordained or lay ministry, the next Diocesan Vocations Day will be held on 10th October at St Davids.

Bovine TB and its implications

Eileen Davies, St Davids Rural Life Adviser, reports on the effects Tuberculosis (TB) is having on the agricultural industry . . .

BOVINE TB had almost been eradicated in Wales in the early 1980's, but it has returned and has hit the agricultural industry hard. Furthermore, it is now totally out of control and there are far-reaching implications

The process of detection involves a regular test for the whole herd (the interval between tests vary according to the severity of the disease in the locality); this is done by injecting a small amount of tuberculin (a sterile antigenic extract obtained from a culture of *M. bovis* or other organisms of the same family of bacteria) into the neck of the animal. This is done by a vet who returns a few days later to judge the severity of the reaction by feeling the amount of swelling at the injection site. If any cattle have reacted, depending on the severity of that reaction, a judgement is made as to whether they are "reactors" or "inconclusive"

In either case the farm must stop trading its cattle.

The reactor animals will be valued by an accredited auctioneer and sent for slaughter. The inconclusive animals will be re-tested in 60 days and, if either reactor or inconclusive again, then they will be valued and slaughtered. If, on examination at the abattoir, no lesions are found, the cattle are placed under a restricted movement order and the farmer cannot trade until the animals test clear for TB – usually within 60 days.

In 2008, 12,043 cattle were slaughtered in Wales – a 52% increase from 2007. 69% of these cattle were in the Diocese of St David's. On 31 December 2008, 1848 farms were under restrictions in Wales.



The trading restrictions have huge cost implications for the affected farms. Increased animals on the farm require additional land and mean higher feeding costs. For many farmers, "On stop" means stopping trading for an extended period until the herd is declared TB free.

Every farmer's nightmare is to be told they have TB: vital bloodlines are lost forever, generations of hard work and achievement destroyed. The costs are not only financial – the emotional cost is far greater. How would it feel to see your animals leave, one by one, two by two, hundred by hundred? Farmers shut themselves away thinking of themselves as being dirty, not wanting to socialise, worried that they will spread TB to their neighbours. This isolation can cause loneliness which can take hold and farmers need our love, support and understanding.

Eradication of TB is paramount within the agricultural industry but that debate is for another time!

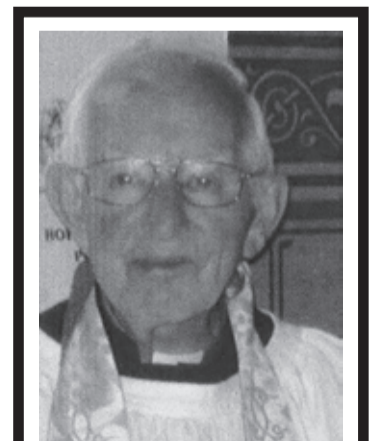
In the meantime please pray for farmers during this difficult time.

Further information is available at www.defra.gov.uk/farm



On Yer Bike, Vic!

The first official engagement for the Revd Jonathan Copus (centre, knobbly knees) after being licensed by the Bishop as Priest in Charge of the Parishes of Lampeter Velfrey with Princes Gate and Llanddewi Velfrey was to take part in a sponsored bike ride for charity. Jonathan led the field for all 11 kilometres [surely for all of 11 metres – Ed]. The event was organised by Lampeter Velfrey Community and Playing Field Association in aid of the Special Baby Unit at Morrision Hospital, which had recently saved the lives of no fewer than two babies born prematurely to parents in the parish. Holding the tape is Pembrokehire County Council Chairman Councillor Robin Evans.



**Revd Geler Harries
Thomas, BA
1928-2009
Past Rural Dean of
Llangadog
R.I.P.**

Preach Without Words

Alun Evans, Chairman of the Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility, previews this year's Diocesan Conference

"PREACH the gospel at all times and in all places, and use words if you must" was Francis of Assisi's instruction to his Friars, the band of itinerant evangelists he gathered around himself and sent out to renew the Church. Of course it's always both deeds and words, but this insight of Francis has long been an inspiration for Christians in our mission and ministry in the public arena.

This year's Diocesan Conference at Lampeter on 3rd October will highlight the work of the Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility and celebrate and affirm the engagement of churches and parishes with their communities. Again, this is a "both/and" situation: both responding to people at their point of need and providing a prophetic witness to the values of the Kingdom of God, those values which underpin the upside-down society of the Beatitudes.

During the morning we shall hear from such diverse initiatives as credit action and credit unions, street pastors, Plant Dewi's work, including pioneering projects with young dads, fairtrade developments, and partnership working. The programme is being put together in

a way which I hope will help us connect with the issues and encourage us to look again at our parishes and our resources and explore ways in which we can engage with the communities in which we find ourselves. The projects presented will not be blueprints which can be copied, but examples of what can be done on the principle that we are a serving church called to make known God's justice and love to those among whom we live. In this way we can plant, here and now, outposts of God's Kingdom where his will is done.

The context in which we shall meet will be that of a nation caught in the financial and economic constraints brought on by the credit crunch, and a society in which the churches increasingly have to justify their place and their voice in public life. In worship and prayer and in what we see and hear in the projects highlighted we shall be challenged as to what it means to be church in today's society. I hope we will be encouraged to leave Lampeter and look at our parishes and to consider what our appropriate response can be so that God's people may have life, and have it in its fullness.

parhad o dudalen 1

portreadu crefydd, chwaraeon, ffermio a'r melinau gwlan sydd yn yr ardal ac mae'n waith wirioneddol wych.

Yn ystod y prynhawn, cafodd y rhieni a'r gymuned gyfle i weld prosiectau eraill sydd wedi bod ar waith sef 'sedd dweud stori' o waith y cerfiwr pren, Mr Paul Clarke o Aberporth a phaneli dur wedi eu cynllunio gan ddsbarth 4 (blynyddoedd 5 a 6) a grëwyd gan Mr. Tony Woodman o Cwm Morgan, Castell Newydd Emlyn. Ariannwyd y prosiectau hyn gan Gronfa Drosgrwyddo Gymunedol Uwchradd/Cynradd Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn. Hefyd, dangoswyd swit gyfrifiadurol newydd yr ysgol a ariannwyd gyda £5,000 o Gronfa'r Loteri a £3,000 oddi wrth y Cyngor Cymuned. Gobeithir trefnu gwersi cyfrifiadurol min nos i'r gymuned yn y swit newydd.

Roedd llunio'r ffenestr liw yn

rhan o waith yr ysgol ar gyfer Cystadleuaeth Menter y Dreftadaeth Gymreig. Y neuadd yw ein Llan yn yr ysgol a thrwy gael ffenestr liw newydd yno, mae'r ysgol yn creu hanes. Bu'r ysgol gyfan yn rhan o brosiect i astudio llannau ein milltir sgwâr. Rydym wedi bod ar ymweliadau i astudio hanes y ddwy Eglwys leol, sef S. Barnabas, Felindre a S. Llawddog, Penboyr. Mae'r gwahanol ddsbarthiadau wedi canolbwyntio ar elfennau gwahanol megis astudiaeth o'r cerrig beddau cyn 1900 ym mynwent S. Barnabas; hanes y seintiau, sef S. Barnabas a S. Llawddog; arwyddocâd a hanes rhannau'r eglwys; hanes Griffith Jones Llanddowror a chymharu priodasau ddoe a heddiw. Bu'r ysgol gyfan yn trefnu priodas ffug a gwledd yn yr ysgol hefyd. Nid ydym wedi derbyn canlyniad y gystadleuaeth eto.

The Roving Bishop

By the end of the summer, Bishop Wyn will have visited all the deaneries in the diocese. Don MacGregor asked him a few questions about this

Are the deanery visits 'official' or more informal?

This is a year of an Episcopal Visitation and I didn't want to do that 'going in cold'. So I suggested to area deans that I get out into the diocese as soon as possible to visit them – I suppose semi-officially. I wanted to meet all the serving clergy, retired clergy, lay readers and churchwardens to say thank you to them all. They are the ones at the sharp end and without their contribution we simply would not be able to keep the show on the road. There are 15 deaneries – I've been to 6 and will have visited 11 by the end of July, leaving 4 to do in September. The bishop does, of course, see a slightly skewed view of the diocese, because I see full churches and the things you want me to see!! Having said that, there's a lot of very good work going on and I'm very heartened by what I see.

What sort of things have you been seeing?

I've seen all sorts of very good things going on. I've been down an open cast mine, I've been to lunches and met the retired clergy and readers, to a harp making factory, pensioners'



lunches, schools and community outreach projects, Plant Dewi projects and much more, all of which really show the church making an immense contribution on the ground.

As bishop, you have a unique overview of the diocese. Could you identify some of its strengths?

I think the strengths are the unsung ones. First of all, although we are a large number of very small churches and small congregations, they are very faithful, doing what they have been doing for generations, quietly and effectively offering their lives and their service to God.

Secondly, it's not just the local

community that we serve but also the wider community, those people who come to Wales, as tourists, as visitors – they come to look at the heritage of our churches. It's a huge resource we have, the places we have worshiped in for the past millennia and a half.

What future direction would you like to see parishes taking?

My emphasis is on place and how people share that sense of place. Worship has been offered on our church sites for 1500 years and you don't negate that or ignore that or treat it lightly. Very often, it's people on the outside who see the value of what we have.

As far as the mission of the church is concerned, collaboration between clergy and laity is growing and we need to look at all levels of ministry, as I suspect there will have to be changes in the way that we offer ministry in the diocese. But if you look back over the last 800 years there have been many changes – we have done it before so we need to be more self confident about what we are about.

So 'Venturing in Mission' is very much here to stay?

Yes it is and I've said that from the beginning. I'm looking at what's happening on the ground, for example people's action plans, to see if those manageable targets are being attained and new ones are coming into focus.

Gwasanaeth Gŵyl Ddewi y Senedd

On 3rd March the choir of Ysgol Penboyr sang in the St David's Day Service in the Houses of Parliament, London. It was a wonderful experience for the pupils to sing in the beautiful and ancient Chapel. Following the service pupils, parents and staff had an opportunity to go on the London Eye

DERBYNIODD côr yr ysgol wahoddiad i ganu yng ngwasanaeth Gŵyl Ddewi y Senedd yn Llundain ar Fawrth 3ydd. Er mwyn codi arian ar gyfer cost y daith i Lundain cynhaliwyd canu noddedig yng Nghastell Newydd Emlyn yn ystod Noson Fictoraidd. Bu'r côr yn ymarfer yn galed am fisoedd cyn yr achlysur. Cafwyd cyfle hefyd i ganu ar Raglen Wedi 3 mis Tachwedd i hysbysebu'r daith. Wythnos cyn teithio i Lundain daeth rhaglen deledu Ffeil (newyddion i blant ar S4C) i ffilmio'r plant yn canu a chyfweld â rhai o aelodau'r côr.

Cychwynodd y bws ar y daith am 5 o'r gloch y bore o Felindre am Lundain. Cafwyd taith hwylus iawn â phawb yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar i'r gwasanaeth. Ar ôl ymarfer byr roedd yn amser i ddechrau'r gwasanaeth am 12 o'r gloch. Roedd nifer o Aelodau Seneddol yn bresennol â rhai ohonynt yn cymryd y rhannau arweiniol. Dr Barry Morgan, Archesgob Cymru, oedd yn annerch. Canodd y disgyblion ddwy eitem, Cerdd Dant, Y Mae

Duw yn Neffro'r Gwanwyn a chân Gŵyl Ddewi. Mrs Nia Clwyd ac Elliw James oedd y ddwy delynores. Roedd yn brofiad gwych i'r disgyblion gael canu yn eglwys S. Mary's Undercroft sydd mor hynafol a hardd o flaen cynulleidfa niferus. Ar ôl y gwasanaeth cafodd y plant a'r staff luniaeth ysgafn. Daeth Mr Adam Price, A.S. i

ddiolch i aelodau'r côr am eu cyfraniad. Cawsant gyfle ar ôl y gwasanaeth i fynd ar y London Eye – profiad newydd i nifer helaeth o'r disgyblion. Diolch i'r rhieni am eu cefnogaeth i godi arian ar gyfer y daith. Gobeithio y bydd y côr yn cofio'r achlysur fel un o uchafbwyntiau eu cyfnod yn Ysgol Penboyr.



Cor y Llundain

Contributions to Pobl Dewi

We welcome articles of interest from readers and, in particular, we would like to encourage submission of articles in Welsh.

Tessa Briggs tessa@ygilan.net is the Managing Editor of the next issue and will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to submit an article.

Adrian Morgan adrian.morgan@mac.com is the Welsh Language Editor
Other Editors:

Revd Nicholas Cale nickthevic@parishofwiston.co.uk

Revd Peter Lewis revtplewis@btinternet.com

Articles can be emailed to the above or may be posted to:

Pobl Dewi, The Diocesan Office, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JG
marked for the attention of 'The Editor'

Focus on families, fair trade and sub-wardens

The Spring meeting of the Governing Body (GB) sat on 21st and 22nd April 2009 at Llandudno

THE Theme of the GB for 2009 is "Children, Young People and the Family". The Archbishop, Dr Barry Morgan, used his opening address to highlight the needs of children today and the problems of poverty and parenting, saying:

"Jesus believed that children were not just an asset for the future or a commitment to be undertaken for the sake of society. They were of infinite value as children. They deserved as much respect and care as any other human being. They have qualities that may bring them closer to the kingdom of heaven than a great many adults. Children have an inalienable value quite independent of their use to us."

The members of the GB were later treated to a series of presentations from across the province highlighting the work done with young people and families. One of the most memorable and thought-provoking addresses was given by the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, who explained his work and his very real fears for



vulnerable children if budget cuts reach children's and social services. He went on to pay tribute to the work churches do with children and young people in their local communities.

Our own rural life adviser, Revd Eileen Davies, gave a presentation about fair trade beginning at home, as part of a Governing Body motion on Supermarkets and British Farming; the motion was passed. A private member's motion was passed regarding the Church of England Marriage Measure 2008 and trying

to bring the Church in Wales into parity – the lawyers now have the job of trying to put this into place.

The longest and most controversial debate was over proposed changes to regulations regarding Sub-Wardens, with a proposal to bring them into line with rules affecting Church Wardens (e.g. age limit of 75, only six consecutive years in office without a break). The recommendation of the Standing Committee was passed but not without some heated debate and a request to consider the whole issue of age limits and to give the GB opportunity to debate this. Watch this space!

At the evening workshop a presentation was given on our own Menter II DVD.

Full details of the April 2009 Governing Body can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/govbody/ or by picking up a copy of 'Highlights' magazine which has been circulated to parishes. – Paul Mackness

Dirgelwch y Dechnoleg

Ainsley Griffiths reports on a recent training day entitled 'Wiring the Parish' designed to help parishes use the latest technology to enhance their church life, mission and ministry

DELWEDDAU digidol . . . Gwefan i'r plwyf . . . llwytho fideos i lawr . . . ffeiliau MP3 . . . taflunyddion data . . . termau sy'n perthyn i eirfa rhai, ond i eraill yn jargon o fyd go estron. Felly dyma fentro i'r dirgelwch a cheisio dirnad sut y gallai'r dechnoleg ddiweddaraf weithio i wella ansawdd ein haddoliad a'n cyfathrebu . . .

Cynhaliwyd diwrnod hyfforddi arbennig ddechrau Mai yng Ngholeg Prifysgol y Drindod ar y testun 'Gweirio'r Plwyf'. Dechreuasom â gweddi fyfyrion ar ddull S. Ignatius o Loyola, traddodiad gweddi sy'n ceisio mireinio ein hymwybyddiaeth o bresenoldeb Duw yn ein bywydau dyddiol ac yn myfyrio'n ddwfn ar ddarn o'r Ysgrifur. Felly dyma ysbrydolrwydd yr 16eg ganrif yn cwrdd â thechnoleg yr 21ain ganrif gyda delweddau digidol (o'r wefan www.flickr.com) mewn cyflwyniad PowerPoint ar sgriniau plasma'r capel a cherddoriaeth heddychlon (wedi'i ei llwytho i lawr ar ddull MP3 www.amazon.uk) yn cyfoethogi ein gweddi. Os am gael blas, ewch i www.sacredspace.ie.

Rhoddodd Don MacGregor gyflwyniad rhagorol i ni ar agweddau ymarferol defnyddio taflunyddion data mewn plwyf. Dewis taflunydd a sgrin symudol wedi eu cysylltu â gliniadur yw'r opsiwn gorau i lawer. Eglurodd Don sut i osod y system ac yna rhoddodd gipolwg ar yr ystod eang o ffyrdd y gellid defnyddio'r dechnoleg: e.e., creu litwrgi arbennig gyda delweddau ystyrlon; dangos fideo mewn gwasanaeth neu daflu dogfen 'Word' neu 'Excel' ar y sgrin mewn cyfarfod o'r Cyngor



Plwyfol Eglwysig. Am gyngor ar ddewis taflunydd data ewch i: www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/multimedia/docs/M02.pdf

Ar ôl cinio aethom i labordai cyfrifadurol y Brifysgol er mwyn cael tro drosom ni ein hunain! Arweiniodd Jonathan Copus, sydd â blynyddoedd o brofiad gyda'r BBC, sesiwn hynod ddefnyddiol ar Microsoft PowerPoint, y feddalwedd a ddefnyddir fel arfer er mwyn creu cyflwyniadau ar y sgrin. Mewn llai nag awr roedd hyd yn oed y defnyddwyr lleiaf hyderus yn creu cyflwyniadau soffistigedig gyda delweddau a sain. Cam bach fyddai mentro o'r labordy i'r gangell er mwyn cyfoethogi pregeth neu wasanaeth gyfan!

Am Gynllun Gwefannau yr Eglwys yng Nghymru y soniodd Samuel Helkvist, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Dalaith. Crëodd fideo pwrpasol ar gyfer y diwrnod gyda sawl unigolyn yn sôn am rinweddau system unigryw yr Eglwys yng Nghymru. Trwy ddilyn camau syml gall unrhywun â gwybodaeth elfennol sefydlu gwefan i'w plwyf. Cewch fwy o fanylion ar www.churchinwales.org.uk/parishwebsite. Felly beth am fentro ac ymuno â sawl plwyf arall yn Esgobaeth Tyddewi sydd eisoes wedi elwa o'r cynllun hwn er mwyn gwella eu cyfathrebu a – pwy a wŷyr – llwyddo i dyfu eu heglwysy?

You and the ordained ministry

A biennial event for those considering ministry proved challenging and helpful. Stuart Bell reports

ROSIE WARD is Leadership Development Adviser with the Church Pastoral Aid Society and has been ordained for the past 15 years. Her work with the society is to help those who are exploring a call to ordained and other authorized leadership in the church. She came to Aberystwyth earlier in the year in order to spend a day with 18 prospective ordinands from around the province.

The agenda was very comprehensive dealing with the obvious need for guidance from heaven, discussing the nature of vocation, what it means to be ordained, issues relating to selection, finance and training, and taking the lid off parish ministry in Wales.

The conference was a joint

venture between the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Evangelical Fellowship of the Church in Wales and St Michael's Church, Aberystwyth. Rosie was assisted in the main sessions by her husband Malcolm, who is a Reader in the Church of England, and also by Andy Herrick, Team Vicar of Aberystwyth.

One young participant, Josh Maynard, commented that 'the day challenged my pre-conceptions of the ordained ministry. The group discussions with people of different backgrounds was particularly helpful'. He, among others, is now pursuing the next step towards ordination with the help of one of the Diocesan Vocations Advisers.

This is a biennial event and will happen again in the spring of 2011.



Rosie Ward

E-mail newsletter for sacred music lovers

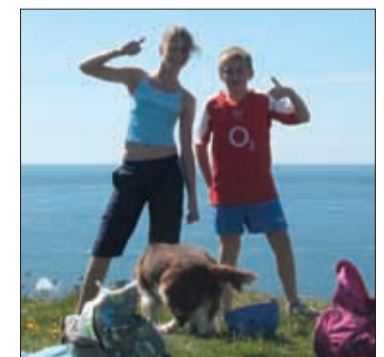
The RSCM has launched a free e-mail newsletter which is published six times a year. It includes news and information from the RSCM, ideas, inspiration and recommendations for the best use of music in worship, new publications, and information about events and courses. It also contains details of forthcoming broadcasts and other news such as key church music appointments, as well as reflecting wider issues. Anyone, whether they are members of the RSCM or not, can sign up for the newsletter by visiting www.rscm.com/newsletter.

Notes from the Diocesan Youth Committee

THE Diocesan Youth Committee (DYC) would like to hear from any youth groups who are doing exciting things within their parish/area or who have suggestions as to how the DYC can support the young people of the diocese.

Having recently assessed its own role and function, the DYC's main priority now is to assist the Bishop in appointing a Youth Chaplain/Youth Officer, who will lead the work of the committee in helping young people discover the love of God in their lives.

Although there is no youth camp this year, there are plans afoot for an annual cycle of youth events. It is hoped to hold at least one residential event for the whole diocese over a few days every



summer, with other one-day events being held in each archdeaconry throughout the year leading up to it.

If you would like to get in touch with the DYC, or receive news of its work, please contact Revd Nicholas Cale, The Vicarage, Wiston, Haverfordwest, SA62 4PL; nickthevic@parishofwiston.co.uk



From Iron Building to Solid Stone

David Williams celebrates the centenary of St David's, Talybont



THE population of the village of Talybont, near Aberystwyth, increased dramatically in the 19th century because of employment in local lead-mines and flannel mills. Nonconformist places of worship were quickly provided: Bethel Independent chapel and Tabernacle Baptist church in 1805, Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist church in 1869. A new vicar of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, the Revd William Davies, appointed in 1877, undoubtedly backed by Bishop Basil Jones (owner of the Gwynfryn estate in adjacent Llangynfelyn), saw the need for the Church to make spiritual provision for this hub of industrial activity within his parish. A small church was built close to Talybont with access by a footbridge over Nant Ceulan. Called the Iron Building or Zinc Church it was licensed for divine worship on 28 October 1879, and in 1913 was re-erected as Eglwys Dewi Sant at Nebo in the parish of Llansantffraed, where fortnightly services are still held within it.

Meanwhile, a new church built of Tonfannau stone had been erected at Pen-lôn at the northern end of Talybont, on a site given by Mrs Anwyl of Pen-y-bontbren Hall. Licensed for worship on 6 November 1909, and dedicated by Bishop John Owen on the 6 April following, the oak altar and reredos were blessed by Bishop Prosser on 12 September 1941. On 30 August 1944 a service of consecration was held, local tradition has it because gypsies had encamped nearby. The truth must be that the 1910 dedication had been forgotten. Before this second dedication the choir processed around the exterior of the church chanting the Litany in Welsh, while in his sermon Bishop Prosser remarked that 'the church was meant to rehearse worship on earth for worship in heaven'.

St David's Church has been led by a succession of capable clergy, supported by a committed laity. For many years it had a strong Sunday School, the children taking part with

those of other churches in the annual Eastertide Pwnc Festival. St David's always had a concern for the foreign missions, while for decades the Good Friday collection was devoted to the Diocesan House of Mercy (later styled the House of the Good Shepherd). Easter communicants averaged 53 for the years from 1921 to 1947. Numbers now are smaller, but the Church and its members continue to be a visible sign to the people of Talybont of God's presence. A book on the church's history, containing full acknowledgements, will be available this summer by e-mailing the author at dhw.1933@ukonline.co.uk

Cursillo Weekend at Ffald-y-Brenin

Rodney Webb, St Davids Cursillo Lay Director, rejoices in a successful event and looks forward to future gatherings

FFALD-Y-BRENIN was the home for this year's Cursillo Residential Weekend, held for the first time over Pentecost, from 28 to 31 May. The glorious setting was further enhanced by glorious weather which saw thousands of butterflies, a traditional symbol of Cursillo and rebirth, making their way over the centre and down into the valley.

It was the 12th such event since the Cursillo movement launched its inaugural training programme in St Davids diocese in 1998. In the intervening years, almost 100 pilgrims, both lay and clergy, have experienced the course, which had its origins in Spain during the 1940's.

This year's course attracted seven new pilgrims who were guided by a dedicated team through a full programme of talks, meditation, worship opportunities and silence; the overall aim being to assist in "the empowerment of Christians to grow through prayer, study and action", and thus better enable them to share God's love. Support for both pilgrims and team came from all around the world where Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and others held us in their prayers.

Cursillo St David's would like to thank all the staff at Ffald-y-Brenin, for their wonderful support and hospitality, and the members of St Brynach's, Pontfaen, for allowing us to use their beautiful church for the



closing service, led by Revd Hugh James and Revd Janet Robbins.

On an individual basis Cursillo encourages people to play a more active part in living out their Christian lives within their communities. The weekend is a starting point, with optional opportunities following the residential experience to encourage and share one's Christian journey; a journey generally referred to as "the 4th Day", or the rest of one's life.

Plans are now well in hand for the next weekend which will be held from 3 to 6 June 2010 at Ferryside Residential Centre. Prior to this there will be area gatherings (Ultreyas) where one may learn and

share a little more about the Cursillo movement, as follows:

8th August, 10.30am, Carew Methodist Hall;

26th September, 10.30am, Kidwelly Church Parish Hall;

31st October, 3pm, St Davids Cathedral Lady Chapel, Commissioning of new Lay Director. All are welcome.

For further details please contact any one of the following:

Spiritual Director – Rev Hugh James – 01554 890295

Lay Director – Rodney J. Webb – 01559 370143

Booking Secretary – Wendy Kidd – 01559 362294

Celebrating the Faith of a County

Peter Austin, Rural Tourism Development Officer at Ceredigion County Council, encourages us to tell the story of our faith and share our sacred spaces with visitors

CEREDIGION County Council has recently launched a project entitled 'Tourism Clusters – Discovering Ceredigion', which aims to celebrate and promote what is special about the county and develop its faith tourism.

Indeed, Ceredigion has a strong faith story to tell: notably, St David (*Dewi Sant*), the patron saint of Wales, was probably raised in Ceredigion, at Hen Fynyw, and his most famous miracle, where the ground rose from under his feet, occurred at Llanddewi Brefi. Cardigan is home to the shrine of Our Lady of the Taper and, of course, there is the important Cistercian monastery at Strata Florida. Daniel Rowlands, David Davis, Christmas Evans and Gwilym Marles amongst others have preached and celebrated the faith in ways that inspired both the local people and the wider Welsh tradition.

In more recent times Ceredigion has been a source for change and renewal in Christian and other faiths. The university town of Lampeter, for



Peter Austin speaking at the Diocesan Training day in Aberaeron

example, has Anglican and Catholic churches, a Muslim prayer room, Baptist, Calvinist Methodist and Welsh Independent chapels, a Wesleyan Methodist church, a Unitarian church, and two Evangelical churches. The university itself has one of the leading departments of Theology and Religion in Britain.

Apart from these key places the county has an abundance of interesting rural churches, chapels and other sites, and it is hoped to bring together representatives from these groups to work together to attract visitors from both near and far.

In April a very successful day was held in Aberaeron in conjunction

with the St David's Diocesan Tourism Group to launch the new visitor Toolkit, 'You Are Welcome' (see the separate article entitled 'Understanding Your Market'), and this is seen as a promising start to the project.

'Tourism Clusters – Developing Ceredigion' is funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 (which is, in turn, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development).

To find out more about being part of this exciting initiative, contact Peter at Ceredigion County Council, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0PA, tel: 01545 572067 or email: petera@ceredigion.gov.uk

'Reverse Aid'

Llanegwad Parish Church is in the process of being restored, thanks to a donation of £40,000 from a generous American benefactor. The church was closed in 2005 when the building posed a danger to the public. A chance remark by the Revd Philip Johnes, Vicar of Llanegwad and Llanfynydd, resulted in the gift and led to an appeal fund which has since grown to over £130,000.

Understanding your Market

The Diocesan Tourism Group's informative training day in Aberaeron prompted lively debate . . .

ABOUT thirty people attended the Diocesan Tourism Training Day in Aberaeron in April to consider ways of attracting visitors to our sacred buildings.

After introductions, the morning started with visits to Holy Trinity Church, Aberaeron, and St Davids Church, Henfynyw, when we were asked to try to imagine that we had little, or no, knowledge of Christian symbolism and tradition. This enabled us to see churches as visitors might see them, bringing about some interesting results and a lively discussion when we returned to the plenary session.

Peter Austin, Rural Tourism Development Officer from Ceredigion County Council, informed us that there is funding available for community projects in Ceredigion, including a pilot scheme for innovative tourist attractions. We were also reminded that we have a strong, faith-based history to draw on, and it is important that local communities and local government organisations



work together to provide welcoming and appropriate places for visitors.

Reconvening after lunch, we were told that, for a variety of reasons, four out of five adults visit a place of worship every year, and,

perhaps more surprisingly, 2 out of 3 overseas visitors to the UK list churches and cathedrals as contributory reasons for their holiday.

We were then handed a work-

book, produced by the Diocese of St Davids and now available for use across Wales, entitled 'You are Welcome', which is a practical guide to help churches assess how they, individually, want to project themselves. Breaking up into small groups, we then held animated discussions on one particular aspect of this workbook.

Interestingly, insurance companies are now looking favourably on churches which open their doors on a regular, or daily, basis and there are ways to reduce the risks of vandalism and theft.

We, as Christians, need to understand our market and offer a welcome to all those who walk in through the doors of our churches, whatever their expectations, ages and backgrounds.

Members of individual parishes need to decide how they wish to project their churches. This will be a crucial part of future planning and, if this training day was anything to go by, will be a hotly-debated issue.

— Tessa Briggs

Details of the many resources available can be found on the diocesan website: www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/tourism/ or contact the Tourism Group directly at jeremy.m@talktalk.net

The Church: A living, welcoming place

The Diocesan Tourism Group encourages us all to consider how we can best fulfil visitors' expectations . . .

WHO are the many people that visit churches? What are they looking for?

These questions intrigued Jeremy Martineau so much that he conducted a survey across 160 churches in England and Wales with questionnaires available for visitors to complete. Over 13,000 completed questionnaires were sent in and the results form the basis of his book "Rural Visitors", which is presented as a workbook for churches to use to think through how well they provide for visitors.

The data show that although a majority attend church at least once a year, 30% do not attend at all. Most come with at least one other person and travel by car. No surprise there, but 11% came from within 10 miles, suggesting that even locals can think of themselves as visitors. Some 30% also visited other churches that week. A significant proportion of respondents wanted information about what's on in the community, showing that the church can fulfil a useful function as an information point. Nearly 70% wanted somewhere to pray, and 42% an opportunity to write a prayer request. 46% expected to find an open bible.

One church which sent two people to the recent tourism training day at Fishguard immediately implemented at least one

recommendation – to leave hymn numbers on the board with a hymn book available so that visitors could see what hymns had been sung. The

message – let visitors discover that the church is a place for a living community of faith, not a museum. The newly designed Visitors'



Book from the Diocesan Tourism Group offers churches a good opportunity to gather more information about the visitors, and even to build a network of friends who could be kept informed about what's going on in your church. Have a look at the sample page on the diocesan website www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/tourism/resources/. The questionnaire that formed the basis of the original research could be emailed to visitors with a request to complete and return it.

If your church is interested in building a better knowledge of what your visitors would welcome please e-mail Revd Sarah Geach at sgeach@btinternet.com

The National Gardens Scheme

Founded in 1927, the National Gardens Scheme raises funds by opening gardens to the public. In the last 10 years over £23m has been donated to charities. From February to October gardens which have been selected as places of quality, character and interest, including many across St Davids diocese, are open. Full details from the NGS Yellow Book 2009 or by visiting www.ngs.org.uk

Mothers' UNION
Gofal Cristnogol i Deuluoedd
Diocese of St. Davids

Help where, and when, it's needed

Betty Rowe, Leader of the Aberystwyth Branch of the Mothers Union, explains how help is at hand for those who may be far from home

IT'S amazing how belonging to a very small branch of a world-wide society can lead to being involved with an unknown family hundreds of miles away.

During November I had a telephone call from the Mothers Union (MU) Diocesan President in the Derbyshire area.

Her granddaughter was a first year student at the UCW in Aberystwyth and was going through a rough patch. She had been taken ill and sent home to Derby. An operation to remove her appendix followed, then a short convalescence and she had returned to college. However, after another couple of weeks she was again taken ill and again, in much pain, was back in Bronglais.

This grandmother had used her knowledge of the MU set-up, found there was a branch in Aberystwyth, contacted St Davids and got my name and telephone number! She wondered if the branch could arrange for someone to visit her granddaughter and, if possible, ring her in Derby. I was pleased to do this and arranged with two other members to be on standby if necessary.

Nothing is ever straightforward, though. I got to the hospital only to find that the girl had been moved to a different ward. I tracked her down and introduced myself. She really was in a great deal of pain so, after explaining how a stranger had come looking for her, I did not stay very long. I left with a bag of washing which she was most reluctant to give me, but which I had told her grandmother I would be pleased to do.

I duly phoned Derby, but the next day had another call to say she had again been sent home and would be returning to college in a few days.

The latest news is that the young girl is much better and carrying on with her studies.

It is good to think that, through the MU, a family was reassured, although only one visit was made.

Readers might like to know that this help is available equally to members and non-members of the MU, throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion, wherever one of our branches exists.

Cilwendeg Shell House Hermitage

Paul Mackness extols the virtues of a unique building

LOCATED in North Pembrokeshire the Shell House Hermitage of Cilwendeg must be one of the most unusual architectural features in Wales. Built in the late 1820's for Morgan Jones the Younger of Cilwendeg, this small building hidden in the trees was probably a little retreat for the ladies of the estate to picnic and gossip.

After falling into a state of disrepair, the Shell House was repaired by the Temple Trust, a charity that seeks to preserve historical garden buildings and monuments.

The interior of the Shell House is not surprisingly elaborately decorated with native seashells, minerals and coloured glass fragments, the only exotic shells are large Queen Conch shells which form the centre-piece in each of the wall panels. The preserved floor is laid out in a delicate design using the

knucklebones of sheep and oxen. However no description can truly do credit to its uniqueness and beauty.

There is something almost magical in the design of the Shell House. The Temple Trust has helped evoke the feeling of enchantment by placing some ornately decorated owls in the shell house as *Genius Loci*. The Shell House is surrounded by some idyllic woodland and there are places to sit and enjoy them. Many local artists have been inspired by the Hermitage, including Janette Buss, whose painting of it will be displayed in Theatre Mwldan during the summer.

The nearby Capel Colman Church (recently restored), which served the estate, also helps to evoke this other worldly atmosphere, as its fairytale style tower rises from the trees on the edge of Cilwendeg Park.

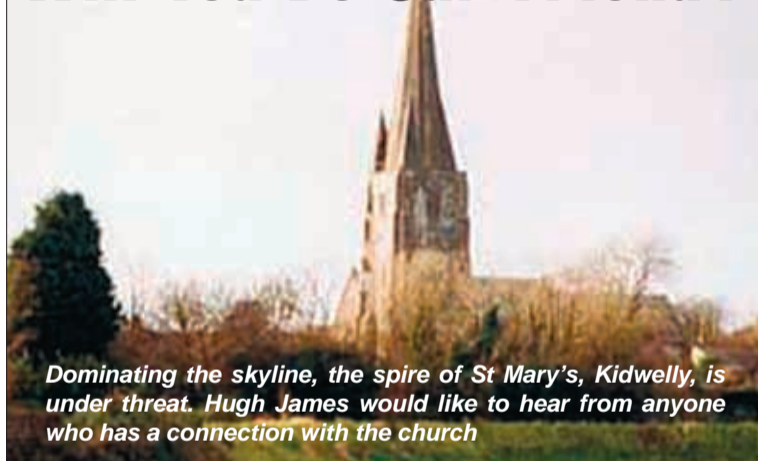
The Temple Trust and St Colman's Church, Capel Colman in

the Maenordeifi Group, have entered into a partnership to help make both buildings accessible to visitors. On Thursdays between May and September (inclusive) the Shell House and Church are open to visitors. Donations are split between the Temple Trust and the Capel Colman Restoration Fund. There is a car park and disabled bay for visitors. Already the Shell House has become a local attraction visited by groups, schools and individuals, in 2008 there was even an Easter Egg Hunt.

Visitors are welcome out of season and on other days by prior arrangement with the Rector, Fr Paul Mackness (tel: 01239 682830; paulr@pmackness.fsnet.co.uk) for which a nominal donation is asked towards the Shell House and Church. Cilwendeg is located in North Pembrokeshire off the B4332 between Boncath and Newchapel.



Will You Be Our Friend?



Dominating the skyline, the spire of St Mary's, Kidwelly, is under threat. Hugh James would like to hear from anyone who has a connection with the church

ST MARY'S, Kidwelly, is one of the finest parish churches in Carmarthenshire. This ancient and historic former abbey has survived the ravages of time and been a place of prayer for centuries. Along with the magnificent castle, it dominates the skyline, and those who worship here are proud of it.

The church's crowning glory is the slender and beautifully proportioned spire. Dominating the centre of town and pointing heavenward, it witnesses to the central place traditionally held by the Christian faith in this community. But will it always be there? Three times in its history the spire has collapsed, and been rebuilt. Today it is again under threat. The top 40 feet need to be taken down and reconstructed, the remainder badly needs re-pointing

and the whole structure of the tower has to be made weather-proof. We forget how big a structure the spire is when we see it from the by-pass or the train, but we had a sharp reminder when faced with the cost of repairing it. The first of three phases will cost in excess of £300,000. But we are not disheartened and are approaching our fundraising with zeal and enthusiasm.

We are trying to contact people connected with the church with whom we have lost contact. To this end we have launched a new organisation "The Friends of St Mary's, Kidwelly". For a minimum annual subscription of £15, people can join and will receive a regular newsletter, take part in an annual Friends' Weekend, and rekindle their

links with this active community. We have thought particularly of people who no longer live here. Perhaps they were baptised or married in St Mary's, or have relatives buried in the churchyard. We have also aimed this part of our appeal at those who do not share our faith, but who, for all sorts of reasons, might wish to be associated with St Mary's.

If you are interested in becoming a friend of St Mary's, simply finding out more, or if you know of someone else connected with Kidwelly, please contact the Revd Hugh James, the Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Kidwelly, SA17 4SY, ficerdy@tiscali.co.uk and you will be sent details of membership. Alternatively visit www.kidwelly.gov.uk/attractions_st_marys.php

Pilgrims and prayers

Lynn Chambers explains how a creative approach to prayer has paid dividends, both spiritually and financially

LLANFIHANGEL-RHOS-YLCORN, on the hills above Brechfa, has always been a place of pilgrimage and the prayer pebble pool at Llanfihangel has quickly become a significant part of our prayer life.

Those who visit our church during the week leave pebbles in the pool as symbols of their prayers. The pebbles are then placed on the Lord's Table during our Sunday services and included in the intercessions, reminding us that we are part of a larger worshipping community. A post-it board, for prayers or prayer requests, has also enhanced our prayer life.

Developing the idea of pilgrimage we felt the need to offer refreshments for the body as well as

the soul, and our visitors may help themselves to free bottles of water and Fair Trade energy bars. Interestingly, the comments in the visitors' book, and donations, have noticeably increased. It seems that the more we offer to our visitors, the more we receive, spiritually and financially. More significantly, although many local people do not attend Sunday worship, more are dropping in as they now feel they are part of the church community.

The congregation was so encouraged by the response to their creative approach to prayer that they decided to create a prayer labyrinth in the church field. The project generated much local interest, with most of the materials being donated and people giving generously of their

time.

Labyrinths have been used for hundreds of years to help people draw close to God in prayer. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has one route in and the same route out and you cannot get lost. It can be remarkably like our journey of faith, as there can be times when we feel near to God and other times when we feel far away. As long as we stay on the path we will not go wrong.

There are three stages in walking the labyrinth: The first stage is letting go as you enter. This can be a time of confession and of bringing a particular situation or person before God.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5.7

The second stage is being still at the centre of the labyrinth. You can spend as long as you like at the centre, receiving whatever God



wants to give you.

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46.10

The third stage prepares us to come back into the real world as we are equipped with renewed strength

and energy.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40.31

Open Churches

The Gospels Exhibition

Saint Teilo's Church
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire
www.llandeilofawr.org.uk



The Llandeilo Gospel book is a spiritual treasure of Wales. It contains the earliest surviving examples of written Welsh and is in digitally managed form using the British Library's "Turning the Pages" technology.

Admission free.

Open 11am - 4pm Tuesday to Saturday, Easter to end October.

All Saints' Church, Llangorwen, near Aberystwyth



Historic Oxford Movement Church, with the first stone altar to be built in Wales following the Reformation. Admire our wonderful bronze chandeliers – a gift to the Church from John Newman, latterly Cardinal Newman, who is now in line for sainthood.

Open daily. Tel: 01970 828911 or email j.wheeler432@btinternet.com

St Tudwal's, Church Road, Llanstadwell is open every day, in daylight hours. It is situated in a beautiful, peaceful spot on the northern shore of the Cleddau estuary, and is on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. The tower is thought to be Norman.

Further details: cox@hazelbank111.fsnet.co.uk
Tel: 01646 600227 or 01646 602464



St Mary's, Cardigan – This Grade 2* church was built in the 12th century by Benedictine monks, whose Priory was next door. Its fine Chancel, rebuilt in the 15th century, is a superb example of the Decorated style, with many surviving original features. The three-storey West Tower was rebuilt in the 18th century. Many gravestones relate to the Town's maritime past.
Open daily. Tel: 01239 612722

Holy Cross, Mwnt – This is a single-cell, Grade 1, church of medieval origin with connections to the 6th century Saints. The Font is of porphyritic stone found in the Preseli hills. This was a stopping place for vigil over the bodies of the saints for pilgrims on their way to Bardsey Island/Ynys Enlli.
Open every day of the year. Tel: 01239 612722

St Cynllo, Llangoedmor – This Grade 2* church is set on a beautiful site in a wooded valley. The building is unusual in having a nave and chancel of near equal length. The central steeple is an extraordinary miniature version of a Wren spire, done in local (Cilgerran) stone and tinged with Greek revival detail Wren would never have used! Many other interesting features. A lovely place to spend some time.
Open daily. Tel: 01239 612722

St Davids Cathedral – Diary of Events Summer & Autumn 2009

July

10th – 6.00pm **Canons' Installation and Three Choirs Evensong**
11th – 7.30pm **Dyfed Choir Summer Concert**
12th – 3pm **Plant Dewi Children's Service**
14th-27th **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Gillian Richardson photography**

15th – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: The New International Opera – An Evening at the Opera**

22nd – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Marco Lo Muscio, Rome**

24th – 7.30pm **Fishguard Festival: Orchestra of The Welsh National Opera**

26th **Walk for Cancer** by Caroline Crockett, starting from St Davids

28th – 7.30pm **Fishguard Festival: John S. Davies Singers**

28th-10th Aug **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Fine Arts and Crafts Group**

29th – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Alex Hodgkinson, Keble College, Cambridge**

30th **Chapter Day**

August

Until 10th **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Fine Arts and Crafts Group**

5th – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Simon Pearce, St Davids Cathedral**

11th **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Andrew Bailey – paintings**

12th – 2-3pm, 6pm, 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Saints and Stones Evensong Summer Concert: Alexander Finch, Cheltenham College**

15th – 7.30pm **Côr Meibion De Cymru Concert**
19th – 2-3pm, 8.15pm

Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Oliver Walker, Wells Cathedral

25th **St Davids Cathedral Cloister Gallery Exhibition: Chris Tancock, photography**

12 noon **Concert: Unicorn Singers**

26th – 2-3pm, 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Michael Slaney, St Davids Cathedral**

September

2nd – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Nicholas O'Neill, Southwark RC**

8th **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Pembrokeshire Craftsmen's Circle**

9th – 8.15pm **Summer Concert: Alexander Mason, St Davids Cathedral**

September – continued

12th -13th **Friends of St Davids Cathedral weekend**

16th – 2-3pm & 8.15pm **Breathing Space: in the Lady Chapel – Summer Concert: Alexander Mason & Simon Pearce, St Davids Cathedral**

16th -19th – 10am-5pm **Pembrokeshire Craftsmen's Circle Admission free. Wheelchair access**

19th – 7.30pm **Raul Speek & Friends**

19th – 22nd-5th Oct **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Adam Buick, pottery**

23rd – 10am-4pm & 8.15pm **Days of Refreshment for the Soul Summer Concert**

26th – 5pm **Royal School of Church Music: Evensong**

October
17th – 7.30pm **Concert Côr Dyfed and Russian Choir: Rachmaninov Vespers**

November
3rd-30th **St Davids Cathedral Cloisters Gallery Exhibition: Pembrokeshire Craftsmen's Circle**

21st – 10am-4pm **Days of Refreshment for the Soul**

December
22nd **Candlelit Nine Lessons and Carols**

Normal Pattern of Services

Sundays 8am Holy Communion
9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (Capel Mair)
9.30am Parish Eucharist (Nave)
11.15am Choral Matins
6pm Choral Evensong

4th Sunday of Month
7.30am Morning Prayer
8am Holy Communion (1662)
9.30am Cymun Bendigaid (Capel Mair)
9.30am Family Eucharist (Nave)
11.15am Choral Eucharist
6pm Choral Evensong

Daily (except Wednesdays)
8am Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
6pm Evening Prayer or Choral Evensong

Wednesdays
8am Y Foreol Weddi & Cymun Bendigaid
6pm Evening Prayer

Days of Refreshment for the Soul ... in St Davids Cathedral Cloisters

Wednesday 23rd September 'The spirituality of Ann Griffiths' led by Canon Patrick Thomas and Helen Aspden

Saturday 21st November 'Listening' led by Revd Dennis Wight and Helen Aspden

The days start at 10.00am and finish at 4.00pm. We invite a donation of £5 for each day which includes drinks. Lunch may be taken in the Refectory or bring a packed lunch.

To book a place, contact Revd John Bennett, 01348 831354 or johns.bennett@virgin.net

'If your body is running too fast, stop and let your soul catch up'

Contact St Davids Cathedral: 01437 720199/720204
www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk

Ship Shape Fishguard Fashion

Jeremy Martineau explains how an unusually-designed Victorian church is being altered to meet the needs of its congregation, the community and visitors

LAST year, St Mary's Church in Fishguard celebrated 150 years in the current building. Well known for its stained glass, it shares with many churches the desire of the Victorians to have the populace seated to listen to long sermons. Uncomfortable pews fill the nave from corner to corner. In recent years, churches all over the country have struggled to find space for the social contact that helps establish a feeling of fellowship in congregations.

St Mary's is unusual in being laid out like a chapel with diverging entrances leading to two aisles either side of a wide central block of seating, carefully separated by a central divider over two large heating pipes.

The Church Council is enthusiastic to make the church building more useful both to visitors and the congregations that worship here. A questionnaire was sent to all members on the electoral roll, asking their views on a range of possible alterations. Following this consultation some first steps are to be taken, with several minor alterations to the pews, freeing up space for exhibitions, displays for visitors, social mixing, and a

children's area. At the time of writing, the Diocesan Advisory Committee has not yet considered these changes, which are modest and necessary to free the growing congregation for new work.

It is hoped to complete these alterations before the end of 2009. The Church Council has already taken a number of steps to make the building more interesting and attractive to visitors, none of which cost more than a few pounds. The most recent innovation is to leave the hymn numbers on the board so that visitors can see what the congregation sang at the most recent

service. A set of "bat boards" is being prepared for visitors to have more information about each of the windows. A new "church open" sign is already bringing more visitors to the church. It is put out each day just beside the stone trough of flowers, by the person who unlocks the church.

Many of these minor changes have been made, and the next stage is some work on pews, but the future may hold more radical structural change as we seek to adapt the building for the 21st century.



Major facelift for Llanarthne Church

THANKS largely to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Llanarthne Church is about to undergo extensive restoration. Work on this Grade II listed medieval church will include repairs to the roof, re-pointing external walls with lime mortar, limewash to the 13th century tower, re-glazing windows, improved drainage and renewed rainwater goods. The total scheme is costing £250,000 of which the Heritage Lottery Fund is contributing £100,000. Other generous contributors include Carmarthen based CWM Environmental (GrantScape) and the National Churches Trust. The parishioners have also raised nearly £20,000.

The Church contains many references to the Paxton family who lived at Middleton Hall – now the National Botanic Gardens of Wales.

Churchwarden Mrs Mary Bound is quoted as saying, "We are delighted that at long last this project is going ahead – the last major restoration took place in Victorian times, well over 100 years ago. It is



hoped this scheme will help to preserve this ancient Church for another century at least."

Explaining the importance of the award Jennifer Stewart, Head of HLF in Wales said, "Wales' many churches are an important part of our heritage and are strongly associated with the local identity of

the towns and villages they serve. We are delighted that this grant will help secure the future of Llanarthne Church, not just as a place of worship, but as a focus for community activity."

The work will be overseen by the architect Mr Roger Clive-Powell of Llanybydder.

Open Churches



St Peter's, Lampeter Velfrey (Listed, Grade 2)

Gerald of Wales mentions Lampeter and Velfrey in his autobiography (1204/5), presupposing a church to give the place its name. The oldest man-made object in the church is the lead-lined font, still in use after seven hundred years. The church's Other monuments relate to the Allen family of Cilrhiw, connected by marriage to Josiah Wedgwood, Charles Darwin, Peter Roget (of *Thesaurus* fame), the poet Henry Longfellow and Lord Salisbury the former Prime Minister. Open 24/7.



St David's, Llanddewi Velfrey (Listed, Grade 2)

'Off the beaten track' is an understatement regarding this jewel of a church, hidden south of the A40 down a turning just after the garage (going west). Most of the walls, the bowl of the font and the arcade in the chancel are medieval. The vaults on the outside of the north wall belong to the Lewis family (landowners in the area since at least the 17th century) and the Beynons of Trewern. One former Rector was Isaac Newton's immediate predecessor as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge; another was the successor of Halley (of comet fame) as Astronomer Royal. This oasis of peace with its prayer-soaked atmosphere is well worth a detour. Open 24/7.



St Thomas', St Dogmaels, next to the ruins of the Tironian Abbey of St Mary and Hanes Llandocho Heritage Centre. Open all year. Tours can be arranged. For parish pilgrimages, the church and its amenities can be made available for a celebration of the Eucharist or any other service.
Tel: 01239 612030.



St Peter the Fisherman, Marloes – a small Church open all year for visitors and anyone wishing to just sit silently. Come in and see our Baptistry. Varying Services every Sunday.
Telephone:
01646 636255 or
01646 636243

'The Churches of Wales constitute one of Britain's unheralded treasures'

T J Hughes; *Wales's Best One Hundred Churches* (2006)

TIM HUGHES and Simon Jenkins in *Wales: Churches, Houses and Castles* (2009) and other books being written on the theme of visiting Welsh churches, reflect a growing interest in our built ecclesiastical heritage.

The Association for Tourism and Leisure Education (ATLAS) has been researching cultural tourism for 10 years across Europe. Some findings

- Cultural tourism (including visiting religious buildings) is tourism's fastest growing element.

- The largest age group making these visits is 20-29 year olds

- 62% of these will have a higher education qualification

- 42% will visit a religious place.

- They visit because: its relaxing – the atmosphere – interesting things to see – their knowledge is increased.

From Ecclesiastical insurance web site – *If at all possible your church should be left open during the day for those who wish to pray, or who wish to find a place for quiet contemplation. It should also be*

open for tourists and other visitors with an interest in historic buildings who find it very disappointing when a church is locked, particularly if they have travelled some way. The presence of legitimate visitors will also help to deter those with a criminal intent.

How promising it is, that St David's diocese is following the encouragement of Bishop Wyn, to explore ways in which churches can entice the visitor and allow the stones to speak eloquently of the gospel. Telling the *story*, and not so much the *history*, will capture the visitor's imagination and interest. From the cathedral to the remote hilltop church, West Wales' churches have so much to offer visitors – when we don't lock them out!

The potential of the churchyard to attract newcomers to our places of worship through its ecology and its genealogy should not be underestimated – Churches Tourism Network Wales is offering a conference on these two subjects in October 2009 – more information at www.ctnw.co.uk

The Gospel encourages us to share – sharing the buildings with visitors can be an uplifting experience – recognising from the visitors book or the prayer pebbles that there is a wider flock than those present at the Sunday morning Eucharist has made some congregations grow in confidence – not *What can you do for the visitor?* but *What can the visitor do for you?*

If your church wants to welcome visitors, make certain it is on the following web pages:

www.visitwaleschurches.com or www.ymweldeglwysicymru.com

– John Winton



Dr Madeleine Grey, Reader in History, University of Newport, at Llanfihangel-Rhos-y-corn

Eglwys St Sulien

On 28 June, Bishop Wyn re-opened and re-consecrated St Sulien's Church, Tumble



Rheswm i lawenhau!

Bu'r Esgob Wyn yn ail agor ac yn ail gysegru Eglwys S. Sulien (yr Eglwys Fach) yn Y Tymbl ar 28 Mehefin eleni. Eglwys wreiddiol y pentref oedd S. Sulien ond fe'i llosgwyd mewn tân fis Awst diwethaf. Mae S. Sulien yn gweithredu fel neuadd i'r Eglwys erbyn hyn, ond mae gwasanaethau yn cael eu cynnal yno o hyd.



Holy Trinity, Llanegwad is Grade 2 listed and has wall paintings and stained glass in abundance. Almost all interior surfaces are decorated – including the barrel-vaulted roof. Open to visitors every Thursday 2 to 4pm from May to September.

Contact the Vicarage on 01267 290142 for further details or visit www.llanegwad-carmarthen.co.uk/trinity_1.htm

St Mary's Lady Street Kidwelly

Open every day, 8.30am to 6.00pm, when visitors can see

- * a splendid Thomas Warne organ,
- * a fine English alabaster statue of Mary
- * and many other fine features.

Further details:

www.kidwelly.gov.uk/attractions_st_marys.php

Tel: 01554 890295

ficerdy@tiscali.co.uk

'Arweinlyfr Bach i Ddarlun Mawr'

Disgrifir 'Yr Arweinlyfr Bach i Ddarlun Mawr' fel 'llyfr bychan ag iddo bwrpas mawr' sy'n anelu at ddangos bod llawer mwy i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru nag y gŵyr y rhan fwyaf o bobl amdani. Er enghraifft, buddsoddir £2.5m mewn prosiectau cymunedol a chroesewir 1m o ymwelwyr i 1,430 o addoldai bob blwyddyn. Mae'r llyfr hefyd esbonio rhai o'r sialensiau sy'n wynebu cymunedau Cymru ac yn egluro sut mae'r Eglwys yn cydweithio â'r sectorau preifat a chyhoeddus er mwyn gwneud gwahaniaeth amlwg yn y cymunedau hyn. Yn olaf, ac efallai'n bwysicaf, mae'r llyfr yn dangos bod yr Eglwys yn estyn croeso i bawb, p'un ai eu bod yn mynychu gwasanaeth, yn dathlu achlysur arbennig neu'n chwilio am gymorth.

Mae copiau dwyieithog o'r arweinlyfr ar gael yn eich eglwys lleol, neu ymwelwch â www.churchinwales.org.uk am fanylion pellach.



Assistant Cathedral Organist Simon Pearce feeds musical appetites at the RSCM's 'Eat, meet and sing' event at Uzmastron on 20th June

Media Wales, The Senedd & Torchwood!

Paul Mackness, Communications Team Secretary, reflects on an informative day in Cardiff

ON April 28th, Tessa Briggs (*Pobl Dewi* Editor and Acting Communications Team Chairman) and I met other communications officers and diocesan publications officers from across the Province, under the leadership of Anna Morrell, Archbishop's Press Officer.

The day began with a tour of the new Media Wales facility in the heart of Cardiff. Media Wales controls the *Western Mail* and many of the local and weekly newspapers in South Wales. The tour was given by Pat English, who showed us round the facilities and explained how news is put together. We were given the opportunity to speak to some of the journalists and were advised as to what makes a good media story.

After a mad dash to the taxis in order to avoid the sudden torrential rain, we travelled to the Bay for the second part of the day. Having not really been to Cardiff Bay since I was an Ordinand, I was amazed at how it had developed and, after an



initial anorak moment pointing out to Tessa where Torchwood was supposed to be, we had a quick lunch in the Millennium Centre before going to the National Assembly for Wales building, the Senedd, for another tour.

As someone who always

balked at the cost and appearance of the Assembly Building, I was won over to its merits and would say, on reflection, that the building is better designed to be inside looking out, rather than outside looking in. It is in fact a very public and accessible building (which

serves Fairtrade Tea and Coffee), which anyone can visit, and is ecologically sound in its construction and operation.

After going through the security check we watched part of First Minister's Questions, as the Assembly was sitting. We were then shown the media suite used by the Assembly for press briefings. After

this we met Iwan Williams, the Assembly's head of Media Relations, who explained the difference between the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government, their different roles and the role of the media and the Assembly.

The day was very beneficial for the Provincial Communications Team as it allowed us to share experiences and working practices and to reflect on how we relate to the media and outside world. A more business-orientated meeting is planned for the autumn.

Providing a Presence

Anne Greig explains how a small congregation felt rewarded by its hard work at a recent village festival

ST CARANNOG's Church in Llangrannog had been offered a free stall at the village Nôl a Mla'n Festival. Could we fill it, look after it and keep selling for six hours? Could our Church, with its regular attendance of 10-12, accept the challenge?

For its millennium project, the Llangrannog Welfare Committee had commissioned a life-size statue of our patron saint, St Carannog, to be placed on the cliff top. Due to many other commissions for the statue-creator (local sculptor Sebastian Boyeson) work is still in the early stages, but it seemed appropriate to link with this project and produce a leaflet about the statue-creator (local sculptor Sebastian Boyeson) work is still in the early stages, but it seemed appropriate to link with this project and produce a leaflet about

We felt that having a presence at the festival was more important than making lots of money. Selling cakes was our chosen method, because people seem to like buying them. So the next few weeks were frantic with activity, as some went around talking to anybody and everybody about making cakes, while others worked on producing an

informative, visitor-friendly, bilingual leaflet about our patron saint.

The grandson of Ceredig, from whom the name Ceredigion comes, Carannog flourished in the Llangrannog area between 480 and 540 AD. Legend states that doves guided him, and one day, while whittling wood in his hermit's cave above the site of the present church, a dove flew off with one of the shavings. Carannog followed the bird and, at the place where the shavings were dropped, he built the first church. Many miracles are attributed to the saint, who also visited Cornwall and Brittany, where there are churches dedicated to him.

On 20th June, the village of Llangrannog was turned into a festival site for the day. The Festival Committee wanted to encourage visitors to use both pubs, hence the title *Nôl a Mla'n* (Back and Forth). Bands, choirs, groups and individuals sang alternately at the Ship and the Pentre and there were family attractions in the Ship Car Park.

We sold the last cake five minutes before the stalls closed. The £230 raised was incidental: we had achieved our aim to have a day-long presence at the Festival. What a great feeling!

To be a Pilgrim

Philip Wyn Davies invites us to become 21st century pilgrims

CHRISTIANS nowadays talk a lot about pilgrimages. The pilgrim shrines of England and Wales were all despoiled by Henry VIII, but in the following century the Protestant John Bunyan wrote the all-time favourite "The Pilgrim's Progress". In Wales, William Williams, Pantycelyn, wrote of himself as being "a pilgrim through this barren land" ("perin gwael ei wedd").

Nowadays, cathedrals often speak of their visitors as being pilgrims. But did you know that Christian pilgrimage in the full, traditional sense of the word flourishes among Anglicans in 21st Century Britain, or that a restored pilgrimage shrine in Norfolk was, not long ago, voted Britain's favourite spiritual place? This shrine is the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, destroyed by Henry VIII and restored by Alfred Hope Patten, Vicar of Walsingham, between 1921 and his death in 1958.

Perhaps you feel that a "Shrine of Our Lady" doesn't sound very Anglican? Why then would you want to go on a pilgrimage to Walsingham? One reason might be to see what it is that makes Walsingham so popular and such an encouraging success story in a time of decline. Mary is the one who said "Yes" to God, and Walsingham encourages us to follow her example. It is a welcoming, beautiful place where we find



The image arrives at the Shrine church during the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the translation of the image

ourselves among fellow pilgrims who quickly become friends.

The accommodation at the Shrine is comfortable and the food excellent. Walsingham is inclusive, a holy place that doesn't take itself too seriously. The worship at Walsingham, the very atmosphere of the place, can take us out of ourselves and our everyday concerns and give us a glimpse of the spiritual realities, the things of eternity, the joy of heaven, the true end of our Christian pilgrimage here on earth. Walsingham sends us back to our own parishes refreshed, renewed and strengthened, in faith and commitment and many pilgrims go every year,

including a group from this diocese.

If you are interested in becoming a pilgrim, contact the Secretary of the West Wales Pilgrimage Association, Elizabeth Arnold-Davies, on 01545 570676 or ead@aberaeron.f9.co.uk

FINAL DATE
to submit articles for
the next edition of
POBL DEWI is
23rd OCTOBER



Sofa the night before

Ffald-y-brenin

Bishop Saunders Davies writes about the Ffald-y-brenin retreat centre in Carmarthenshire and encourages us to think about the possibility of a retreat. The centre offers a tranquil environment suitable for prayer and reflection. Bishop Wyn prepared for his consecration as our Bishop at Ffald-y-brenin. Further details are available from fy.b@virgin.net or 01348 881 382.

NYTHA Ffald-y-brenin yn naturiol dan gysgod Carningli yn wynebu Foel Eryr yr ochr draw i'r Cwm. Yn ogystal â chapel, ystafell gyffredin ac ystafell gyfarfod, ceir ystafelloedd gwely gyda lle i 34 o welyau. Yn ychwanegol at y rhai sy'n lletya yno bob wythnos daw rhyw fil o ymwelwyr eraill i'r ganolfan yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Golyga hyn fod Ffald-y-brenin yn ganolfan lle caiff aelodau o eglwysi a chapeli, anffyddwyr a phobl sy'n dal i chwilio, gyfle i drafod neu i encilio'n dawel yn y gerddi neu'r tir agored wrth droed y groes fawr.

Er bod croeso i bawb, canolfan encil Gristnogol yw hon. Nod y wardeniaid, Roy a Daphne Godwin, yw darparu amgylchedd lle gall pobl synhwyro bod Duw yn eu caru a'u bendithio bob un. Yn yr awyrgylch hwn caiff calonnau eu hagog ac eneidiau eu hadfywio.

Lle i ysbrydoli dyn yw'r ganolfan hon. Yma y daeth y Deon Wyn Evans ar encil cyn ei gysegru'n esgob ac addefodd mai yma y cafodd ei genadwri ar gyfer ei sefydlu'n Esgob Tyddewi.

Asgwrn cefn bywyd ysbrydol Ffald-y-brenin yw'r weddi feunyddiol, bore, prynhawn a nos. Ymateb i gonsŷrn Duw am ei bobl a'i greadigaeth yw'r weddi hon a phwysleisir yr angen am fendithio'r

fro a'r gymdogaeth gyfan. Defnyddir gweddi Caleb dros Gymru ac ymledodd honno i sawl cwr o'r byd. Gellir disgrifio Ffald-y-brenin fel tŷ gweddi ac esgorodd ar gannoedd o dai gweddi ledled y wlad. Gwerth y rhain yw eu patrwm syml, gyda dau neu dri yn dod ynghyd yn enw Iesu Grist. Ar ôl hunanymholiad, adroddant Weddi'r Arglwydd ac yna ânt ati i weddio dros sefyllfaoedd penodol yn eu hardal, eu stryd neu eu gweithle hwy. Yn ychwanegol at eiriol ar Dduw i fendithio'r sefyllfaoedd hyn, chwiliant am gyfle i gynorthwyo'n ymarferol ac yn adeiladol.

Trwy gadw cysylltiad rhwng y tai gweddi hyn mae Ffald-y-brenin yn hyrwyddo mynachaeth gyfoes,

lle meithrinnir ymroddiad i weddi ac ymdeimlad o berthyn i we o aelwydydd sy'n agored i iachawdwriaeth Duw.

Gweld Duw ar waith sy'n sbarduno ymholi a chyfle i rannu'r Newyddion Da. Unwaith y mis daw tyrfa o'r tai gweddi hyn i Neuadd Jabes, (am fod Ffald-y-brenin yn rhy fach), i gydweiddio ac i ddathlu gweithredu amlwg Duw yn cyfannu a'n dadlennu ei deyrnas nefol.

Gellir gofyn am raglen y flwyddyn, copi o gyfrol Roy Godwin, *The Grace Outpouring: blessing others through prayer*, a gwybodaeth bellach am y Ganolfan encil Gristnogol hon trwy'r e-bost – fy.b@virgin.net – neu trwy roi caniad ar 01348 881 382.

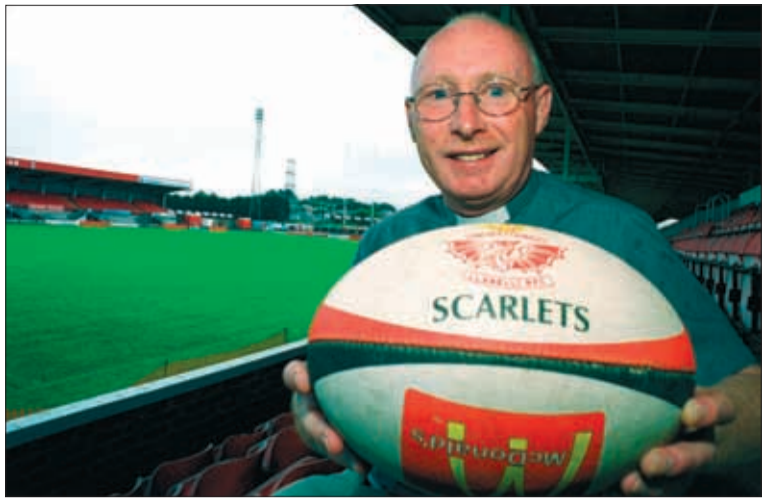


Photo Courtesy South Wales Evening Post

Chaplain to the Scarlets

Eldon Phillips provides an insight into the world of Sports Chaplaincy

I WAS appointed Chaplain to what was then the Llanelli Scarlets in 1999. Rugby has always played a big part in my life, and, at the time of the appointment, I was not only involved in running the Club Call Line and, occasionally, manning the PA system during matches, but I was also Priest in Charge of a North Gower group of parishes. I found that the role at Stradey Park enhanced my parish work.

The post of Chaplain has been varied and interesting: visiting injured players in hospital, baptisms, funerals and even weddings are all front line responsibilities. However it is important to appreciate that the job extends to the whole club – supporters, administrators and even stewards.

Preaching at Parc y Scarlets is not one of the roles, but the Chaplain must be available to advise,

spiritually or otherwise. Just 'being there' is important, and relationships are at the very heart of what a Sports Chaplain is trying to do, especially as rugby has now entered the professional era, which puts a lot of pressure on players. I believe chaplaincy support can assist, at regional and club level, in building a balance into what the organisation is trying to do.

It was important to make the move from Stradey Park to Parc y Scarlets as meaningful as possible. We held a service just before the last game at Stradey to commemorate all that the great ground meant to so many people. Later, a blessing was very much part of the opening of Parc y Scarlets.

To end on a lighter note, just a few weeks after taking on the role, I assisted at a well known supporter's funeral in a Baptist Church in Llanelli. The Scarlets had been going through a difficult time and the officiating minister introduced me as the chaplain of the club. He continued (tongue in cheek, I hope) by saying, 'the way they are playing, they would have been much better off having a Baptist as chaplain than an Anglican!'

opportunity to pray continually and to offer service to the hermitage and to God, will take place this summer.

Administered by ARWHT, Disserth y Mynydd provides the simple but adequate necessary conditions for a hermitage. Training in meditation, contemplation and solitude are available to people who take the matter of their spiritual training seriously. Retreat days, working meditation days and longer retreats are held from time to time – retreatants are expected to not intrude upon the solitude and silence of the hermitage.

Working days, which provide an

Further enquiries and offers of help, both financial and practical, should be addressed to ARWHT, c/o The Treasurer, Rock Cottage, Pen y Garn, Penallt, Monmouth, NP25 4AP.



Remote, but not isolated

A new hermitage takes shape

A REMOTE house, between Cyngordy and Llandoverly, has been bought by the Archbishop Rowan Williams Hermitage Trust (ARWHT) as a hermitage dwelling. Sister Ruth Furneaux has recently moved into the property, but that does not mean the renovation work, funded entirely by donations, is complete.

Situated in a sensitive landscape area, Disserth y Mynydd (Hermitage

on the Mountain) is as carbon neutral as possible and the project is being sympathetically managed with the existing natural habitat in mind.

Thanks to all who have helped so far, native trees, soft fruit bushes and a vegetable patch have been planted, the timber workshop weather protected, some of the inevitable scars to the land caused by the building work have been healed and numerous other small jobs

completed. There is much still to do, including, it is hoped, the installation of a generator to provide a small amount of power.

Eremitic life is not much understood in the church any more, even less so is the need for service and sponsorship to allow it to thrive as a valid expression of the vowed life. It was only in 1974 that eremitic life was kick-started again in this country by a symposium held at St Davids, attended and contributed to by those denominations for which it has never ceased to be a living way.

The ARWHT provides the opportunity for those in recognised vows to pursue an eremitic and contemplative life. At present it is not possible to fund a hermitage with living expenses, but as sponsorship arrives it is hoped to do so in the future. For now, only those with private means, who are not supported by a community, are able to live an eremitic life, contradicting the view of living in poverty and trust.



THE INTERVIEW

Ministry of lay people

In the next of our series of interviews with laity, Roger Hagggar, a church warden and founder member of a community based charity in the north of the diocese, proves himself to be a quietly determined man with a vision. Jeremy Martineau tells more . . .

ROGER HAGGAR is one of those gentle but effective movers and shakers, trusted by all in the community. He and Doreen first came to live in Llandre, just north of Aberystwyth, in 1985. As head of grassland ecology at the former Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Roger's interests in tropical agriculture led him to develop a training programme with scientists in India.

On retirement in 1996 he took responsibility for sorting out the problem of a fallen oak tree in the old graveyard of St Michael's

Church, Llandre, little knowing where that would lead. Twelve years later the entire hillside behind the church can now be seen for what it is – a haven for wildlife, accessible by footpaths and revealing many beautiful gravestones. Roger realised that the potential was far greater than the aspirations and capacity of the church on its own. So Treftadaeth Llandre Heritage was born, involving many in the community who were becoming concerned at the loss of amenities, including the post office. Assisted by funds from the local wind farm, a Village Directory Map

and information kiosk were constructed; also toilets were refurbished in a former chapel, which, while remaining as a place of worship, also serves as the village hall.

Roger's fertile imagination matched the challenge of clearing and managing the ancient, steeply wooded graveyard (including a 2,000 year old yew tree) with the need for work by those serving a community service sentence. This approach was replaced by a more fruitful relationship with Rhoserchan, a local rehabilitation centre for those recovering from addictions. After their initial 12-week residential phase, those in recovery are transferred to semi-independency in Aberystwyth, with constructive work



as a focus for continuing therapy. Their enthusiasm is often matched by high levels of skill, enabling more challenging tasks to be undertaken. These have included building retaining stonewalls, welding handrails and refurbishing an historic mausoleum which commemorates the daughter of a former village.

Roger is keen to make space in the church for the provision of

essential amenities, including toilets, to make the building more useful for family-based services, concerts, artists' displays and other cultural activities, all linking with a trail being constructed through the adjoining woods, celebrating the work of famous local poets. For the church to remain an important hub in community life, it has to be adapted to be fit for purpose.

Transition Towns are springing up all the time – but what are they?

Margaret Nock encourages readers to become part of a scheme which plans for a future with much reduced oil supplies . . .

LAST year at Catalyst, Tim Brennan spoke about Climate Change and our Christian response to it. Since then we have plunged, or been plunged, into further economic crisis. The recent film 'Age of Stupid' portrays a future based on the consequences of us doing little, or nothing, to restrain ourselves or our communities. Transition Towns, such as Aberystwyth, Lampeter, Llandeilo, Cwm Gwendraeth and Newport Pems, are those where people of all faiths, and none, have got together to examine what a future with less or no oil might look like, and how to make the transition between now and then with some sense of control.

In a world without oil how will we grow our food, where will we work, how will we travel, how will we keep warm? The answer is that

we will do it all much more locally. My village has one post office (still!), a new farm shop, a menswear shop, a primary school and, rather unexpectedly, a secondary school, as well as visits from mobile shops. In the 50's, within half a mile of my front door, there was a huge variety of shops including a Co-op, a barber's, a shoe shop and two cobblers, and an ironmonger's.

Each transition group works in a different way, focussing on different issues. In my area, Cwm Gwendraeth, we have groups looking at, for example, renewable energy, food and farming. The tree planting group visited schools to plant trees and vegetables and the skill-share group had a day sharing some of those skills which many of us have never acquired or have forgotten. We also need to remind

ourselves how to have fun without a screen or electricity.

As Christian communities we already have halls for people to meet, networks of children, young people, women, men and the elderly. In other words, we already have a role in our wider communities. So when a transition group forms near you why not become part of it?

Matthew asks what we did for the naked, the hungry, the stranger, the prisoner, and we are told that whatever we did for the least of these, his brethren, we did for Christ. Transition groups give us opportunities to work with our neighbours now with a view to supporting future generations.



Fare from a fayre summer

At a time when there is great concern about the end of the Royal Agricultural Show, and the implications for the rural summer programme, it's reassuring to know that throughout the diocese the parish Cream Tea / Strawberry Tea / Summer Fayre still reigns supreme. Pictured above is the food on offer at Steynton's Cream Tea event. As in so many places this year, the good weather meant a record result

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

With Dennis and Sian Wight

**26th January to
4th February 2010**

Visit some of the sites seen on the "Menter" DVD and meet some local people

*An all inclusive journey
Only 25 places!*

Tel: (01646) 636255
denniswight@btinternet.com



High Sheriff of Dyfed Awards 2008/2009



In recognition of great and valuable services to the community the High Sheriff of Dyfed, Claire Mansel Lewis, presented an award to Plant Dewi at her Awards Evening at Llandovery College. The award was received on behalf of Plant Dewi by Sue Fletcher, Project Manager, and Ven Alun Evans, Chair of the Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility.

Buildings: their inspections, maintenance and upkeep

A course at St Mary's Church, Whitland, relating to buildings inspections proved helpful and informative for those who attended. Louise Davies reports

ON 4 June, 32 people attended the Diocesan Advisory Committee's 'Faith in Maintenance Workshop', run by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. This was a free one-day course designed to help recognise potential problems, tackle common maintenance tasks, understand inspections and reports and know when to call in expert help.

Lecture

Tom Lloyd, a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, gave a short lecture describing the common characteristics of places of worship in the local area.

Sara Crofts, Faith in Maintenance Project Director, then outlined the purpose and importance of maintenance, the reasons buildings decay, and, crucially, what we should look for when carrying out inspections.

During the afternoon session

Sara, ably supported by Cliff Blundell of the Lime Company of West Wales Ltd, explained managing maintenance and the routine care of historic places of worship, understanding the role of professional inspections and reports as well as managing relationships with professionals, contractors and specialists. The need for regular drainage and gully inspections was also stressed, as was the importance of keeping a log book.

'Staying safe'

The final topic of information was 'staying safe' which included carrying out risk assessments, working at height, and fire safety. This was followed by a practical observation exercise.

All those who had attended felt more confident in assessing any maintenance problems a parish may have and what to do about them.



Cardigan Churches take to the streets

200 Christians took part in Cardigan's Walk of Witness on Good Friday. John Powell hopes this will be the first of many such events . . .

THE sun shone kindly as Christians from all the churches in Cardigan joined, for the first time, in Finch Square, to take part in a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. The Processional Cross from St Mary's Church was joined by other simpler crosses and many banners, often held by young people.

This ecumenical witness was planned by the leaders of the churches in Cardigan who meet on a regular basis to seek ways of working more closely together. It was good to see about two hundred local Christians walking together, in unity, to proclaim the message of Good Friday and the Passion, many having come from services in their own churches beforehand.

We gathered at Prince Charles Quay for a service conducted by leaders and members of the different churches. Our voices carried well and the singing was hearty, with a lovely bi-lingual rendering of "Here is love vast as the ocean." The preacher explained why it was "Good" Friday. One reason was that it was raining in England and sunny in Wales! He used the lovely backdrop of the River Teifi to illustrate the love of God flowing into a vast ocean and being taken to the four corners of the world.

A short puppet show demonstrated how an Easter Egg could contain a Cross and made us smile as we considered profounder thoughts.

After we had sung our final hymn – "In Christ alone my hope is



found" – many said that we must do this again next year. We had all been encouraged by this public,

united act of witness and worship and we had enjoyed each other's company.

'There is one body'

The Church in Wales' Ecumenical Canons, if implemented, could transform the ecumenical face of Wales. Gwynn ap Gwilym, the Bishops' Adviser on Church Affairs, suggests that a start should be made within the Covenanted Churches

THE Commission of Covenanted Churches came into being in 1975, after the Church in Wales, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and a number of Baptist churches had established a Covenant of Unity. They promised to work together towards 'full visible unity' and, in the 2005 Trefeca Declaration, the commitment was reiterated, with a six year programme of further development being adopted. In 2011, the churches will decide whether or not they want the relationship to continue.

Also in 2005 the Church in Wales published two important canons: 'To Support Relations with Other Churches' and 'To Permit the

Establishment and Support of Local Ecumenical Partnerships'.

'To Support Relations with Other Churches' firstly details what an ordained or lay minister or other member of the Church in Wales is permitted to do in a service held in a church of another denomination. Secondly, speaking specifically of the denominations within the Covenant, it details what an ordained minister or lay member of another denomination is permitted to do in a service in the Church in Wales.

'To Permit the Establishment and Support of Local Ecumenical Partnerships' aims to formalise the type of relationship outlined above and allow for shared ministry between the covenanting churches.

Although the canon 'To Support Relations with Other Churches' is used extensively, it seems that little use has been made of the 'Local Ecumenical Partnerships' canon. This is a pity as there are now many parishes in which the Church in Wales is the only one of the five covenanting churches with an ordained minister. Establishing a Local Ecumenical Partnership would be a golden opportunity to share our ministry with other denominations and demonstrate 'visible unity'.

The Diocesan Ecumenical Officers of the Church in Wales decided recently that parishes need encouragement and, during the next year, it is hoped to move towards establishing at least one new partnership in each diocese. This will demonstrate to the leaders of the covenanting churches that positive things are already happening.

Where do you come from?

Tessa Briggs enjoys an exhibition about family history research at the National Library of Wales

THE 'Step By Step' exhibition at the National Library of Wales gives a fascinating introduction to the process of tracing your family tree.

Divided into different areas, the exhibition begins with suggestions on how to get started, such as asking relatives for information and looking for diaries, letters and old family photographs.

This is followed by sections on Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths, Records of the Established Church, The Census of Wales and England, Non-conformist Records, Wills and Probate Records and Tithe Maps. Each of these sections has a display board giving a clear explanation of the origin of the records and the dates they began, together with examples of such documentation and how individuals can access the relevant archives held at the National Library.

Moving around, the visitor will



come to a section on the Wales-Ohio Project, which is an ambitious plan to digitise a selection of Welsh Americana relating to the state of Ohio held at the National Library of Wales. Further displays in this area give historical details about Welsh immigration and emigration, including a partial family tree for US President Barack Obama clearly showing that he can trace ancestors back to Wales in the 18th and 19th centuries.

At every turn there are more

items of interest, such as old photographs, memorial poems and heraldic pedigrees. There are also film clips from the National Screen and Sound Archives of Wales, including items from the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are' series.

'The Time Machine' is an interactive display containing archive film footage, where visitors can watch a variety of short film clips, including a moving report entitled '24 hours: Aberfan, 1966', 'The Opening of The Prince of Wales Hospital 1918' and the 'Visit of The Rt Hon D Lloyd George to Germany, 1936'.

All together, there is an abundance of well laid out information on display for those who are keen to research their ancestry, and for those who are simply interested in history and historical documents.

'Step By Step' is at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, until 5 March 2010.

www.llgc.gov.uk; tel: 01970 632800.

Cerddwyr yn cofio am yr Esgob Tony

Family and friends of the late Right Reverend Anthony Crockett, former Bishop of Bangor, who died last year, are undertaking a 300 mile walk around Wales in his memory

ELENI mae teulu a ffrindiau'r diweddar Gwir Barchedig Anthony Crockett, cyn Esgob Bangor, fu farw'r llynedd, yn coffau ei fywyd gyda thaith gerdded 300 milltir o amgylch

Cymru. Mae'r daith, a gychwynnodd ym Mhontypridd ar ddydd Sul y Pasg, yn digwydd dros bedair wythnos wahanol. Ym mis Mai bu'r cerddwyr yn teithio o blwyf Cwmdud i'r Eglwys

Gadeiriol yn Nhyddewi, a chawsant groeso arbennig gan nifer fawr o blwyfi ar hyd y ffordd.

Syniad Sam Gipson-Owen, sy'n 14 oed, oedd y daith.

"Roedd fy ewythr Tony wrth ei fodd yn cerdded," meddai Sam, "ac roedd wedi cwblhau pererindod o fil o filltiroedd i Santiago de Compostella yn 1995. Felly ro'n i'n meddwl y byddai taith gerdded yn ffordd dda o goffau ei fywyd, a chodi arian ar gyfer yr elusen Prostate Cancer Research Foundation."



"I never knew the Bible was that exciting"

Bringing the Bible to life for 9-11 year-olds

USING story-telling, drama, videos and multi-media, Bible Explorer (BX) is a series of one-hour lessons over five weeks, designed to tell the storyline of the Old and New Testaments – the big picture. Children in Years 5 and 6, Key Stage 2, participate by singing and acting and are encouraged to remember what they have learnt by using hand signs and key words. The lessons are then followed up by worksheets and end with the presentation of certificates and bookmarks as keepsakes.

Janet Hawking, who was trained to teach BX in 2006, has since been into many schools in Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. Her props include praying hands, a donkey, trumpets, mini books of the Bible, Good News shoes and, of course, the cross.

July Reflection

A proportional response to a cry for help

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5 verse 11 (NRSV)

SITTING in the study of our vicarage recently, I was disturbed by a loud commotion caused by some crows outside. Fearing that it might have something to do with our cat, Mickey, who can sometimes be a nuisance to the local bird population, I went to investigate. What I discovered was in fact quite fascinating and amazing. On this occasion the cat had nothing to do with the noise – it was caused by the crows themselves.

Attempting to fly the nest, one fledgling crow had fallen to the ground, and was lying on its side, close to the church wall. Circling above the fallen bird, and making quite a frightening noise, was a small flock of crows, clearly making sure that nothing would dare come near the vulnerable youngster. Meanwhile, one or two adult crows were trying to coax the young bird to its feet. Eventually, with their gentle persuasion, the fledgling found its wings and flew up to a chimney, where, presumably, it recovered from its fright.

I don't know whether the two adult birds who were offering encouragement on the ground were the parents, or just two out of the flock who were circling above, but it was a fascinating and inspiring sight.

It struck me that what I had observed taking place among this flock of crows stood as a metaphor for the Church. No, not necessarily the black-cassocked characters of the clergy who it has to be admitted can be a bit crow-like at times! But rather the whole church – clergy and laity – each with a ministry to perform.

The two who administered aid to the stricken fledgling reminded me of the way the Church can offer help and support to those who have fallen upon hard times, or it may be the sort of help and encouragement which is needed when someone is new to the Christian faith, and is struggling to find their way – to stretch their wings, and take flight, so to speak. It may be that we, ourselves, have experienced this help and support from members of the Church, either

clergy or lay, or maybe we are called to offer that kind of ministry to someone we know who needs a helping hand.

It is good to know that when we need help, there are one or two who can give us the support and encouragement we need. It is another thing, though, to be overwhelmed with help. And this is where that flock of crows circling above the three on the ground fit in to the metaphor. Somehow (I do not know how they knew), that larger flock of crows flying above the stricken bird knew not to get too involved. It would not have helped the struggling fledgling if they had all descended on the youngster – that was the task of the one or two on the ground, doing just enough. The other birds, however, had their own part to play, by being there to watch over the stricken one, and to offer support and protection at a distance.

It is the same in the Church, as we each minister to the needs of others. Sometimes we are called to be 'on the ground' – involved on a one-to-one basis, or in a small group. At other times, our intervention can be just a bit too overwhelming and we need to take a step back and allow those who need to be involved to carry out their ministry without our getting in the way. We need to be careful to allow them room to spread their wings.

But that doesn't let us off, without anything to do – far from it. That flock of crows didn't head back to their nests or get on with their own business when they saw the two on the ground offering help. They remained just close enough to offer support, squawking their encouragement, and ensuring that nothing came along to put the fledgling in further harm.

We, too, can offer ministry to others even when we are not directly involved. We can be there for people, offering support and encouragement, both for those in need, and for those who minister to them. Above all, we can be of support through our prayers, asking for God's protection at times when it is most needed.

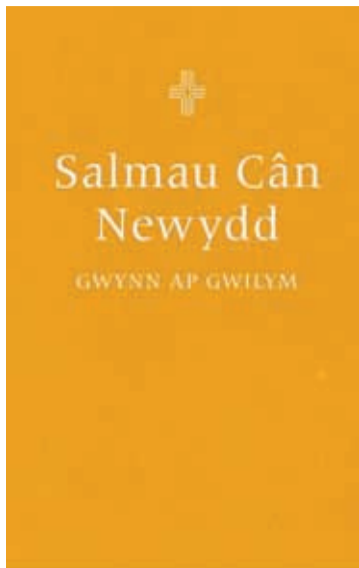
– Revd Nicholas Cale

Many pupils find the sessions enjoyable, as can be seen from the title of this piece, which is a quote from a Year 5 pupil on the Bible Explorer website (www.bible.org.uk/bxinfo). Teachers have also appreciated the structure and results from BX sessions: 'The pupils performed some of the things you

had taught them for us all in our assembly. We also showed their work to our church representative. Many thanks for the super lessons.'

For more information, if you would like to help in any way or if you would like to enquire about BX in your own school, please contact Janet on 01239 831260.

Reviews



SALMAU CÂN NEWYDD,
Gwynn ap Gwilym
(Gomer 2008, £9.99)
Adolygiad gan Saunders
Davies

Er mor farddonol bersain oedd cyfieithiad yr Esgob William Morgan (1588) gwelodd yr Archddiacon Edmwnd Prys yr angen am fydryddu'r salmau i hyrwyddo'u canu a'u cofio. Yn 1621 fe gyhoeddodd ei Salmau Cân. Yn yr un traddodiad mae Gwynn ap Gwilym wedi llunio Salmau Cân Newydd. Noda ei amcanion yn ei Ragair: 'Y gobaith yw y bydd y Salmau Cân Newydd hyn yn ddealladwy ac yn ganadwy, ac yr ystyrir eu bod hefyd yn glynu'n rhesymol agos at destun y Beibl Cymraeg Newydd. Wrth y tri maen prawf hyn y mae mesur eu llwyddiant.'

Dealladwy

Fel Edmwnd Prys o'i flaen, nod gyntaf Gwynn yw cyflwyno testun dealladwy. Gallai'r naill fel y llall fod wedi cyfansoddi gorchestion cynganeddol astrus, ond ymatal rhag hynny a wnaethpwyd er mwyn sicrhau bod cynnwys y salmau

mor glir a dealladwy â phosibl. Gyda'i radd yn y Gymraeg a'i ddawn trin geiriau fel bardd, mae Gwynn yn llwyddo'n rhyfeddol i bwytho gwisg Gymreig am yr hen salmau.

Canadwy

Trwy anelu at sicrhau bod y Salmau Cân Newydd yn ganadwy y mae'n ychwanegu'n ddifawr at eu gwerth i gynulleidfaeodd Cymru. Unwaith eto mae'n dilyn un o amcanion Edmwnd Prys. Aeth ef ati i fydryddu'r salmau 'ar fesur cerdd' i hyrwyddo'u canu, a'i Salmau Cân ef oedd prif ddeunydd canu cynulleidfaol Cristnogion Cymru hyd y Deffroad Methodistiaid. Gyda'i salmau ef gwelwyd y gerddoriaeth gyntaf i'w hargraffu mewn llyfr Cymraeg yn cofnodi deuddeg o donau.

Serch hyn, ac eithrio pedair salm, yr unig fesur a ddefnyddiodd Edmwnd Prys oedd yr un a ddisgrifiwyd wedyn fel y mesur salm, wedi'i seilio ar yr hen fesur carol.

Bu Gwynn yn fwy mentrus trwy amrywio'r mesurau i osgoi cyfyngu cynulleidfaeodd i lond dwrn o donau. Awgrymodd emyn-dôn uwch ben pob salm ac ni welir ailadrodd yr un dôn o'r salm gyntaf hyd at y chweched ar hugain. Ceisiodd nodi tonau bywiog ar gyfer salmau llawen a thonau arafach a thawelwch ar gyfer salm mwy myfyrgar neu drist. I hwyluso arbrofi pellach noda'r mesur bob tro.

Yn wreiddiol cyhoeddwyd Salmau Cân Edmwnd Prys yn atodiad i'r Llyfr Gweddi Gyffredin (1621) a pharheir y cysylltiad hwn gan Gwynn trwy gynnwys ffurfiau wedi'u mydryddu o'r cantiglau hyn: y Benedictus, y Te Deum, y Magnificat, y Nunc Dimittis, a'r Fawlgan i'r Drindod, gan



'Give a Boy a Gun'

By Alistair Little with Ruth Scott
(DLT 2009)

ISBN 978-0-252-52763-6

'Give a Boy a Gun' is the story of Alistair Little's formative years in Northern Ireland, his participation in sectarian violence in the Province and his own journey towards some kind of peace.

Little was born in 1958 into a loving Protestant family near Lurgan

where the family had peacefully co-existed with Catholics until 1962, at which time they moved to the Protestant Mourneview Estate in the town.

By the time Little was 12 years old, life in Lurgan had become dominated by inter-community conflict. Always having had a strong sense of justice – albeit sometimes misplaced, and firmly believing that the town belonged to Protestants, he felt it only right that he should join others to defend the town from Catholics, whom they hated. So it was that, in Little's formative, impressionable years, he was, inexorably, sucked into the escalating violence.

He went on to join the Ulster Volunteer Force and participated in increasingly violent acts until, eventually, he murdered Jim Griffin (the recent BBC drama 'Five Minutes of Heaven' was based on this crime). Once caught, Little was tried and sentenced to be 'detained at the Secretary of State's pleasure', because, being a juvenile at the time of his arrest, no minimum sentence could be set.

The section of the book which deals with his time in prison makes disturbing reading. Nevertheless, he gradually started to question whether violence was the answer and he began reading the Bible in secret, afraid of what others would say if they saw him doing so. Without support, however, he struggled and became disheartened.

Little was released after more than 12 years but, to this day, under the terms of his licence, he can be returned to prison without charge.

By the early 1990's, he had become involved in reconciliation work in Northern Ireland, gaining his first counselling qualifications in 1996/97. Today, he is involved in peace-making around the world.

This book, written in collaboration with Ruth Scott, is, in turn, moving, reflective, deeply disturbing, edgy and disjointed, and yet it is ultimately a account of hard-won hope and a tribute to Little's determination to bring healing where it is needed.

– Tessa Briggs

awgrymu tôn gynulleidfaol gyfarwydd ar gyfer y rhain. Dylai hyn fod yn gymorth mawr i gynulleidfaeodd sydd wedi rhoi'r gorau i siantio'r cantiglau bellach.

Dibynadwy

Trydydd nod Gwynn yw cyfansoddi ffurf fydryddol sy'n glynu'n rhesymol agos at destun Y Beibl Cymraeg Newydd. Yn yr achos hwn eto y mae'n dilyn ymgais bwriadol Edmwnd Prys a eglurodd ei fod wedi osgoi'r mesurau caeth rhag ofn iddo aberthu ffyddlondeb i'r Ysgrythur. Gan fod Gwynn wedi mentro nodi'r adnod gyferbyn â phob pennill mae'n hawdd gweld pa mor ddibynadwy yw ei fersiwn.

Yn ogystal â'i feistrolaeth ar

y Gymraeg mae Gwynn wedi'i drwytho yn yr Hebraeg hefyd. Yn sgil hyn gall chwarae ar eiriau fel y gwna'r Hebraeg, yn nes ati na'r BCN weithiau.

Yn sicr, fe lwyddodd Gwynn i gwrdd â'r tri maen prawf a

osododd iddo'i hun, Mae Salmau Cân Newydd yn ddealladwy, yn ganadwy ac yn ddibynadwy. Gobeithio y bydd ein cynulleidfaeodd yn manteisio ar y gamp gyfoes hon.

Soul Advantage

Jonathan Copus volunteers for solitary confinement to test-drive a course aimed at groups

AS every baby broadcaster is taught, radio and television are one-to-one media. 'Never use expressions like *All of you*,' growled the grizzly old hack at the BBC's Basic Training Course. 'You might cause an accident as a lone driver looks round to see who's suddenly joined him in the car.'

Given that, why is *Menter*, the St Davids Diocesan DVD-based course in the basics of Christianity, so determinedly aimed at groups? Perhaps it's because we're still in the recovery phase from those dismal times when we were lectured from the pulpit in between muttering our orisons behind a convenient pillar.

Nowadays, the emphasis is all on communal activities like discussion, and rightly so.

But when the chips are down, you're on your own. You have to make your own mind up about the alleged Resurrection of Jesus and how it affects your attitude to life. So (I wondered) how would *Menter* work as an exercise in one-to-one communication?

Pretty well, on the whole. I watched in self-imposed solitude, and in between marvelling at the presenters' miraculous quick-changes of shirt on location, pondered anew the Resurrection of Jesus not as a distant historical report

but as an archetype of the sort of new life which springs from forgiveness and reconciliation. I didn't need a group around me to do that: Coventry Cathedral's Schools Project Officer, Simon Monaghan, spelt it out: 'The

Menter



hope, purpose, renewal through forgiveness, through reconciliation, that can heal broken relationships that may exist in our day-to-day lives.' The building he was speaking in, risen from the ashes of the bombed-

Increase your giving posters



Details of the posters available were included in the pack from the Investing in Mission team distributed at the Diocesan conference.

In Llandaff Diocese, merely having posters which referred to giving on a notice board, and changing them periodically, have produced increases in total giving by up to 10%.

So don't delay order today! . . . and use this simple method of raising your parish income.

Contact nigelford447@btinternet.com

out medieval structure, told its own story of reaching out to former enemies, laying the past to rest and forging a future of peace together.

Eventually, my wife spoiled it all by coming in and embarking on a vigorous discussion about the Resurrection. But by then the point was made: I was asking the questions for myself, with the aid of generous pointers from the screen. *Menter* works just as well for the individual

as it does in a group context.

So if you can't – or won't – join a discussion group, you could spend £5 (plus 60p p&p) far worse than sending it to the Diocesan Office, Abergwili, Carmarthen SA31 2JG and ordering the two-CD set of *Menter*. As co-presenter Andy John predicts in the introduction, you could still end up engaging in a full and frank exchange of views over a pint and peanuts in a pub.