



MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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Jan Stevens, Sunday School teacher at St John's Church, Cwmcarn, brought a sky lantern to release as part of the Pentecost celebration.

The lantern is taken on its journey into the sky by wind and flame.

This reminded us how the the Holy Spirit can direct the journey of our lives.



We Have a Gospel to Proclaim! June has been an important month for the diocese. 14 people were ordained, 4 of them as deacons and 10 as priests (see centre pages). Of these, 11 are serving as non-stipendiary ministers. 3 new Readers were licensed (p4). And Bishop David Bannerman and his wife, Joan, visited from our link diocese (p6).

Partnership in proclamation is a theme running through this bumper issue of the newsletter. Not just stipendiary with non-stipendiary, clergy with laity, diocese with diocese, but youth groups in Tredegar (p11), the Church in Wales with the Commission for Older People (p13), the local church with radio (p10), local business and community groups to build a memorial (p12). The Mothers' Union do it worldwide (p14), St Pauls do it café-style (p3), Blackwood by the warmth of their welcome (p2), Llanfrechfa say it with flowers (p2).

Plus: the Bishop muses on what being a bishop is all about (p5), there's **Godly Play** in Rogerstone (p3), and **Living Faith** is spreading (p15).

Good News for All - have a wonderful summer



All saints Church, Llanfrechfa, Flower Festival

Our flower festival seems to have been an unqualified success thanks to all who contributed. Visitors came from a wide area including Exeter and New South Wales, such is the power of the internet!

The retired Diocesan Registrar, Nigel Williams, kindly opened the event at the Preview Evening which featured music by Coro Cantabile.

The adult education flower arranging classes directed by Lorraine Geddes worked for long periods to prepare outstanding displays. Our keen band of ladies helped with refreshments throughout the festival.

'Songs of Praise' sung by the joint choirs of St Cadoc's, Caerleon, and All Saints, Llanfrechfa, proved especially memorable thanks to the care and thought given by Revd Frieda Evans, Trevor Morgan and Adrian Gillard.

The event was an ideal way of bringing so many of the congregation together to enjoy the fellowship and laughter of shared duties and a chance to get to know each other better between the rush of visitors and tasks to be undertaken.

Thanks especially to our sponsors and Torfaen Branching Out Fund which enabled us to access Rural Development Plan funds from the EU and WAG.

*John Palmer, Chairman, Open Church Group,
All Saints Church Llanfrechfa*

Blackwood Confirmation

The Feast of Pentecost was even more of a cause for celebration than usual this year at St Margaret's, Blackwood, because it saw the confirmation of eight adults and young people (including one from the Magor Benefice), three of whom were also baptised.

Bishop Dominic presided at the morning Eucharist, and baptised and confirmed the candidates.

Some of those being baptised and confirmed had started coming to church because they had brought their children to be baptised at St Margaret's during the previous year or two, and one couple were married there last year.

Matthew Eales wrote in the parish magazine about how he and his wife Rachael came to be confirmed: 'On attending the Palm Sunday service to hear our banns read, we were overwhelmed with the welcome the congregation gave us. Having discussed the service later that day, we decided that we would attend church regularly due to the warmth and kindness that we received'. A little over a year later, Matthew was baptised and he and Rachael were confirmed.

The Revd Matthew Tregenza, Priest-in-Charge of St Margaret's, said that he was delighted at the number of candidates for baptism and confirmation. "They have become a valued part of the worshipping community here at St Margaret's, and it's great that they want to make this commitment to continue their journey of faith."



Left to right: Rachael Eales, Nina-Marie Wiltshire, Amy Malpas, Rebecca Wiltshire, Bishop Dominic, Vanessa Nicholson (from Magor Benefice), Matthew Eales, Hannah Adam, Louise Green.

Youth Eucharist Service St Margaret's Blackwood.

Can YES finish quietly? The Lent service in Blackwood proved that it can. While every YES is unique, this was completely different. It began with an energy that normally marks the climax as we sang *Dancing Generation* and our 'anthem' *Trading My Sorrows*. This represented Palm Sunday celebrations.

The service then led us through the events of Holy Week as we remembered the Last Supper through the Eucharist (Archdeacon Richard Pain presiding).

The altar was then stripped while we were invited to

A Café-Confirmation at St Paul's, Newport



Was this a first for Bishop Dominic? On Sunday 13th June he visited St Paul's City Centre Church, to preside at the morning worship and to confirm four people. There's nothing unusual in that - except that this was confirmation café-style.

Stephanie Keates, Sarah Walker, Sarah Gregory and Stacey Smith, or 'the 4 Ss', are all young adults in the congregation and were prepared for confirmation by the vicar, Revd Justin Groves.

The congregation was boosted by friends and family of the candidates, including visitors from Cardiff, Bristol and Somerset.

The church building at St Paul's is open as St Paul's Café during the week and the Sunday congregation have been experimenting with 'café-church' over the past few years. We have been in permanent café-style church since Advent 2009 and look set to continue with this layout - it works well with the informal feel to the morning service and provides a quiet and spacious atmosphere for the café during the week.

St Paul's Café opens Tuesday - Friday 11am - 2pm and is always looking for new customers and volunteers - no experience required, just a willingness to chat to our lovely regulars and help in the kitchen.

Katharine Murphy

Godly Play at St John's, Rogerstone

St John's Church, Rogerstone, was delighted to welcome Bishop Dominic on Saturday June 5th. He came to bless and officially open the new Godly Play Room for St John's Children's Church.

After joining in a Godly Play story and wondering time, Bishop Dominic answered the children's questions. The Sunday school then joined other parish members in the church hall for a brief blessing and the official opening with tea and cake to follow. The children felt very special and were given a Bethlehem cross each to mark the occasion. It was great to see such a good turn out and the Children's Church would like to thank all those who have helped create the room, and those who have supported our efforts.



Members of St John's Church, the Children's Church, and members of the wider Bassaleg parish have been working hard to clear, decorate and furnish the new room which is dedicated specifically for Godly Play. The leaders have been learning about Godly Play and after visits, training and investigation have launched it with the children of St John's. The children love the creative approach and the freedom to think and explore that Godly Play offers them. The leaders are also growing spiritually as we journey with the children in this exciting way. Children's Church numbers are rising and the children are enthusiastic about every element of the Godly Play sessions. It is a really exciting time for the parish.

Please pray for our growth and children's ministry as we develop our Godly Play skills.

Revd Chris Stone, Team Vicar

'watch and pray'. The powerful account of Maundy Thursday was read from the *Word on the Street* and acted by the drama group made up as clowns, interspersed with verses of the beautiful song *The Power of the Cross*. We saw Jesus washing his disciples' feet, despite Peter's protest. We followed them to Gethsemane, watched Jesus pass on the baton to his 'squad', finally telling his Dad it was time. The clowns nailed him to the cross and at the last he bowed his head. A stirring rendition of the classic *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* provided a fitting ending as the congregation were requested to follow the clowns from the church in silence.

Many members of the congregation and the YES team had been moved to tears. For the worship group,

waiting for the church to empty felt an eternity, gazing on our crucified Lord.

There are so many people to thank it's never possible to do it justice - thanks to the young people for working so hard and producing such a wonderful result. To Sam, David and the technical team, Sarah and Mike for the music and Hannah for directing the drama. Of course, as always, thanks to Pam for her vision. This service, being so far from a 'normal' YES was something of a risk. The comments afterwards appear to indicate that, with God's help, it paid off immensely.

Nick Jones

*The YES team have recorded a CD of their favourite music. Contact Pam Richards for details.
01291 423378 pam.j.richards@btinternet.com*

Partners in ministry - new Readers Licensed



l to r: Canon Andrew Willie (Warden of Readers and Vicar of St Marks), Gaynor Parfitt, Mary Rees (Parish of Llanhilleth who preached the sermon), Bishop Dominic, John Pritchard, Judith Anderson.

The Readers Association AGM and Annual Licensing Service took place at St Mark's church, Newport, on 13th June.

The Bishop licensed Gaynor Suzanne Parfitt (parish of Goetre and Llanover), Judith Penelope Anderson (Caldicot Benefice), and John Thomas Pritchard (Parish of Govilon, Llanfoist and Llanellen) as Readers. They were presented with the blue scarf as a symbol of their authority to preach and teach, and a bible to remind them of their promise to continue to study God's word.

Mrs Val Willie provided refreshments, which were very welcome on a warm summer evening.



Photo by John Vesey

Canon Jennifer Mole has been elected as a lifelong member of the Llandaff and Monmouth Association of Church Bell Ringers. She received her certificate at the AGM in April.



On a beautiful midsummer evening, the Revd Jeremy Harris was licensed as Team Vicar to the Benefice of Magor. People travelled from across the Diocese and beyond to fill the church and pray for Jeremy as he joins a team that serves the ten churches of the benefice and the wider communities. Team Rector, Revd Mark Lawson-Jones said, "We are blessed to have Jeremy here as Team Vicar. He has considerable gifts and skills that are needed here as we look to the future and strive to grow our churches both spiritually and numerically."

For more information about the Benefice of Magor have a look at the website www.magorbenefice.co.uk

What's happening in the diocese?
To keep up with the news, visit
www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bishop Dominic explains what being a bishop is all about....

You may have heard me tell the story of speaking to a primary school class about the job of a bishop. At the end of my talk, a little girl asked me, "But do you have a proper job?" I had to admit that I don't! But even adults sometimes wonder about what a bishop does to fill in the time between Sundays.

I suppose what a bishop does should reflect what a bishop is. In the New Testament, a bishop is an 'episcopos', that is, someone who oversees the life of the church, and that involves more than office administration, emails, meetings and 'red tape' – although I have more than enough of that!

Anglicans (like Catholics, Orthodox and others) believe that a bishop is a successor of the apostles and the 'Ordinary' minister in the diocese. So the bishop's first task is that of an apostle and 'to be with Jesus' and witness to the Risen Lord; so daily prayer comes first.

A bishop also commissions others, ordained and lay, to minister on his behalf. He should strive to maintain unity in his diocese, defend the faith and to lead his people in the life of holiness.

Traditionally, the bishop's role is threefold – to teach, to sanctify and to govern, and the exercise of his ministry must be personal, collegial and communal. Let me say a little about each.

There are many opportunities **to teach** through talks, sermons and bible studies. I shall be spending four days this summer with people from the diocese studying the Acts of the Apostles, and next year I shall give a series of talks during Lent on St Luke's gospel. I am always happy to accept invitations from deaneries and parishes to teach the faith.

To sanctify is largely about encouraging people to deepen their spiritual lives. I shall be leading the diocesan pilgrimage in July and I have appointed Advisers in Adult Learning and Spirituality to provide opportunities for people to take part in the **Living Faith** course and to learn different ways of praying. Each Lent, I send a pastoral letter to parishes to encourage people to observe it as a time of spiritual discipline. It has been said that the hardest task for any bishop or priest is to encourage church-goers to become true disciples of Jesus.

The governing role is not so much about committees or disciplining errant clergy but about exercising authority, and listening to the Holy Spirit in order to provide leadership and strategy for ministry and mission. Mission Action Plans, Ministry Reviews for the clergy and consultations with advisers and staff members are linked with the bishop's governing role.

A bishop's ministry is personal, collegial and communal.



A brace of Bishops - Bishop Dominic with Bishop David Bannerman of the Highveld after the morning ordination service in St Woolos

It is **personal** in that I am not a committee and we believe that God calls individuals to lead the Church. I know that in Wales the election of a new bishop is taken very seriously.

The ministry is **collegial**, that is a bishop does not exercise his ministry alone. I lead the presbytery (or college of priests) and share the 'cure that is yours and mine' and I also meet with the other bishops in Wales four times a year and with the Celtic and English bishops as well. Bishops also take counsel through the Governing Body and their own diocesan structures. They also hold portfolios for the Province – mine are ministry and liturgy – and I chair or belong to a number of provincial committees including Human Resources, Clergy Terms of Service, and St Michael's College trustees.

Episcopacy is also **communal**: each bishop is rooted in a particular community and place and I am aware that the Diocese of Monmouth is quite distinct. It is always good to be involved in local initiatives like the Street Pastors. A bishop must also be part of the wider community and so I am Visitor to six religious communities and the Order of Jacob's Well. I chair a group that supports those in the Single Consecrated Life and I maintain my involvements with the ministries of healing and deliverance and animal welfare.

St Augustine of Hippo described the task of a bishop as 'to correct the troublesome; to cheer the faint-hearted; to support the weak; to refute those who oppose the gospel; to guard against enemies; to teach the unlearned; to stir up the lazy; to quieten the argumentative; to put the proud in their place; to assist the desperate; to reconcile the quarrelsome; to help the needy; to liberate the oppressed; to encourage the good; to tolerate the bad – and, oh! – to love them all'.

Perhaps this tells you why the Bishops of the Church in Wales have requested that parishes pray for their own bishop by name at every Eucharist – we need it!

With love and prayers,

+ Dominic

Working in Partnership - Bishop David Bannerman shares his vision for the Diocese of the Highveld and our link with it

Bishop David Bannerman and his wife, Joan, spent a week in Monmouth diocese in June. Their programme included a meeting with the Link Committee and visits to parishes - as well as being interviewed by the Newsletter Editor.

Bishop David, we know you were Dean of St Dunstan's before you became Bishop, but can you tell us something of your life before that?

My family went to church but weren't particularly committed. I was baptised as a child but the church really became part of my life when I decided I wanted to be confirmed. I remember walking some distance to St Paul's, Blantyre, Malawi, where I was a server. At college I considered ordination but I wasn't sure enough about it to feel I could ask my parents to try and fund an expensive private education. So I joined the police for three years. I did then offer myself for ordination to the Bishop of Matabeleland and so I went to college in South Africa - and that's where I met Joan! She was at teacher training college and we met in the Cathedral Choir in Grahamstown.

Joan went back to her home town of Kimberley and I went to the cathedral in Matabeleland before we were married. As a parish priest, I ministered in a farming area and then in the mining communities of the Free State gold field region. I was Canon Residentiary at Blomfontein Cathedral and then, in 1995, became Rector of St Dunstan's in Benoni and then Archdeacon. When, in November 1999, St Dunstan's became the Cathedral of the Highveld, I became Dean.

You've been bishop for a year now - what have you been doing in that year?

Listening, looking and learning! I've now covered the diocese and been to confirmations in most parishes. I've also presided over my first Diocesan Synod (they happen every three years). Pastoral care of the clergy is an important priority. I have been picking up the issues in the diocese but also seeking to create a vision for the diocese - focussing on the three areas of church growth, theological education, and social responsibility.

Please tell us more about that vision.

We've moved into a year, beginning with the feast of Pentecost, when I am challenging parishes to look at renewal and growth in their particular context. That might be growing another congregation or deepening their spiritual life. No congregation is the same but if we believe in a ministry of reconciliation, both to God and to each other, then we must also be looking at ways to grow together as a diocese rather than seeing ourselves as separate parishes. I'm encouraging Archdeaconries to work together to share resources, share pulpits, and find ways of supporting each other. There are six archdeaconries paired into three regions and there is a fund which Bishop David Beetge set up to assist the building of a new church in each of those regions. Those funds are growing through Lent appeals - things are happening.

You mentioned theological training. One of our Lent appeals in Monmouth was to raise money for a room which could be used for training - how is that going?

There have been some holdups, but I'm hoping that we will be able to move into the building when Joan and I return to South Africa. We are in the process of putting in place lay minister training in the different languages of the diocese which until now has been in English. We are also looking at creating a Bishop's certificate in theology for the diocese with the help of the diocese of Bunbury, Australia.

Here in Monmouth, we are very aware of your projects in the area of social responsibility. People who visit you come back overwhelmed by the level of poverty and the HIV situation.

If mission is to be truly of God then it has to be not just bringing people good news for their spiritual life but also ministering to them at a more basic level whether you see that as Maslow's hierarchy of needs or as bringing the whole Christ for the whole person. So, Social Responsibility is a huge thing for us. The state doesn't pick up all the problems, so the church has to. We are deeply grateful for the practical ways you help us in this work.

But the link between our dioceses is about much more than us giving help to you - what is your vision for it and how do you see it working?

It is a companion link between equals and the relationships are key. It's those relationships that have brought people from Monmouth to South Africa and given them a vision of the greater church, a vision of how Christians are doing things in other contexts. It's very important that people will be coming from our black parishes to visit you in Monmouth in September. They will see the church at work in Wales and they will come back looking at their own church and their own parish from a different perspective, perhaps discovering new ways of doing things. It's out of these relationships that caring grows in different ways, including prayer for each other.



One thing that people talk about when they come back from visiting the Highveld is the sheer joy they find in worship and in daily living.

Someone put it that Monmouth brings us the thoughtfulness of the gospel (in terms of theological reflection); the Highveld offers you the spontaneity of the gospel.

You've talked about relationships. We grew to know and love David and Carol Beetge. It must be quite hard to follow in his footsteps.

It is. He was a big man, not just in the diocese but in the Anglican Communion and this was reflected in those who came from all over the world to his Requiem. Your prayerful support at that difficult time really deepened the link for me. I'm always conscious that I cannot fill his shoes, and I don't try to, my ministry is different.

Is there anything you would like to say to the people of Monmouth

First of all - and it's at the heart of the gospel - Eucharist! Thank you! Thank you for sharing with us. Thank you for sharing your faith and your fellowship and your resources with us. I don't know how long this link will last but we are still getting to know each other and I hope it will continue. And I think it is so good that as the Anglican Communion goes through difficult times, our two dioceses are linked in this way.

Joan Bannerman has a full-time job of her own as well as supporting Bishop David in his work. Having qualified as a teacher she then did further training to become a remedial therapist - a job she has been doing full-time for the last 15 years. Her pupils at St Dunstan's College are aged 6 to 10 and come from a variety of backgrounds. Most are English but some are Afrikaaners who need to improve their English. Some are from black families who can afford to pay for the smaller class size which they believe will help their children attain a higher standard. Some will have conditions such as Aspergers syndrome, some need speech therapy. Joan works alongside paediatric neurologists and educational psychologists. "We try never to turn a child away", she says.

A day in the life of the Bannermans

Our day begins between 5.30am and 6am with a breakfast of porridge or muesli with yoghurt and fruit, washed down with a cup of tea.

Joan: I make sandwiches for lunch time and get to work for 7.30am.

David: I stay behind and say Morning Prayer. Then I have a time of quiet before going in to my office (which is 7 kilometres away in Benoni) for about 9am.

It depends what's on the agenda but I'll probably spend the morning dealing with administration matters, attending meetings and holding interviews. On Thursdays I celebrate the Eucharist in St Dunstan's. The pastoral care of clergy is of prime importance. There are clergy moves to sort out and parish difficulties to attend to. In the afternoon I could be going out on a visit to parish or clergy or meetings outside.

I'll come home about 4.30pm and say Evening Prayer. It depends where we are but we'll sometimes say the Office together in the chapel before sharing a meal. Then there is usually an evening meeting to go to.

If you looked at Bishop Dominic's diary and mine, they would be very similar.

Joan: I usually spend my evening preparing food and lessons for the next day. I like to read and to knit and embroider.

David: On Saturdays there are often other diocesan meetings and commitments to attend and on Sundays there are confirmations. Joan always comes with me to these if she can. The parish could be fairly local or it might be over four hours drive away, which means an overnight stay. There are always at least thirty to forty candidates to be confirmed and the service can start at nine and last until half past twelve. Sometimes there are two services on one Sunday.

Joan: If we're on holiday, we like to spend our day quietly, reading and walking - and we like to spend time with the family. (Daughter Katherine and her husband David have an 8 month old daughter, Margot.)

We try to get to bed by 10pm but it does depend on the workload.

Petertide Ordination

On 26th June, Bishop Dominic ordained 4 deacons and



above left: The Bishop alone lays hands to ordain deacons. They then wear their stole over one shoulder.

left: During the singing of 'Veni Sancte Spiritu', Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, those deacons who are about to be ordained priest prostrate themselves in prayer as a reminder of Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion. Ready on a table are the chalice and paten they will be given after their ordination, ready for their sacramental ministry.



l to r: Revd Gareth Coombes, Revd Chris Walters, Bishop David Bannerman, Revd Nick Taylor, Bishop Dominic, Revd Dorothy Thomas, Revd Patrick Coleman (who led the ordination retreat), Revd Mary Dunn, Revd Sue Collingbourne.

inations 2010

and 10 priests at two services in Newport Cathedral



above: The Bishop is joined by other priests to ordain a new priest.

right: The group on the steps of Bishopstow before leaving for their ordination retreat at Llantarnam Abbey

For sermon and press release see
www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk



The new priests have their stoles placed over both shoulders and are then robed with a chasuble.

Bishop David Bannerman of the Highveld, our link diocese, was at the service in the morning and he placed a chasuble on each new priest.

Bishop Dominic anointed the hands of the new priests with Chrism oil.

Deacons are presented with a copy of the New Testament. Priests are presented with a complete Bible and with a chalice and paten



l to r: Revd Pam Griffiths, Revd Jim Davies, Revd Annie Church, Revd Michael Jarman, Bishop Dominic, Revd Christine Hockey, Revd Robert Lindsay, Revd Heidi-Maria de Gruchy.

Celebration at St Mary's, Abergavenny



Director of Music, Tim Pratt, conducts the choir during the recording – the pole to the right of the picture is holding a camera so the producer and sound engineer could see what was going on from the outside broadcast van parked in front of the church.

BBC Radio Wales has recorded two programmes in the Sunday morning *Celebration* series at St Mary's Priory Church, in Abergavenny.

The first programme, led by Fr Jeremy Winston, was broadcast on St Benedict's Day, July 11, and the address, given by Fr John Plessis, looks at the Benedictine way of life - first experienced by Fr John when he and a colleague stayed at the Anglican Benedictine Monastery in Alton, Hampshire, at the end of their first year at theological college.

The second programme, to be broadcast on October 10, is led by Fr John, and includes a new anthem composed by St Mary's director of music, Tim Pratt. The address, given by Fr Jeremy, looks at the Good News of the Christian Gospel in relation to what we do wrong in our lives and, indeed, what we don't do.

Celebration, which is listened to by 70,000 people, has visited churches throughout Wales and reflects many different approaches to Christian worship. It is broadcast on 93-96FM and 657 & 882AM.

Caroline Woollard

Holy Land Mural in Afghanistan



Padre Ben Abeledo, left, senior chaplain of Task Force Helmand, and Major Peter Rowell, deputy chief of staff TFH with the mural in Afghanistan.

British troops serving in Afghanistan now have a reminder of home, thanks to a mural created by the mother of one of the soldiers. Liz Brown (below right), of Tredegar, who worships at St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny, made the five-foot mural for her son, Deputy Chief of Staff Major Peter Rowell, to hang in the makeshift chapel at his base in Afghanistan. Major Rowell, who is in the Royal Engineers, started a six-month tour of Afghanistan in March, based in Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province, taking with him the fabric wall-hanging depicting the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

The work has the words, 'Dedicated to all those who do their duty to make the world a safer place to everyone' on the back.

The silk mural, known as Stained Glass, has now been blessed and takes pride of place in the tent which acts as a church for soldiers at the base. It took Mrs Brown three weeks, working four hours a day, to complete.

Major Rowell said he felt "very privileged" to have the mural at the base, adding: "It's a poignant reminder of the love and support we have from our families, friends and well-wishers back in the UK."



Liz Brown
(picture courtesy of the South Wales Argus)

Youth in partnership for Uganda

Picking rice, fetching water, sleeping out

On Saturday 19th June, the young people from St George's Church, Tredegar, took part in an overnight fundraising event to raise money for children in Uganda. The night was held in partnership with some other youth groups in the local area.

Everyone met in the church that would become their home for the night. It was to be a sleepover with a difference because, for this night, the young people would replicate what it's like to be a Ugandan child and live without all mod cons. That meant mobile phones were handed in as they entered, the electricity was a no-go and candles came out instead as everything went back to basics. The camp fire came into action as an important factor to stay alive, even though the only food available was a typical African village meal of rice and beans!



During the night, the young people participated in many activities to help them have a greater appreciation of the challenges children and young people in Uganda face on a daily basis. These included walking a bucket of water around the church building 100 times between them, to help them see how far a child walks in Africa for water; sorting rice and seeds, to ensure the food they ate was clean and not contaminated, a chore all Ugandans do before eating; and attempting to make an African style football out of newspaper, plastic bags and string.

The event has already raised over £200 and more money is still to come in. All the money raised will be going to Uganda this July, when Natasha Powles, the youth club and Sunday school leader, will travel there and work with abandoned babies and former street children, as well as working within a mountain village Primary School and Clinic. The money will make a huge difference so a BIG thank you goes to everyone involved.



New Street Pastors

On Friday, 11th June, Bishop Dominic came to Christ Church in Ebbw Vale to commission sixteen Street Pastors from different churches within the town: Christ Church, St David's (Beaufort), Church On The Rise, West End, Zion and the Apostolic church. Bishop Dominic shared the Word, likening the story of the 'Good Samaritan' to the work that we will be doing, and then blessed and commissioned the new Street Pastors as he distributed their caps.

Present at the ceremony and endorsing the work of Street Pastors were: the Mayor of Blaenau Gwent, Mr Brian Thomas; Mr Nick Smith MP; Police Superintendent, Mark Warrender; and Sgt Andy O'Keefe of Gwent Police; Mr Mark Thomas SP from Bridgend.

Following refreshments (thanks to Elaine and Pat) the Street Pastors made their way to the base church, West End. At 10pm, after a time of prayer, fourteen Street Pastors in three groups, proceeded to the town.

Many people wanted to know who we were, what we were doing and how much we were being paid! There were some interesting conversations and we were accepted by the revellers. There were no incidents for us to deal with but our presence seemed to make an impact.

Back at 'Base' there were four prayer supporters covering us throughout our time in the town. Our Prayer Co-ordinator is Revd Jackie Carter, who was supported by Beryl, Elaine and Marlene from the Apostolic Church on this evening.

We would like to thank all those who supported us and those who were unable to attend but were praying for us.

Thanks too for the hard work of Wayne Evans, Senior Elder at Church On The Rise; Revd Geoff Waggett, Rector of Ebbw Vale Benefice; and Revd David Lampard of West End. Wayne has organised all the training sessions, set venues and issued mountains of paperwork for all to digest.

Terry Edwards, Rector's Benefice Warden.



Wales Week of Prayer

People from six churches in Ebbw Vale outside the Festival Church on the Festival Site between Ebbw Vale and Cwm holding a banner made by Jen Waggett on the last morning of Wales Week of Prayer.

Members of local churches joined the Whitsun Walk of Witness processing to the Library in Ebbw Vale town centre where they held a lively service.

Six Bells remembers: Working in Partnership to build a memorial and a future vision



Photo by Revd Sarah Gillard-Faulkner

The 45 Men who died

Ivor James Baiton
 Daniel James Bancroft
 Robert Charles Brown
 Frank Cooper
 Joseph Corbett
 Thomas George Crandon
 Walter Thomas Davies
 Royden James Edwards
 Percy Gordon Eley
 Albert John Evans
 Keith Leonard Frampton
 Albert Gardner
 George Goldspink
 Vernon Alexander Griffiths
 Clive Alan Griffiths
 Ernest Victor Harding
 Idris Jones
 John Percival Jones
 Joseph John King
 Dennis Edmund Lane
 George Henry Luffman
 Telford Cecil Mapp
 Herbert Amos Mayberry
 Sidney Moore
 William John Morden
 Colin Malcolm Donald Morgan
 Roy Martin Morgan
 Colin Reginald Morgan
 Islwyn Morris
 William Henry Partridge
 Anthony Verdun Partridge
 Trevor Paul
 Wilfred Alfred Charles Phipps
 Albert George Pinkett
 Fredrick Rees
 William Glyn Reynolds
 Mansel Reynolds
 Wilfred Hughes Thomas
 Arthur Waters
 Phillip John Watkins
 Wilfred Weston
 William Burden Whittingham
 Fredrick White
 Richard John Williams
 John Woosnam

Fifty years to the day after the Six Bells Colliery Disaster on 28 June 1960, Archbishop Rowan Williams unveiled a new memorial to the 45 men who died in the disaster. 'The Guardian of The Valleys' towers above the former Six Bells Colliery site, a 12.6m high statue of a miner of that era, standing on a 7.4m high plinth. The name, age and occupation of each of the disaster victims is cut into a steel band surrounding the plinth.

Funding for the memorial came from a partnership which included local councils, businesses and community groups. Sebastian Boyesen was commissioned to design the statue in 2009, with the final results unveiled at a religious service led by Archbishop Rowan and attended by Bishop Dominic of Monmouth and local clergy.

Jocelyn Davies, AM, Deputy Minister. Housing and Regeneration, commented: "This memorial statue is a wonderful way to remember the disaster 50 years ago but also to provide something iconic for the people of The Valleys for the future. It will become the centrepiece of the Ebbw Fach Trail, linking areas of countryside with walkways, bridle paths and cycle routes."

Father Patrick Coleman, Vicar of Abertillery & Six Bells gave this address:

The Top 40 Charts for June 1960 show Number 1 as *Three Steps to Heaven* by Eddie Cochran, and Number 8 as *Stairway to Heaven* by Neil Sedaka.

Eddie Cochran's song says that the three steps are: find a girl to love; then she falls in love with you; then you kiss and hold her tight. Neil Sedaka's song builds a stairway to heaven because 'heaven is where you are'.

I guess our 45 men remembered here today will have known these songs well. This was a heaven within their grasp, and a welcome distraction from the nether Hell in which on 28th June that year they were to lose their lives.

Today is rightly a day for memories. Those memories only take on a real

meaning when we are ready to learn from them and move on.

We in this community are honouring those who died fifty years ago today.

As we do so, we are building our own stairway to heaven - a vision where the Hell of starvation, injustice, exploitation and ignorance is overcome once for all.

This stairway begins here and now, and people of all faiths and none can build it. And here are the three steps on it:

Self-respect
 Belief in the Future
 Living for Others

May our memories - and our memorial - spur us on to build here a heaven fit for all the children of God.

Partners in the project include:

HOV - arts strategy and HARPS, Communities First, Six Bells Regeneration Team, The Valleys Heart and Soul programme, BGCBC, Local businesses - Hugh James Solicitors, Oakdale Trust, community contributions, Abertillery and Llanhilleth Community Council, Six Bells Youth Committee and local community councillors. Linc Cymru HA, Businesses including: Roberts Florist, Aberclad, George Adams, Squire Cars, Griffiths Civil Engineers, Six Bells Workmen's Club, Ward and Community Councillors.

Working in Partnership for Older People

The Church in Wales is running a symposium in November with the Older People's Commission to focus on the needs of older people in Wales and the challenges facing them.

The commissioner, Ruth Marks, tells us about her role.

I am the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. I believe that we must work in partnership to achieve positive change for the lives of older people across Wales.

Since taking up my post in April 2008, I have met with many stakeholders and organisations working with and for older people across the country to discuss what work needs to be done and how to put this into practice. I take every opportunity to meet with older people to listen to their issues and concerns as well as their examples of good practice that need to be shared.

This year, I am attending events including Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in Builth Wells and the National Eisteddfod for Wales in Ebbw Vale. I was able to join the stands of organisations including the Farmers Union of Wales, the Big Lottery Fund and The Pension Service. Through working with the Farmers Union, we learnt more about the issues affecting older people living in rural areas. Concerns raised with us include the lack of transport (especially in relation to travelling to hospitals or visiting relatives in care homes), problems accessing services, broadband internet access and lack of choice of domiciliary care services.

Older people have told me about rural isolation, a major issue affecting people across the country. The Big Lottery Fund has recently launched the AdvantAGE programme, making £20 million available for projects across Wales working with people over 50, specialising in advocacy and befriending services.

Older people want to live full and active lives and have access to relevant information and services. As Commissioner, I support the aims of the programme and feel it is a step forward in improving the quality of life for older people.

The Commission has developed an ongoing partnership with The Pension Service in order to highlight the importance of older people claiming the financial benefits they are entitled to. Claiming your entitlements can mean being able to afford a healthier lifestyle through better nutrition as well as having more money to get out and about and access facilities and activities. We have joined them at events and arranged ongoing projects to support and spread this message.

I am grateful to everyone who has contacted me to tell me about their concerns and examples of good practice. It is through listening to and learning from older people we have been able to root all our work in what matters to you.

For more information about the Older People's Commission for Wales, please contact my office on 08442 64 06 70 or email us at: ask@olderpeoplewales.com



A New Retreat Facility for the Diocese

Bishop Dominic has blessed a new retreat chalet which is now available to anyone in the Diocese wishing to do an Individually-Guided Retreat. Sr Anita has provided this facility adjacent to her new home, on a quiet lane on a hillside above Pontypool, with miles of beautiful walks from the gate.

The chalet is insulated and heated for year-round use. It enjoys privacy from the house, and has hot and cold running water, a fully-equipped galley kitchen, a chemical toilet, and its own private terrace with views up and down the valley (and, on a clear day, across the Severn to England). Retreatants also have access 24 hours a day to the chapel and shower room in the house.



Although there is no fixed charge for using the chalet, retreatants are asked to make contributions, according to their means, towards the expenses of providing this facility. (As a rough guide, comparable self-catering retreat facilities cost from £15 to £35 per night, but no one should stay away for financial reasons.)

For further details, or to book a retreat, please contact Sr Anita Woodwell: 01495 753195, spirituality@monmouthdiocese.org.uk, or 1 White Houses, Pentwyn, Pontypool, NP4 7SY.

Mothers' Union News



Mothers' Union members from the Diocese of Monmouth joined members from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Cameroon, along with the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees from Mary Sumner House for the Annual General Meeting in The Guild Hall, Preston on 24th June 2010.

The evening before the meeting, a Celebration Eucharist was held at the Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin in Blackburn led by The Lord Bishop of Blackburn.

Rosemary Kempzell our Worldwide President addressed us – firstly by confirming we are now an international family of 4 million members that exists in 81 countries worldwide. She had attended the Special Regional Meetings: the Mothers' Union has provided a platform for leaders to come together from 20 countries demonstrating a unity of faith. These are challenging times for Mothers' Union in an uncertain world and she encouraged us to activate 'hope' for the future among the communities in which we operate.

Unit Co-ordinators from Mary Sumner House each gave

a presentation for their Unit: Faith & Policy, Marketing, Action & Outreach, and Finance & Central Services.

Ten years ago, in response to research showing that parenting groups are most helpful to parents when run by trained facilitators, Mothers' Union launched their Parenting Programme. A group from Coventry Diocese is still running! In the same year the Literacy & Development programme was developed. Through the medium of film we heard and saw that MULDP provides access to literacy and numeracy education making an extremely effective, yet cost efficient, adult literacy programme. Mothers' Union is committed to protecting children from all kinds of exploitation and actively pursues policies which promote the well-being and protection of children.

In the afternoon the speaker was Mrs Margaret Sentamu who gave us an insight into her life and journey of faith, which was very encouraging to everyone.

The meeting ended with worship.

Sheila Wells

Away From It All Holidays for needy families

This year our Mothers' Union members have raised the money to arrange for three needy families to take a holiday in the Mothers' Union caravan at Porthcawl (we thank the Llandaff Diocese for the use of this caravan).

Recommendations would be appreciated from the clergy or from anyone who knows of a family experiencing stress and in need of a break.

For further information contact Mothers' Union AFIA representative - Margaret Hayes 01633 220646

(We are unable to offer holidays during peak seasons)



St James, Tredegar, Mothers' Union visited the Welsh Assembly on the 18th May. They were met by Trish Law and Alun Davies and taken on an informative tour. The sun shone and everyone enjoyed themselves.

*Anita Latham, Enrolling Member,
St James Church, Tredegar*

MU Date for your diary: 16 October 2010, in Risca

An African Day

Decorating St Teilo's



St Teilo's Church has served the community of Llantilio Pertholey and the village of Mardy for centuries but the latest phase of the restoration programme could see it used not just on Sundays and for one midweek service, but also for concerts, conferences, meetings and other social events.

The vicar, the Revd Marc Winchester said: "This is the first time the church has been redecorated since the fire in 1974. The project will cost around £24,000 and only £5,500 has been received in grants, so the remainder has to come from our restoration fund. We have sent out letters to everyone in the community because the last time we sent out a public appeal we received £7,000. A lot of people have strong family ties with the church."

The church is a popular venue for weddings and christenings, and was used for half a dozen marriages in May. Pupils from Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales Primary School will hold their annual leavers' service there in the last week of the summer term.

The latest project comes after the church was fitted with new central heating and new chairs thanks to a bequest in the will of regular worshipper Mrs Joan James.

Fantastic Fungi

Gwent Living Churchyards Project.

Tuesday 2nd November 2010, 10am-1pm

Join us for an informal walk around Christchurch Cemetery, Newport, with Sheila Spence of the Gwent Fungus Group. Sheila will help us to learn more about fungi and their importance and (fingers crossed!) see some of the variety of grassland fungi that Christchurch Cemetery is home to.

FREE but BOOKING IS REQUIRED. Contact Rebecca Price Gwent Wildlife Trust, 01600 740358 or rprice@gwentwildlife.org

Keep an eye on www.gwentwildlife.org/livingchurchyards for news of more courses.

Living Faith – all

over the diocese!



New groups are being planned in Cwmbran, Griffithstown, and Blaenavon, all to start in September.

In addition, **Caldicot and Portskewett** will be moving on to *Exploring the Bible: New Testament*.

And there's **exciting news for Newport Deanery!**

Two Living Faith groups will be starting in September – one will be at St Julian's and the other at All Saints – both are open to anyone in Newport.

Living Faith is designed to grow your faith, deepen your discipleship, and perhaps to help prepare you for a particular role in the life your church. It will help you to gain a greater understanding of God's relationship with you, his church and the world, and help you to grow and mature in your discipleship.

The **Living Faith** course starts with Spirituality and Prayer, and the sessions will include Celtic Christianity, St Francis, Jesus in art, the Lord's Prayer, and the use of icons in Orthodox Christianity, and many other topics.

You will receive a study guide at the first session. At home, in your own time, you read through a section of the study guide, thinking and maybe jotting down some notes. This may take an hour or two. Then you meet for a weekly group session, where you will have the opportunity to discuss what you have done at home, share insights and ideas, and learn together. Feedback from the Caldicot and Portskewett groups, who were the first to try **Living Faith** in this diocese, suggests that they really enjoyed the groups sessions and found them interesting and exciting. Your group leader is there to answer any questions you may have, and to guide you.

Newport's Tuesday group will meet at All Saints Church, Brynglas, at 7.30pm. The first session will be 14 September, and there will be 12 sessions (no meeting on October 26 – half term) with the last on 7 December.

The **Thursday group** will meet at St Julian's church hall at 7.30pm. The first session will be 16 September, and there will be 12 sessions (no meeting on October 28 – half term) with the last on 9 December.

For both groups, the first meeting will be an opportunity to get to know other people, and you will be given the study guide on which **Living Faith** is based. You will need the study guide to take part in the other sessions, so if for any reason you can't get to the first meeting, please let the leader know so that they can arrange to get your guide to you.

Most of the cost of **Living Faith** is subsidised by the diocese, but you are asked to contribute £10 towards the cost of the module (your PCC may be able to help with this).

For contact details for any of these groups, speak to the Learning Development Adviser, Ms Lisa Tregenza, on **07800 892171** or LDA@monmouthdiocese.org.uk

GAZETTE

Admitted and licensed as Readers on 13th June

Judith Penelope Anderson licensed to the Caldicot Benefice
Gaynor Suzanne Parfitt licensed to the parishes of Goetre and Llanover
John Thomas Pritchard licensed to the parishes of Govilon, Llanfoist and Llanellen

Resignations

Revd Marc Winchester, Vicar of Llantilio Pertholey; to be priest-in-charge of Brynmawr (Swansea & Brecon) (date tbc)

Congratulations

Ven Peter Woodman who celebrates 50 years of ordained ministry

Confirmations

5th September	10.30 am	Ebbw Vale
17th October	10 am	St Mary's, Monmouth
19th October	7 pm	St Gabriel's, Cwmbran
28th October	7.30 pm	Griffithstown
31st October	10 am	St David's, Trostrey
21st November	10 am	Caldicot
28th November	11 am	Pontypool
5th December	10 am	Tredegar

The Tithe Barn in Abergavenny now stocks a range of books for sale.

Titles include:

Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for Everyday Life Abbot Christopher Jamison

Seeking God: The Way of St Benedict
Esther de Waal

Living with Contradiction
Esther de Waal

How to be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job – Br Benet Tvedten

Reading with God – David Foster

Silence and Honey Cakes
Rowan Williams

Wales: Church, Houses and Castles
Simon Jenkins

A selection of Children's bibles

If this new venture is successful, we will be able to expand the range over the coming months. We also stock a range of Church in Wales Publications (service booklets, lectionaries, confirmation / baptism cards); if we do not have an item in stock we are able to order it within 24 hours.

Richard Morgan

SUNG VESPERS

Tintern Abbey

Sunday 5th September 2010, 3pm

An ecumenical celebration

Speaker: Revd Nicholas James, Parish Priest of the Roman Catholic parishes of Monmouth and Llanarth

There is no seating in the Abbey so please bring folding chairs

We hope you will join us for tea in the Village Hall after the service

Organised by Friends of Our Lady of Tintern with kind permission of Cadw

Contact: **01594 530080 (Revd John Dearnley)**



The John Lester Lunchtime Concerts in the Church of St Mary, Chepstow

Wednesdays at 12.45pm

28 July Duncan Honeybourne (Piano)

4 August TRI-O!

11 August Elizabeth Post (Piano /Soprano)

18 August Wallscourt Brass Quintet

Newport Cathedral Advent Lectures

"Do you hear what I hear?"

The Presence of Jesus as revealed
through Prophets, Prophecies, and
Peoples

Starting on 24 November

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

Articles should be no more than 300 words. Photos need to be either .jpg format or professional quality prints.

Photos of children MUST have parental permission for publication in the newsletter and on the website

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Partners in Marriage - more flowers from Llanfrechfa (see p2)