

# MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

LLYTHYR  
NEWYDDION  
ESGOBAETH  
MYNŴY

Number/Rhif 190

Candlemas/Gwyl Fair 2011

## *God Morning TV comes to Llandogo*



Under the leadership of Ruth Harper, the youth work at St Oudoceus parish church in Llandogo continues to thrive. The three-day Holiday Club in the summer saw thirty five children exploring the Bible through songs, memory verses and games.

This has been followed up with leading assemblies in the village school and with November's Creative Café, when over seventy local visitors came to make Christmas cards and presents (and to eat lots of cake).

The year's youth work culminated with the parish church hosting a new spin on the Nativity – as reported by God Morning Television with roving reporters, weather girls, camel test driving by Jeremiah Clarkson, a Country File visit to the shepherds above Bethlehem and, of course, a stable makeover.



It took the God Morning team to unearth the true meaning of Christmas and to recover the baby Jesus from under the parcel mountain.

When asked, the youth leadership team explained that they were having great fun sharing the Bible. Judging by the children's reactions this appears to be very well received!

*Patrick Hutchings*

# Congratulations

Canon Harald Thomas MBE



Revd Harald Thomas with his wife Revd Dorothy Thomas and the Bishop after Harald was installed as an Honorary Canon of Newport Cathedral.



Diocesan Trust, and has served on the Diocesan Fair Trade steering group. She is a speaker to diocesan and parish groups on a whole variety of subjects relating to education, mission and development issues.

At present, Irene is our Diocesan World Mission Officer and a member of the Provincial World Mission Group. She represents the Diocese on the USPG Council and arranged the hospitality we gave to visiting bishops from overseas attending the 2008 Lambeth Conference. Irene has done a wonderful job in building and strengthening our links with the Diocese of the Highveld having visited them there on three occasions. Last year, Irene arranged the visit of Bishop David Bannerman and then twelve other people from the diocese. She does so much to help establish parish links and to resource parishes and to make the link such a vital part of diocesan life.

Irene always responds gladly and with enthusiasm to any request to further the mission of the church and she always does it with efficiency and joy. She is a worthy recipient of the Order of St Woolos.

## Deaf Awareness Workshop

Would you like to learn a little about what it is like to be deaf, deafened or hard of hearing in a hearing world and church?

Would you like to know how to make your church more welcoming to deaf people?

Then do come along to a Deaf Awareness Workshop - there will be one in Chepstow and one in Blackwood.

**Chepstow:** Saturday 19th February, 10.30am–12.30pm  
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark Road, Bulwark (next door to Lidl, approx 1 mile from the A 48)

**Blackwood:** Saturday 12th March, 10.30am–12.30pm  
St Margaret's Church Hall, High Street, Blackwood, NP12 1BE

Each workshop will include worship, quizzes, discussion and activities in small groups, and hopefully will be fun and informative.

The cost will be a contribution of your choice towards refreshments and heating.

If you want to know more, contact Rev Margaret Le Grice, Chaplain for Deaf People in S E Wales on 01633 281942 (voice and fax) e-mail - [mlegrice@givemail.co.uk](mailto:mlegrice@givemail.co.uk).

LGCM South Wales/De Cymru is pleased to welcome **John Bell** to City URC, Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BZ on Tuesday 1st February at 7.30pm.

The renowned speaker, musician and theologian will be leading an evening entitled '**Odd Songs and Gifted Strangers**' in which he will be exploring the inclusive nature of the Gospel in word, story and song, drawing on material from and experiences of the world church, and reflecting on seldom mentioned aspects of the ministry of Jesus.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

For more information, contact [WalesLGCM@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:WalesLGCM@hotmail.co.uk) or ring 07749 775 607.

*Windsor Place is right in the centre of Cardiff, just off the main shopping street, Queen Street.*

*LGCM is the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.*

*Bishop Dominic writes...*

**The Christian life has been described as an invitation – God invites us to walk in his ways and to experience his love. I have two invitations for you.**

**Firstly**, I want to invite you to join with me on five evenings this Lent in an exploration of St Luke's Gospel. Two years ago during Lent, for five weeks I spoke on twenty five evenings at five different locations across the diocese on St John's Gospel and I was staggered and humbled by the extraordinary response. Some locations had standing room only, and over eight hundred people took part. I dare to hope that my invitation will get a similar response this year.



*St. Luke by Master Theodoric, 1360*

St Luke wrote more of the New Testament than any other writer – he wrote the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He was a Gentile and a physician who believed that salvation is a gift for everyone. His Gospel alone contains such wonderful stories as the parable of the prodigal son and the Canticles much loved by Anglicans. Luke was a great story writer who engaged his audience, and I hope that I can engage you as I try to relate those stories to our Christian lives today.

I shall give the talks on Monday to Friday evenings from 14th March to 15th April (that is, each weekday during Lent except for the week with Ash Wednesday and Holy Week). Each week I shall give the same talk every day, so if you cannot make the same day each week you can always try another venue. Details of times and venues are on the back page of this newsletter. Please bring a Bible with you.

The talks will be:

Week 1: An Introduction to Luke

Week 2: The Parables of Luke

Week 3: Luke the Physician and the Holy Spirit

Week 4: Luke and Prayer

Week 5: The Passion and the Resurrection in Luke

I greatly love the teaching role of a bishop and I hope that parishes will encourage their people to take part. There will be a Pastoral Letter from me to be read at every service in every church on the Sunday before Lent, 6th March, 2011.

**Secondly**, I want to invite you to come with me on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year from 23rd April – 2nd May, 2012. I know that such pilgrimages are expensive (probably around £1,500) so it may give you some time to save for it! It will be the experience of a lifetime to be able to visit the places that were familiar to Jesus and it helps to bring the Bible alive in a remarkable way. At this stage we need people to register an interest (and to receive the brochure and booking form) so if you are interested, please contact the organiser:

Revd Pam Griffiths,

3 Ivy Close, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5SJ

Tel: 01495 303926

email: pvgriff3@btinternet.com

With every blessing,

+ *Dominic*



*Celebrating the Eucharist beside the Sea of Galilee*

Your diocesan website  
[www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk)

# Megan's Mer-mates



Pictured with St Teilo's churchwarden Maurice Rolls are, left to right, Alys Pugh, Alannah Williams, Rebecca Hoyle and Megan Trinder.

When Megan Trinder decided to ask her four friends to form a team with her to compete in the recent Abergavenny Rotary Swimathon, little did she realise how the waves would reverberate.

Calling themselves Megan's Mer-mates, they not only finished joint third with Deri View Dinosaurs, each with 160 lengths, but they also attracted sponsorship from three good causes. St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey, sponsored the girls to the tune of £250, while the Abergavenny Club for the Blind and the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies sponsored them for £125. These three amounts were matched by Abergavenny Rotary Club which donates all the proceeds of the Swimathon to good causes.

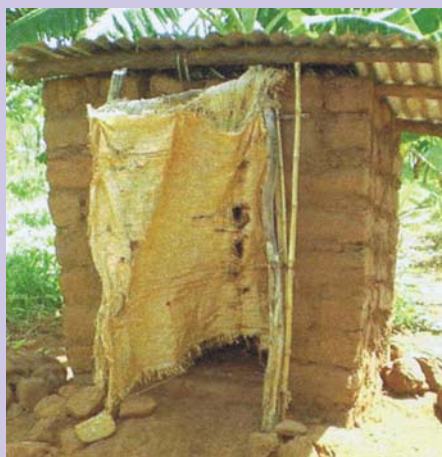
In December, four of the girls - Megan Trinder, Alys Pugh, Alannah Williams and Rebecca Hoyle - presented Maurice Rolls, churchwarden at St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey, with a cheque for £500 towards the restoration scheme. They were thanked by Mr Rolls and applauded by the congregation. The fifth girl, Eleanor Newsam, could not attend.

The following day, the girls presented a cheque for £250 to the Blind Club and a similar amount will go to SWHP. The Swimathon organiser Clive Howells thanked the girls, who are all Year 8 pupils at King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.

## Diocesan Office twins its loo

*A toilet in the diocesan office has been twinned with the toilet located in Giharo, Rutara Province, Burundi, Africa*

Lat: -3.98707795 Long: 30.130044 [www.toiletwinning.org](http://www.toiletwinning.org)



## Rick Hayes reflects on forgiveness

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18: 21-22, NIV)

How many times did you say? You must be joking!

Peter thought that seven times was quite a good score before you say "enough is enough". But Christ replied with a larger sum than most people are willing to cope with, seventy-seven times.

Does that type of forgiveness make us Christians a soft touch for others? I have had people say to me when they organise a confrontation, "I thought you are supposed to turn the other cheek?"

I explain to people that being a Christian does not mean that I will roll over and play dead. It doesn't mean that I will give in to pressure or unjust actions. I will fight my corner if the need requires. I do explain that if they hurt me, by slapping me in the face, metaphorically speaking, I will not retaliate or try to 'get even' with them.

As Christians we must always be ready to forgive. Why? Because if we harbour a grudge or store a hurt, who is it really affecting? More than likely, us. The person responsible has probably moved on and has already forgotten what they did or said. It could have been an off-the-cuff remark, a throw-away comment.

If we cannot forgive then we will eventually be riddled with vengeance and hate, we will be plotting the downfall of someone who has hurt us. We will never be able to let go. So we must be willing to forgive and move on. Forgiving does not mean forgetting, we can learn from the experience and gain wisdom to help us become more 'street wise'.

How many times was it, Lord? I remember: seventy-seven. That gives me a chance to show the person that I really do respect them as one of God's creatures. It gives me a chance to show the Lord's love to its full extent. It gives me a chance to develop humility. It gives me a chance to show a caring heart. And, as strange as it may seem, it gives a chance to move alongside that person and introduce them to the Lord, because I bet they will wear themselves out way before they reach their seventy-seven times sins against us.

Lastly, let us remember what the Lord said about the woman who was caught in adultery. "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." I can tell you for sure that I would be one of those who left the scene, because I am certainly not without sin. Every day I ask the Lord to forgive me, so why shouldn't I be ready to forgive others?

# Magor Men get together



**M4men** is a new initiative which was launched by the Magor Rectorial Benefice in October 2010.

The vision for the group arose out of a concern that within our Benefice there were few opportunities for men to share fellowship together and to discuss their faith in a relaxed atmosphere. Team Rector, Revd Mark Lawson-Jones, summed up our vision when he said, "It gives men the opportunity to discuss faith in the pub, the Indian restaurant, or with a bacon sandwich and cup of tea....it lets the lads explore questions of faith on safe ground without the fear of looking daft".

And so, armed with our logo (designed by Richard Jones) we met for the first time. For our inaugural meeting we held a 'men's breakfast' which was attended by twenty men from several of the ten churches that make up our Benefice, ranging in age from a teenager through to the more 'mature' male. We enjoyed a cooked breakfast together and, over tea and coffee, enjoyed a fascinating and interactive talk from sportswoman Pavla Bloor. Pavla spoke about her life in competitive sport and particularly about her work with *Christians in Sport*.

Everyone agreed this was both an enjoyable and interesting morning. Our aim is to keep the format for **M4men** fresh and vibrant and so we are planning to meet four times a year and to change the format each time. Our next meeting will be an evening out in a local curry house and we also have a weekend booked in the autumn at Llangasty Retreat House.

*Revd Jeremy Harris, Team Vicar, Rectorial Benefice of Magor.*

## *MU celebrates Christmas Past and Christmas Present*



Organised by the Mothers' Union, a celebration of Christmas food, gifts and decorations, raised money to help those less fortunate.

Over two hundred people gathered at The Greenmeadow Golf and Country Club, Cwmbran, to compare Christmas Past with Christmas Present and think about the true spirit of Christmas.

Two representatives from Newport Museum and Tredegar House each brought historical items to talk about.

Afterwards, guests were able to go and chat to them and view their items up close. Some items were very old and delicate but, as one young lady put it, "seeing such toys and objects which were all handmade, makes you feel quite humble; it just goes to show how generations past put such an effort into Christmas and still enjoyed the true spirit of the occasion, despite having little time for the preparations".

A local company, 'Simply Christmas', demonstrated Christmas Present - and what a contrast! Their Christmas decorations, toys and goods were excellent and of exceptional quality, and demonstrated how easy it is these days to purchase whatever is required to make Christmas Present a success.

MU branded goods were displayed beautifully by the Mothers' Union Enterprises Unit, and there were gifts of jewellery, children's books, Christmas cards and Advent calendars.

There was an African overseas display and the Marketing stand gave out leaflets explaining the values and vision of the Mothers' Union and how the MU goes about achieving them. The *Bye Buy Childhood* campaign aims to deter the exploitation of children while the *Wheels Appeal* provides transport abroad to deliver food and medical supplies.



*Shelley Miller, MU Diocesan Publicity Officer, 07799 031410 or 01633 877111 email: shelly844@hotmail.com*

[www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)

## Christmas Wrapped Up in Bedwellsty



Christmas was Wrapped Up twice in Bedwellty Deanery. Abercarn and Cwmcarn parish worked with Risca parish for the second year running on this project for year 2 schoolchildren. The parishes of Blackwood and Fleur-de-Lis also worked with their schools to produce another excellent week. Altogether, nine schools took part.

Each group of 6- and 7-year-olds arrived in church to receive a feast of Christmas activities geared to teach and entertain. Puppet, Luke, was always the star of the show. The children were involved in drama, singing, literacy tasks, and craft. Another HOT favourite was the making of mince pies which were then baked ready to take back to school. Rolling out pastry was a new activity for most of the children and, to prove you are never too old to work with children, this was supervised in Fleur-de-Lis by 82 year-old Dorothy.

One morning was spoken entirely in Welsh for Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon, thanks to Alun Griffiths of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, Linda Griffiths of Risca parish and Vicki Brackpool of Scripture Union.

The children loved their time in church and they learnt that amid the fun and festivities, Christmas isn't really Christmas without Jesus at the centre.

Thanks to Vicki Brackpool from Scripture Union for organising and enthusing us in this venture. Hard work, but we all really enjoyed ourselves.

*Revd Alicia Baker*

## Angel Delight at Pontllanff

Three angels (below) from the Living Nativity Jesus on Christmas Eve in St Augustine's, P

Children attended from all parts of the Benef Mary, Joseph, stars, and a multitude of ange children from the congregation were invited to church whilst carols were sung. Fr John Hum has fallen out of fashion and we thought that did not have to learn words but just turn up d well—and, of course, the party afterwards we

Vikki Jackson, Children's Co-ordinator, said, Christmas Eve and couldn't wait to get into th a huge birthday cake for Jesus and each chil successful event and we hope to repeat it ne



## Reindeer at Portskewett

Santa, along with his apprentice-reindeer came early to Portskewett this year. A sunny Sunday afternoon in mid-December found Santa at St Mary's Court attracting several very interested visitors – some big – some small.

Barratts had invited St Mary's Church to come along and sing carols for the occasion. We decided that this was a job for 'Y' Worship. Mike Scott and his merry band of young people from around the Netherwent Deanery braved the cold to sing carols old and new. The younger members had also re-arranged a Lady Gaga song based on the Nativity which was very well-received. They sang, Tash danced, we applauded.

Along with the strong message of the Nativity, the message went out loud and strong that the church isn't boring and irrelevant.

*Revd Den Richards*

# Christmas

## Fraith

Party enjoy the birthday party in honour of Pontllanfraith.

ice and came dressed as shepherds, kings, angels! During the short narration of the nativity, to join the nativity tableau at the front of the church. Mary Humphries says, "It is a shame that the Nativity was a simple short service where the children dressed as a nativity character worked really well!"

"the children were all excited with it being held in the church hall for the birthday party. We had a donkey given a Christingle. It was a very successful year."

Mary Humphries



## 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' saves the day at Holy Trinity Pontnewydd

After weeks of rehearsals with over 100 children from Pontnewydd Primary School from the Early Years Department (ages 3-4 years) *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel* was performed in front of parents, friends and church family.

There were two performances due to the nursery children attending morning and afternoon sessions. Kelsey Aherne played *Whoops-a-Daisy* in the morning and Nicole Williams in the afternoon. Both were outstanding.

A sum of £117.39 was raised from both acts of worship for the Archbishop of Wales Fund for Children which the Rev David Dunn received gratefully. Mr Kerry Waters, Headmaster, was delighted with the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers from Holy Trinity who had worked alongside the children.

Bronwen Summers

## Donkeys at Ponthir

Ponthir Church in Wales school held its school Nativity on Monday 13th December at All Saints Church, Llanfrecdfa. The children, staff and parents walked up to the church singing carols along the way. The procession was led by two donkeys from Greenmeadow Community Farm with two of our children, Amber Wassall who took the part of Mary, and Ben Thompson as Joseph.

A wonderful Nativity was held inside the church, supported by family and friends of the school.

Ceris Spooner, Head Teacher, 01633 421651



# A new shape for living

Over the Christmas period I was enchanted by two TV programmes: one on polar bears, and one on black bears. As my daughter once remarked, a bear can gorge all autumn, sleep through winter and wake up slim—what a life!



The Christmas break is a time when, tucking into another comfort meal after another day in front of the fire, I reflect on the shape of my life. Some years ago I found it helpful to draw up a Rule of Life, a framework on which to build my pattern of living. At the end of the year it's good to look back and ask God how I've measured up, and then to look forward and ask Him to help me set some goals for the year ahead.

Always on my list but, alas, never ticked off are 'Lose weight, get fit!' But a well-shaped life is about more than food and exercise, it's about a good balance of physical, spiritual, mental and emotional; of contemplation and action; of loving God, my neighbour and myself.

So, I think about my pattern of private **prayer** and public worship, of times of silence, retreat and pilgrimage. I plan some **learning**—time for me to learn and time to share my learning with others. I consider aspects of my **living**—how I spend my time in work and relaxation, what I want to take up and what I may need to give up; my impact on creation; my relationships with family, friends and the communities in which I live, work and worship. I review my opportunities for **servicing** God in serving others. A vital part of the picture to update is my pattern of planned **giving**.

It may sound very pious but it's actually very practical—it's an attempt to discern God's shape for the year ahead and give it a good chance of happening. Of course, I'm not perfect, so it doesn't work out quite as I planned or expected, but although I may stray from the path the fundamental direction is set in motion.

A Rule of Life is something we can all have (and most of us already do have in some way). It doesn't need to be complicated or difficult though it should perhaps offer some challenge. It isn't about beating ourselves up every time we fail; it **is** about intentionally shaping our lives in God's mould rather than our own, finding a rhythm which helps us live in a closer relationship with our Father and Creator and helps us respond to his personal call to us.

*Revd Janet Bone*

There's a simple Rule of Life, loosely based on the Rule of St Benedict on [www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk/serving/rule](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk/serving/rule) with more links to follow.

There are plenty of books on rules for living - make sure you look for specifically Christian ones. *At Home in the World: A Rule of Life for the Rest of Us* by Margaret Guenther is probably a good bet.

**Praying, learning, living, servicing** - these are elements of a well-shaped Christian life and they are also headings on the diocesan website. If you are looking for ideas, information and resources for shaping your own life, individually or as a parish, then you will find it a good starting place for discovering what help is available in the Diocese.

[www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**A rule of life:** Sister Elizabeth (right) made her first profession at Tymawr Convent on 4th January. The sisters at Tymawr (near Monmouth) are a praying presence in our midst and able to help us with our own prayer - they provide space for quiet days and retreats in Tymawr and at Michaelgarth Retreat House. Contact 01600 860244 [tymawrconvent@btinternet.com](mailto:tymawrconvent@btinternet.com)

## Learning Ministry

Living Faith, the diocesan programme for growing discipleship, has been spreading to groups all over the diocese. But it's not just the 'person in the pew' who is encouraged to grow in faith. In all areas of professional life nowadays, learning and keeping up to date must be built into work patterns. Clergy and other ministers are no exception to this and in Monmouth Diocese we have lots of possibilities.

Individual clergy are encouraged to undertake study and learning of their own choice and some financial support is available for that.

Local Clergy Chapters are an opportunity to meet together for mutual support and learning, and some Chapters are open to Readers as well. To complement this, Focus Groups get together on a voluntary basis. Some discuss aspects of ministry such as counselling, ministry amongst men, liturgy and worship and so on, whilst others are more about relaxing together by walking, having meals out or sharing an interest in railways.

Wider still, there are regular Day Conferences, sometimes with guest speakers. Professor Keith Ward will be coming in May. There will be a day on Healing Ministry in June. From time to time groups gather over a meal to discuss a book and the first of a series to explore popular theology expressed in films will take place in the Spring. Readers are invited to take part in many events as part of their own programme.

It is all a growing part of our diocesan life. Please support your clergy in it.

*Canon Ambrose Mason,  
Diocesan Director of Ministry*

## Hazel

**Hazel Paling retires at the end of January having worked as Bishop's Secretary for twenty years.**

**We couldn't let her retirement pass without an interview for the newsletter.**

She wouldn't spill the beans on the bishops but says: I have been privileged to have worked with three bishops who have worked tirelessly for the Diocese of Monmouth, firstly Bishop Clifford, then Archbishop Rowan and finally Bishop Dominic.

I will miss the clergy and people of this diocese.

**What have you enjoyed about the job?**

I have enjoyed the variety of the job, meeting people from all aspects of life, and seeing nervous prospective ordinands coming to Bishopstow for their first interview with the bishop and then developing over the years into fine priests.

**Any particular memories – funny? unusual? embarrassing?**

Setting off the alarm at Bishopstow and convincing the police that I was the secretary not a burglar!

**How have things changed?**

Starting work 20 years ago with a basic word processor and having to learn the ongoing technology over the years. Moving from a very cramped small office in the house to the stable block at Bishopstow.

**What do you plan for retirement?**

I plan to do some travelling, spending more time with my grandchildren and in my large garden, and to do some voluntary work in a charity shop.

**What advice would you give to Linda about things a Bishop's secretary needs to know?**

I will leave Linda the copy of a poem called "A Smile" which is beside me on my desk. The first verse is, 'A smile costs nothing, but gives much', and it reminds me to always be welcoming and reassuring to everyone I come into contact with.



## *Bishop Dominic says:*

In my ministry as a bishop I have been blessed with wonderful secretaries. Hazel has served three Bishops of Monmouth for over twenty years and is now approaching a well-deserved retirement at the end of January.

I know that I am going to miss Hazel for a host of reasons. She has proved to be a wonderful friend and has provided me with personal support in what can be quite a lonely job. She is loyal and patient and has coped with me when I make mistakes, forget things, get frazzled and even tetchy (I know you may find that hard to believe!). She is always prepared to go the extra mile and is totally confidential and discreet. I hope that when she retires she will not be writing her memoirs!

Much of what a secretary does, I know little about. Hazel has had to keep numerous accounts, communicate with the diocesan and provincial offices and the Registry. She has spent a lot of time chasing up people who don't reply and planning ahead to make sure that I am in the right place at the right time and saying the right thing.

I know from overhearing telephone calls just how well she knows the clergy, past and present, and so many of the laity. After over twenty years, she has a breadth of knowledge of the diocese and has approached everything with a deeply compassionate heart.

I want to thank Hazel and pay tribute to her for her commitment to Christ and his Church and for her service to the Diocese. May she have a long, happy and healthy retirement. I shall miss her.



Mrs Linda Colley is the new Bishop's Secretary

## **Bishop's Office twins its loo**

The toilet in the Bishop's office has been twinned with the toilet located in Giharo Province, Burundi, Africa  
Lat: -3.89457798 Long: 30.199031



[www.toiletwinning.org](http://www.toiletwinning.org)

# Ringing the Changes

## News from The Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers



This year, a **notable once-in-a-century time** occurred—and we marked it with a quarter-peal. As the occurrence was 10 seconds past 10 minutes past 10:00 on 10/10/(20)10, the quarter simply had to be on 10 bells and we were able to ring at St Mary's, Abergavenny.

The fact that it fell on a Sunday morning was both a help and a hindrance: a help because the service at Abergavenny is at 11.00, meaning that it's perfectly normal for the bells to be rung, and a hindrance because most ringers are very loyal to their home tower's Sunday Service Ringing.

10 ringers were persuaded to take part. A quarter peal of Grandsire Caters was duly scored, starting at 10am and including the important time.

10 days later came the chance to ring a date-touch of 2010 changes at 20:10 on 20/10/2010. Ten minutes past eight in the evening is rather late to be starting a normal-length quarter peal, let alone one containing over 700 extra changes, but the tower at Tredunnoc with its pleasant ring of 6 in a fairly isolated rural area, made the ringers welcome. A team was raised and an enjoyable, well-struck date-touch ran round, to the relief of the entire band. Particular congratulations to Val and Richard on scoring their longest length.

Now then, how about a 12-bell peal at 12:12:12 on 12/12/(20)12.....?

*Nick Jones and John Hopkins*



*The Association 8 bell team*

The Association had a successful visit to the **The All Wales Striking Competition** on Saturday 25th September 2010. This was held at St Peter's, Glasbury-on-Wye. Glasbury bells, rehung in 1999, are a very pleasant ring and it quickly became obvious that competition would be tight.

Llandaff & Monmouth were delighted to come first in the 6 bell section, second in the 8 bell section, and first overall.

## Kids.Ring.Out.

After a day out ringing in Llanblethian and Cowbridge, **Kids.Ring.Out**, the junior section of the Association, enjoyed a Beach Barbecue at Ogmores-on-Sea.

### Kids.Ring.Out. Achievements

#### Blue Badge: Ambitious Apprentice

Alice - Bassaleg  
Jordan, Flo, Katherine - Trelleck  
Izzy - Shirenewton

#### Green Badge: Happy Hunter

Nye - Rumney

#### Red Badge: Artful Dodger

Rhiannon, Hannah - Shirenewton  
Marina, Bea, George - Aberdare

#### First quarter peal

Marina, Bea - Aberdare  
Hannah, Sam - Shirenewton  
Erin - Bassaleg  
Katie - Michaelston  
Chris - Coity



#### First Q inside

Chris, Merrick - Shirenewton

#### First Peal

Claire, Maddie – Shirenewton

Do you fancy ringing bells? For information about the Association and its activities contact your local tower captain or Matthew Turner, 33 St Malo Road, Heath, Cardiff, CF14 4HL Tel: 02920 628933

[www.llanmon.org.uk](http://www.llanmon.org.uk)



## How Green is your Parish?

At the Church in Wales Governing Body meeting in September 2010, a motion was passed

- calling on the UK and Welsh Assembly Governments to take urgent action to ensure the continued development and full implementation of long term strategies to secure the provision of appropriate and sustainable energy supplies, and
- calling on members of the Church in Wales to encourage and adopt ways of reducing personal energy consumption.

This is now urgent as part of our individual and corporate witness. We cannot morally ask others to do what we are not prepared to do ourselves. St Paul's metaphor of the body asks each of us to play our part so that the whole can flourish.

Many individual Christians have been leading the way in showing the importance of lifestyle changes and turning values into practical action. **The Parish Green Guide** helps parishes think through their collective approach to energy use. The Church congregation could become a place of mutual help, support and advice in local communities, so that individuals feel they are not just acting on their own.

The **Diocesan Environmental Award Scheme** exists to celebrate local achievements. The Award is organised by the Church in Wales Action for Sustaining the Environment (CHASE). Parishes are invited to submit reports on any significant environmental achievements, including projects, changes to church buildings or other initiatives. These should be sent to the Archdeacons. The Diocese will then nominate one parish a year for the Award, which is a framed certificate.

The GB motion is a call to everyone in the Church in Wales to play their part and set an example to others. As Peter Davies, Sustainable Development Commissioner for Wales and Chair of the Climate Change Commission for Wales, said when introducing the motion:

*"The Church in Wales can play a key role in developing these local solutions and being an exemplar through its own actions in reducing energy use and in encouraging local energy generation. Our churches are at the heart of local communities and are therefore well-placed to lead or inspire projects which can generate renewable energy for use of that community."*

*Canon Robin Morrison, Bishops' Adviser on Church and Society*

### Could we become the greenest diocese in Wales?

All parishes should have received a copy of the *Parish Green Guide*. It is available from Church in Wales Publications, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF or as a free download at [www.churchinwales.org.uk/publications/downloads/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/publications/downloads/)



*Editor:* Do send me your **green news** for the newsletter.

## New Year Resolutions? An invitation from the Church Mission Society

This is a special one-off invitation to be part of our New Year challenge. We hope you'll want to join in and encourage others too. The idea is simple: 1,000 people making a Mission Resolution for 2011. You can do it right now. Either on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/1000resolutions](http://www.facebook.com/1000resolutions)) or on a new action-sharing website, [www.WeAreSayingYes.org](http://www.WeAreSayingYes.org), you can make a resolution to put a bit more of God's mission into your everyday life.

It might help you to put something into action you've been meaning to do for a while. Or if you're already committed to the mission lifestyle, how about taking part in 1,000 Resolutions to encourage others? The more that take part, the more others are likely to join in.

There is a whole range of mission resolution suggestions on the *We Are Saying Yes* site, or you can create your own:

- Pray for people ahead of you in the supermarket queue
- Join a campaign
- Make friends with someone of another faith
- Go on a fast from impulse buys
- ...and many more.

The website also offers participants the chance to post prayer requests, ask others for advice, share stories and even promote their mission events.

We think the impact of 1,000 people taking a small step in mission could have a fantastic ripple effect. Why not be part of it?

[www.WeAreSayingYes.org](http://www.WeAreSayingYes.org)

[www.facebook.com/1000resolutions](http://www.facebook.com/1000resolutions)

[www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)

# GAZETTE

## Appointments

Revd Graham Opperman, Team Vicar in the Jarrow Team Ministry (Durham); to be NSM Priest in the Rectorial Benefice of Cwmbran based at Henllys (7 Nov 2010)

Revd Nick Perry, Priest-in-Charge of Blaina and Nantyglo; to be Rector of Blaina and Nantyglo (19 Dec 2010)

Revd Patrick Coleman, Priest-in-charge of Abertillery w Cwmtillery and Six Bells; to be Vicar of Abertillery w Cwmtillery w Llanhilleth & Six Bells (15 Jan)

Revd James Davies, NSM Curate in the Rectorial Benefice of Caldicot; to be Honorary Associate Vicar in the Parish of Chepstow (caring for St Christopher's, Bulwark) (6 Feb)

Mrs Linda Colley; to be Secretary to the Bishop (24 Jan)

Revd Raymond Hayter, Chaplain of HM Prison Sheerness; to be Minor Canon at Newport Cathedral (March 1)

Vicki Brackpool; to be Diocesan Children's Adviser

Revd Robbie Dennis, Minor Canon at Newport Cathedral; to be Priest-in-Charge of Llantilio Pertholey (12 Mar)

Revd Beverley Smith, Hospital Chaplain at the University College Hospital and Assistant Curate in the RB of Whitchurch (Llandaff); to be NSM priest in the Mynyddislwyn Rectorial Benefice (June - with Permission to Officiate from 1st January 2011).

## Resignations

Mrs Hazel Paling, Secretary to the Bishop; on reaching retirement. (31 Jan)

## Confirmations

20th February	tbc	Abergavenny
10th March	7pm	Monmouth Schools
27th March	10am	Bassaleg
30th March	10am	St Teilo, Newport
3rd July	5pm	Nantyglo
18th September	10.30am	Ebbw Vale
20th November	am	Caldicot
27th November	am	Pontypool

## The Diocese of Monmouth is 90 this year

The Diocese was created out of the ancient Diocese of Llandaff following the disestablishment of the Church in Wales from the Church of England.

A number of events are planned during the year climaxing in a **Day of Celebration at the University of Wales, Newport, on October 15th** a few days before the actual 90th Anniversary on October 18th. The Day of Celebration will have something for people of all ages, including clowns, music and workshops. This is a day for everyone in the diocese to enjoy.

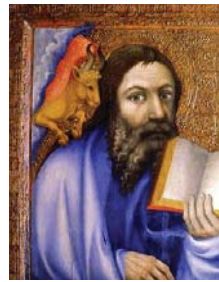
The year will begin with the Bishop visiting our link Diocese of the Highveld in South Africa and will include a day conference in the summer for Church School teachers in the Diocese.

Among events planned by the cathedral is a walk along the canal from the cathedral in Newport to Brecon Cathedral - the cathedral of the other Welsh diocese celebrating its 90th Anniversary.

Although Monmouth is one of the newest dioceses in the Church in Wales it has produced three Archbishops of Wales and one Archbishop of Canterbury: Dr Rowan Williams.

*Revd Mark Soady*

## Lent 2011



*St. Luke by Master Theodoric, 1360*

During Lent, the Bishop will be out and about in the Diocese sharing his love of St Luke's Gospel.

Each evening, he will talk for about 45 minutes and then answer your questions.

Those who have heard Bishop Dominic talk about the Scriptures, know how illuminating and inspiring these occasions are. In 2009 more than 800 people came to hear him talk about St John's Gospel. Will you increase that number in 2011? Starting in the week beginning 14 March, for 5 weeks, each evening (except Wednesday) starts at 7.30pm and finishes by 9pm.

Monday: St Cadoc's, Raglan

Tuesday: St Peter's, Blaina

Wednesday: Newport Cathedral **8pm**

Thursday: Pontprennau Community Church, CF23 8LL

Friday: Magor Church Centre

**Please bring your Bible - and a friend!**

### Shirley Williams to speak at University of Wales, Newport

As part of the chaplaincy's contribution to the opening of the new City Campus, The Rt Hon Professor Baroness (Shirley) Williams of Crosby will speak on Faith and Politics at the City Centre Campus on Thursday evening, February 24th

Please book your place with Fr Mark Soady  
Mark.Soady@newport.ac.uk  
Mobile 07968 753978  
Direct Line: 01633 432905

## The gift of safe sanitation

Have you twinned your toilet?

Do send pictures of your loo and the one it is twinned with.

