



MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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From left to right: Cheryl Lewis (Blaina), Gareth Coombes (Bedwas, Machen & Rudry), the Bishop, Heidi de Gruchy (Bedwellty w New Tredegar), Nick Munday (Monmouth group)

Hands-on ministry; hands-on faith

On Saturday morning, 25th June, the Cathedral was filled for the ordination of new priests and deacons. Then on Sunday evening, in St Mark's, Newport, the Bishop licensed new lay ministers as Readers.



In his sermon at the ordination, the Bishop spoke about hands (p4). Christianity is a practical, hands-on faith, and this issue of the newsletter features much that is done by hands of faith - baking cakes and proffering hospitality; writing, painting, playing music; reaching out in caring friendship. There's news from the schools who play a major role in handing the faith on to the next generation.

And we prepare to celebrate 90 years of mission and ministry in this diocese as we give thanks that our hands do God's work because we ourselves are held firmly in his hand.

Birthday Celebration on Saturday 15th October at University of Wales, Caerleon Campus - see page 7 for details

Hats on in Trellech for the King James' Version

In May, the Methodist Church in Trellech joined the parish of Trellech and Penallt in St Nicholas Church to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

We followed the earliest Book of Common Prayer we could find and kept as close as we could to what it would have been like in 1611 - although we did not remove all the Victorian pews to return the church to its mediaeval glory. Some of the congregation responded to the invitation to give notice of intention to receive communion as was necessary in those days, and many of the ladies took up the invitation to wear hats and gloves as they used to in bygone days.

The ancient church Bible was brought out of storage and stood proud on the lectern, and the Vicar, appropriately dressed for the day, preached on the use and abuse of the Bible whilst recalling the history behind this much loved translation. Sadly, the rain put an end to the planned picnic following the service but we had a good time of fellowship and refreshments before the celebrations came to a close.

Revd Sandra Howells



Double Celebration at St John the Baptist, Newport



24th June was not only our patronal Festival but also the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of our priest, Fr Colin Westbrook. The Most Revd Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales, celebrated a Pontifical High Mass, assisted by Fr Colin and Fr Colin's sister, Revd Beryl Rundel.

After the service, celebrations continued in the Church Hall.

Malcolm Jones

your diocesan website
www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Thanks to Mary



After more than thirty years as organist at St Matthew's Church, Pontypool, Mrs Mary Stokes played for the last time at the morning service, Sunday, 20th March. Not only did Mary play at St Matthew's and other churches in the Benefice of Pontypool, she was the accompanist for Blaenavon Ladies' Choir for many years, and also to the Festival Choir.

We now welcome her in to the congregation where she can exercise her vocal chords! May she have a long and happy retirement.

Thank you Mary for your musical expertise over the years.

Howard Cole

Picture shows l to r: Jennifer Beaton, Revd Canon Brian Phippen, Mary Stokes, Audrey Griffiths

The Church Mission Society have produced some teaching and worship resources for Harvest. Called 'Food for Thought' they are based on the theme of food security and consumer attitudes towards food. They include suggestions for worship, small group materials, ideas for Harvest events and stories from CMS mission partners around the world. They can be downloaded free from www.cms-uk.org/resources

News from the Highveld

Carol Beetge recently visited Abergavenny to talk about the work of the Hemston Primary Health Care Clinic which she runs. The parishes of Abergavenny are linked with St Dunstan's in Benoni where the clinic is and, in particular, the congregation at St Peter's, Llanwenarth Citra, are supporting a project at the clinic.

The clinic is staffed by ten nurses, an assistant nurse for dressings, two clerks on Reception, two counsellors and a Pharmacy assistant. Although Carol is trained as nurse and mid-wife her day-to-day activities are more involved in controlling the stock, monitoring staff performance and absenteeism, record keeping and, every week, writing up 18 reports.

1500 babies a month come through the doors. With older children, pneumonia, diabetes and being under-weight are generally the problems that occur. This winter there were two deaths from measles and a programme of immunization was set up for adults and children between six months and twenty years.

5,500 people a month use the adult clinic which deals with aches and pains, colds and occasional emergencies. Many people have HIV and/or AIDS and as soon as pregnant women arrive at the clinic they are given anti-retro-viral drugs. They are also given information but difficulties arise as their husbands rarely visit the clinic and there is a reluctance amongst the men in general to being tested.

After her talk, Carol answered questions. Already some funds have been sent to the clinic to buy medication and medical equipment.

Anne Parr, St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny



Carol Beetge (left) with Anne Parr

Important notice: Gifts for the Highveld

Many thanks to all parishes and groups who have contributed to the sending of goods to our link diocese of the Highveld. Your generosity has been much appreciated.

Sadly, due to great changes in the system, this activity is no longer viable, and no further items can be collected at Griffithstown and despatched as a diocesan link activity.

It is still possible to support our friends with funding for the many projects in the Highveld. All such monetary gifts should be sent to the Diocesan Office and, if not designated for a specific purpose, will be used for general distribution where the Highveld Social Responsibility Group sees greatest need.

Further information can be obtained from Irene Doull,
Diocesan World Mission Officer.
Tel: 01633 420701
iredoull@btinternet.com



Cake Break at St Margaret's, Blackwood

On Wednesday 18th May, a Cake Break was held after the morning Eucharist in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Cake Break is a National fund raising day which is a fun and easy way to raise money for the MS Society, to raise awareness and also to support people affected by MS

My wife, Rachael, was diagnosed with MS in 2004 and we have seen at firsthand what can be achieved with funds, which is one of the reasons I had decided to organize this event, with a lot of help from Janie Hughes People's Warden. The Cake Break was well-supported by the Rev Matthew Tregenza and parishioners of St Margaret's, who baked cakes, took part in a 'guess the weight of the cake' competition and a Raffle over a cup of tea or coffee.

The morning raised a sum of £440 and I am sure that this money will help with the research and development of treatments for the condition. I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Cake Break, especially those who were in the kitchen all morning providing a constant supply of refreshments and those who donated gifts for the raffle.

I hope this has raised much-needed awareness of the condition. If you are affected by MS or would like more information you can visit the MS Society Website www.mssociety.org.uk where you can find details for your local branch or support group.

Matthew Eales, MS Society Member and Parishioner of St Margaret's, Blackwood

Raglan and Usk Deanery : Week of Guided Prayer 7th – 14th August 2011

"Jesus went up on a mountainside by himself to pray." (Matthew 14:23) This is one example from the Son of God of how to listen to the Father. And if Jesus longed to hear from God why shouldn't we?

During a week of guided prayer you need to be able to devote at least one hour a day – half an hour in private prayer, half an hour debriefing with a prayer guide - but you'll be amazed how God will honour your commitment.

To find out more, please contact Tim Clement on 01873 880258, or Kevin Hasler on 01291 690163.



Hands-on ministry



A priest is ordained

‘Nevertheless, I am always with you; for you hold me by my right hand’. Psalm 73:23

Hands are very important

Our first experience of love was being held in the hands of our mothers. We use our hands to work and pray, to speak and love. There are many references in the bible to God’s hands – he is seen as having hands that direct creation, hands that uphold his friends and crush his enemies – we are safe in the hands of God.

St Theresa of Avila is remembered for saying:

*Christ has no body on earth but yours,
no hands, but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks out
with compassion to the world.
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good.
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless now.*

During this service, a New Testament will be placed into the hands of the deacons and a Bible and chalice and paten will be placed into the hands of the priests. The hands of the priests will also be anointed with the oil of chrism – so that the hands that will bless and consecrate and absolve will be made holy with the sweet smelling oil

Tools of the Trade

Against a background of scaffolding, chalices, patens and Bibles wait to be placed in the hands of the newly-ordained, emphasising that the work of ministry is to be alongside people in their daily working lives.



used at ordinations. They will be blessed so that they may be a blessing to others.

And I would remind all of you being ordained today that you will constantly need to remember that you are in God’s hands and that you minister in his strength and not your own. Indeed, it is often in our weakness that we minister best – that is why God speaks to us from a stable and a cross – only God could have thought of that.

So let God take you by the hand as you use the hands he has given to you to pour the waters of baptism, to take bread and wine and give it a new meaning in the kingdom. Let him take you by the hand as you join the hands of bride and bridegroom, anoint the sick and dying and absolve the penitent.

And let him take you by the hand as you turn the pages of Bible and the Office book, as you place your hands together in prayer – and sometimes when you put your head in your hands in despair. Bishop Richard Holloway tells the story of how as a child he would sometimes sulk and his father would hold Richard’s head in his hands and make him look into his face – and he would smile at him until he smiled as well. Sometimes we have to let God hold our heads in his hands until he smiles us into smiling – and not take ourselves too seriously.

From the Bishop’s sermon at the ordination service.

Other pictures are on the diocesan website.

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bishop Dominic writes. . . .

I am writing this in the week that we have the Pentecost ordinations and soon after 'Calling Sunday' when congregations were asked to consider whether God might be calling some of them to lay or ordained ministries within the Church.

We know that about half of our stipendiary clergy will be due for retirement over the next ten years and that there is bound to be a general shift towards stipendiary clergy having the care of large areas with a number of churches. They will be assisted by non-stipendiary clergy and lay ministers. For Anglicans in England and Wales, this will be quite a cultural shift and a further move away from our present pattern of ministry. Whilst theological colleges stress the importance of preparing future priests for collaborative ministry and bishops bang on about it, the message is not always heard.

As a diocese, I believe we have a duty to plan for the future in which we may have half the number of our present stipendiary clergy but a greater number of lay ministries and priests who do not receive a stipend. Already a number of our parishes are cared for by 'house-for-duty' and non-stipendiary priests. In many cases we see these ministries being greatly blessed with growing congregations and developing lay ministries, so I am optimistic about the future. We do however, need to encourage vocations to stipendiary ministry and especially from younger men and women.

In the diocese, the Area Deans have been asked to give some further thought to their Deanery Plans and we are looking at ways of training our younger clergy for the leadership roles that they will need to exercise in the future. In many ways, we face the challenges of the early Church in seeking to provide worship for the Eucharistic community as well as being a missionary church that needs to reach out with different styles of worship to those who have had no formal contact with the church. As a province, we are exploring new ways of preparing people for ministry whereby lay training courses like our **Living Faith** programme, will form the foundation for those exploring ordination.

In the recent Clergy Terms of Service document we have avoided the terms 'stipendiary' and 'non-stipendiary' when referring to priests because all priests are full-time whether they are paid or not and whether they are in active ministry or retired. Ordained priesthood is not just about what a priest does but about what a priest is. As one writer has put it, 'Priests feel and know themselves to be far more than mere institutional functionaries because their lives are rooted in the daily dying and rising with Christ which is at the very heart of the life of the parish or other community in which the priest serves'.

Brother Roger of Taizé described priests as 'practising all the days of their lives, listening, sounding the depths, unbinding on earth the things that will at once be unbound before Christ, so as to give all life by the Risen Christ in the Eucharist'. A priest, in spite of human failings, is a sacramental sign to the world of God's presence. He or she, through the gift of ordination is Spirit-filled and a person of divine mystery. I know I have never approached the altar without a sense of deep wonder. I have never absolved a penitent without a deep feeling of my own unworthiness and I have never given the last rites to a dying person without knowing that I am standing somewhere between earth and heaven with my feet firmly on holy ground.

Please pray for your priests and pray for more priests.



It is customary for those who are about to be ordained as priests to prostrate themselves during the hymn invoking the Holy Spirit as an expression of their total offering to God

+ Dominic



Logo Competition: The Winners!

Congratulations to the children from St Mark's, Newport, who worked hard together to produce what you see here! Evie Hond, Aiden Nevison, Tamsin Lewis and Elin Jones will be presented with a framed copy of their logo soon. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and entries. I had lots of fun looking through them all and trying to decide on one. The winning entry reminds us of God's promises, and his love for us which is symbolised by the cross. We also feature in this logo as God's people, under the rainbow, and the overarching banner shows how thankful we are for all God has done for each one of us. As you see the logo in different places, not only will it remind you that whatever it is next to is specific for children, it will also help us to remember all those things that God is to us.

Vicki

Ask the Bishop

I'm sure many of you have questions you've always wanted to ask Bishop Dominic, and here is your chance! For the next few issues of the magazine, Bishop Dominic has kindly agreed to take a question from you.

Questions can be about anything and we will choose one to feature in the magazine each issue, so please either email your question titled 'Ask the Bishop' or send it to Vicki at the Diocesan Office including your name and age.

Questions for the next issue need to be in by 15 August to give Bishop Dominic chance to consider his answer.



Welcoming Children

A fantastic tool to help those with young children, feel welcome on arrival to your church. This 2 fold brochure is available from Vicki Brackpool, the Children's Adviser.

This brochure has space for simple information which is parish specific and will be an asset to any welcome pack. If you would like to know more about it you can look on the website

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk/living/children or contact Vicki.

'Looking Up'

Provincial Children's Work Conference Wales.

26th November 10.30am—4.30pm in Wrexham
We have 6 places available for our diocese. If you would like a place please let me know asap and I will book on behalf of all of us. We can arrange transport nearer the time. Get in quick!

Vicki Brackpool, Diocesan Children's Adviser: vickibrackpool@churchinwales.org.uk
T: 01443 218137 Monmouth Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Road, Newport NP20 4HJ



Monmouth Diocese 90th Birthday Celebration!

Saturday 15th October

Newport University, Caerleon Campus

9am - 2pm

Come and Celebrate 90 years of mission and ministry since the diocese was founded on 18th October 1921 and see what the diocese has to offer parishes today

Featuring

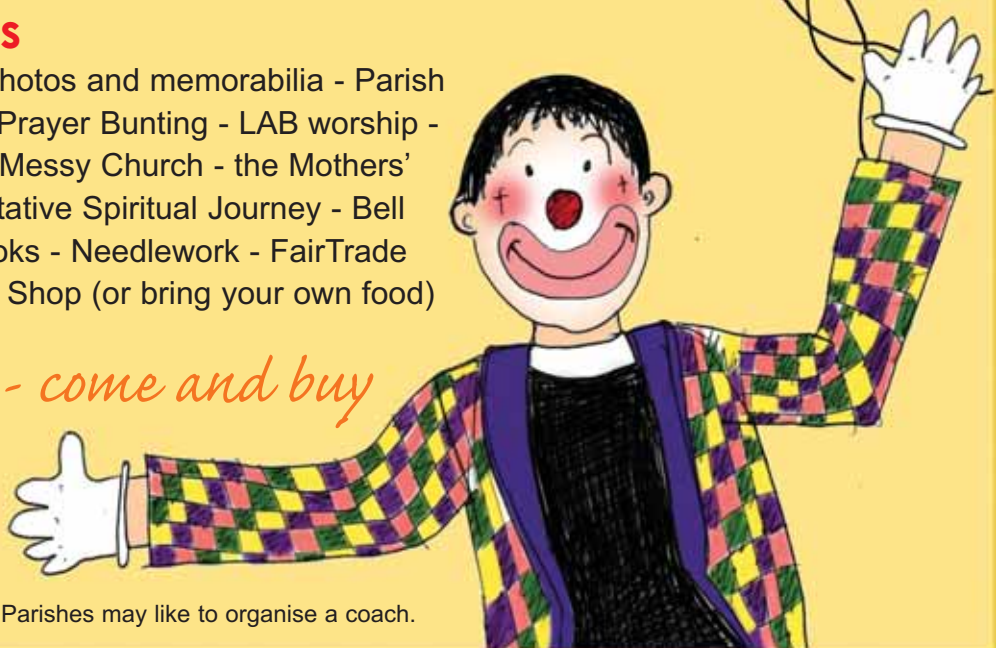
- 9am The Diocesan Conference (for conference members)
- 10.30am Rev Roly Bain, Holy Clown
- 11.30am Bedwellty Deanery Choir
- 1.30pm Celebration Worship - collect a birthday candle to take home to your parish to light on Sunday morning

10am - 1.30pm

Marketplace of Stalls and Activities

including: 90 years in photos and memorabilia - Parish Resources - Prayer Bunting - LAB worship - Godly Play - Messy Church - the Mothers' Union - Meditative Spiritual Journey - Bell Ringing - Books - Needlework - FairTrade and a Coffee Shop (or bring your own food)

*Come and try - come and buy
Come and
have Fun*



Car Parking is pay and display. Parishes may like to organise a coach.

Artwork by cat@madebycat.co.uk



Gwasanaeth Sant Mellonius at St Mellons Church in Wales School

On June 27th 2011 at 9.30am we had a celebration of the Holy Eucharist when Bishop Dominic came to preside and bless some new windows and an altar cloth.

The decoration for the windows illustrates the legendary life of Mellonius, first Bishop of Rouen, and our patron saint. One light shows Mellonius in his Bishop's clothes, another shows him performing an exorcism and casting out demons in the form of monkeys. Yet another shows a Roman (not Viking) galleon taking Mellonius to Rome. The galleon has a swan's head - an oblique reference to the Head's maiden name - Swancott.

The windows were paid for by local Rotarians and the cloth was made by our students with local support and guidance - the centre piece being made by Mrs Myfanwy Williams, sadly suffering now with arthritis but amazingly cheerful.

The children of Class 4 had constructed the Eucharist along with the guidance of their class teacher, Mrs Price - soon to be our new Head.

Before the blessing Bishop Dominic gave our retiring Head, Mrs James, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Diocese for sixteen years of service in charge of our school family. If only paper could really capture the love and affection we feel.



Two 'Royal Weddings'

West End Infant and Nursery School Royal Wedding



Revd Annie Church performed a 'Royal Wedding' for the pupils of West End Infant and Nursery School in St Mary's Church, Caldicot. The pupils were all dressed for the occasion - pretty dresses, suits and buttonholes were worn with aplomb. There were ushers and bridesmaids and a father of the bride along with the best man. The 'bride' and 'groom' were made 'prince and princess' for the day as they said their promises and then signed the certificate. A special song was sung by all the pupils. The wedding party made their way out of the church down to the lych gate where confetti was thrown. The Head Teacher commented afterwards: The 'Wedding Service' was an absolutely fantastic learning experience for all of our children and we would like to pass on our thanks for making the day so 'real' and so 'special'. The service was so cleverly thought out and executed that lots of the staff felt quite choked by the occasion!!"

The pupils of **Penllwyn Primary School** (below) held their own 'Royal Wedding' at St Mary's Church, Penllwyn, Pontllanfraith. Our Catherine Middleton was Chloe, a Reception child, whilst our 'Prince William' and 'Prince Harry' were Year 2 pupils Corey and Kian. Father of the bride was Thomas, from Year 3. During the ceremony, Chloe and Corey promised to be friends.

There were rather a lot of bridesmaids from several classes within the school! The ceremony was conducted by Revd Marion Barge and attended by all staff, children and very many parents, grandparents and others. Everyone dressed up in their finery, and we were blessed with a beautiful day. Unlike the real Royal Wedding the day after, we all walked to the church from school - a mere few minutes away - and although there were no horses in attendance, there were a number of people lining the route! The school choir sang a selection of music from *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* during the signing of the 'register' and Mrs Siân Trotman read the lesson.

Ann Woosnam, Teaching Assistant & parishioner, Pontymister



Reports

Ponthir Church in Wales School

have been in partnership with a Primary school in The Gambia for over a year. The children have exchanged letters and pictures and have also sent items such as pencils, rulers, pens, calculators and ink cartridges to their partnership school in Kassa Kunda.

Mrs Ceris Spooner (Head Teacher) and Mrs Tina Davey (Assistant Head) recently visited the Gambia. It was an amazing trip. The visit to our school in Kassa Kunda was inspirational. The school (right) was extremely basic with very few resources. We were warmly welcomed and although the children had very little, the school was a very happy place since education is so important to the families in The Gambia.



We were fortunate that during our visit we visited many remote villages. We witnessed extreme poverty in many places. We were able to distribute mosquito nets to many villages. Our visit to a local maternity hospital was indeed humbling. We were privileged to nurse new born babies but also witnessed the pioneering work being done by such caring people.

The visit opened our eyes to the wider world and the problems which face people on a day-to-day basis. We managed without electricity and running water for a very short time but many of these people manage every day of their lives with little of what we take for granted.

We are continuing to raise funds to support our partnership school. We are also supporting a pumping system for a well in a new school and donating medical supplies to the maternity hospital.

We sincerely hope that this is the first of many visits to The Gambia.

Ceris Spooner

Osbaston Church in Wales Primary School plant a Bible Garden

Students from year 10 of Monmouth Comprehensive School have helped children from Osbaston school's eco-committee to plant a Bible Garden near the entrance to the junior school.

The garden is in the shape of a cross. One half is planted with plants mentioned in the Old Testament and the other half with plants mentioned in the New Testament.

Fr David McGladdery, Vicar of Monmouth, told the children stories about gardens in the Bible when he blessed the garden.

Church Schools



The Heads of Church Schools recently held a conference at Caerleon Campus. Here they are with Canon Keith Denison, Diocesan Director of Education (left), and the Bishop. (Photo courtesy of Tempest Photography www.htempest.co.uk)

25,000 children and young people across Wales attend a Church in Wales school - there are 172 primary and secondary Church in Wales schools, 18 of them in Monmouth Diocese.

Our Schools Officer is Sue James - see page 10

You can read more on www.churchinwales.org.uk/life/schools



A little bird told me!

If you have visited the diocesan website lately, you may have noticed new icons:

First to appear was the blue Twitter button. Yes, @MonmouthDCO is now 'tweeting' news as well as putting it on the rolling weblog on the website's home page.

follow us on
twitter

If you have parish events which you would like the world to know about, then email your 'tweet' of **no more than 140 characters** to janetbone@churchinwales.org.uk, and I'll put it out on the @MonmouthDCO twitterfeed.



It seems that if you are to make contact with the world, particularly the under-25s, these days, you have to be on Facebook. Newport Cathedral has had a Facebook page for some time. Now Monmouth Diocese has one too. As soon as 25 people 'like' it, we can have our own URL (internet address) which will make it easier to find.

Again, if you have news or events which you would like added to the page, email janetbone@churchinwales.org.uk

Also on Twitter: @ChurchinWales, @TitheBarn

Also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/vocationswales, Magor-Benefice, www.facebook.com/TitheBarn

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Monmouth Authors

The Monmouth group of parishes celebrated the launch of a new book by Revd Dr Ali Green with a champagne and coffee morning.

A Priesthood of Both Sexes: paying attention to difference (SPCK) follows on from Ali's first book, *A Theology of Women's Priesthood* (SPCK; 2009). To write it, Ali was in contact with people around the world, and she draws on interviews and first-hand accounts to give a practical account of how a church that is truly committed to the interests of all people lives out that commitment through the inclusivity of its leadership.

Also in Monmouth parish are School Chaplain, Revd Gavin Knight, and his wife Joanna who is a child psychologist. They have published two books: *Disturbed by Mind and Spirit: Mental Health and Healing in Parish Ministry* (Mowbray; 2009) which reflects upon the liturgical pattern of the Eucharist as a means of deepening our awareness of and response to mental health and trauma, and *Called by Mind and Spirit: Crossing the Borderlands of Childhood* (Continuum; 2010) which explores the identity, formation and vocation of children from birth through to adolescence from the joint perspectives of priest and psychologist.

The Revd Dr Lorraine Cavanagh, who lives in this Diocese, has written *Making Sense of God's Love: Atonement and Redemption* (SPCK) which addresses the difficulties that many Christians face around these theological issues.



left to right: Ali Green, Fr David McGladdery (Vicar of Monmouth), Joanna Knight, Revd Nick Munday (Curate) - Gavin was taking a funeral.



Diocesan Strategy: How can I help?

Sue James, Schools' Officer

I am here to offer support to the Headteachers and staff of our eighteen Church Schools particularly in relation to school inspections and the RE curriculum.

I organise school visits to St Woolos and St Mary's in Abergavenny to help children develop their spiritual awareness.

I meet regularly with other Schools' Officers from across Wales.

Sue James, Telephone: 01873 880378, e-mail: sueandstephen@btinternet.com

The Border Prayer Room Project

IUS DESECTI LIGAEI KOOWI LIOLECI

'How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!' (So writes the Psalmist in Psalm 133.) This aptly sums up a two-week relay of prayer from Chester to Chepstow in May, involving hundreds of people praying in churches of different traditions down both sides of the Welsh/English border. Fourteen communities in Wales teamed up with fourteen communities in England, to pray for one another's concerns and for God's blessing on the life of their partner community. Each community set aside a space where people could come to pray and learn something about their partner community across the border.

Two oak 'batons,' were handed from church to church across the border, and Offa's Dyke was walked by a small group who visited prayer rooms as they journeyed. Hymn writer, Greg Leavers, and youth minister, Andy Hughes, led special hours for children and young people.

The baton arrived in Monmouth Diocese at Abergavenny (teamed with Ross-on-Wye), passed to St Thomas', Overmonnow, (teamed with Mitcheldean), then to St Oudoceus, Llandogo, (teamed with Brockweir). A service of celebration in St Mary's Church, Chepstow, (teamed with Gloucester) marked the end of the prayer relay.

In each place, there were twenty four hours of prayer. One person commented, "I was taken back with the beauty of the church transformed into a special place for meditation and prayer. I felt so fortunate to have a God that I believed in and who could share my highs and lows. My prayers seemed to come easily."

Amanda Martin



The baton passes from Monmouth to Brockweir



Cathedral Festival of Welcome

Stunning flower displays, informative exhibitions from local organisations, shop dummies modelling vestments, and mouth-watering Bara Brith were some of the attractions at the Cathedral's Festival of Welcome in July.

A week-long programme of activities included concerts, organ recitals, a poetry reading, talks on medieval Newport and the Ship, and dinner at Vittorio's.

For a mere £2, the fit and active could climb the 112 steps of the tower to have a birds-eye view of the roof restoration and, on a clear day, to see views to the Black Mountains and Somerset.

Throughout the week there was a steady stream of people who might not otherwise have come in to the building, and local non-church organisations were very much part of the exhibitions - all part of the Cathedral's aim to forge links with the City and community as well as be the Mother Church for the Diocese.

The Cathedral is usually open to visitors. If you would be willing to join the Cathedral's team of Welcomers and take your turn on the rota, please contact
Mr Brian Cox, Cathedral Administrator, 01633 212077 or
Revd Ray Hayter, Minor Canon, 01633 263741

The Cathedral has a shop which is open:
Mon-Fri 2-4pm, Sat 10am - 12noon,
and at Sunday service times

The installation of Canon Jeremy Winston as Dean will be on Saturday 10th September. However, accommodation in the Cathedral is limited and attendance at the service has to be limited to ticket only. Please hold Fr Jeremy in your prayers.

Church and



Help change lonely older people's lives for the better in Newport

Contact the Elderly is appealing for volunteers living in Newport, to spare just a few hours each month to drive one or two elderly people with them to a local tea party - and enjoy a cuppa and a cake themselves! The charity also needs volunteer hosts in the area, willing to welcome a small group into their home for tea just once or twice a year.

Contact the Elderly aims to relieve the acute loneliness and isolation of very elderly people who live alone by organising monthly Sunday tea parties for small groups and volunteers within their community. Each elderly member is collected from their home by a volunteer driver, and taken to a volunteer host's home where they all enjoy an afternoon of tea, talk and good company.

Although each group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, the charity's drivers and older guests remain the same which means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by friendship.



The charity, which also runs popular groups nearby in Monmouth and Cwmbran, is keen to ensure the Newport group is able to continue to provide its 'lifeline of friendship' in the area, but to do this, needs to recruit more willing volunteers. Driving or hosting for the group does not involve a big commitment and volunteers genuinely get as much out of the experience as the older guests.

Anyone interested in finding out more, can get in touch with **Marion Lowther** on 01792 862702 or marion.lowther@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk

ASDA Chaplains

Local churches and a major supermarket in Blackwood are collaborating to provide a chaplaincy to retail staff. The Revd Matthew Tregenza from St Margaret's Church and the Revd Mark Thomas from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church are visiting the store each week to provide support to ASDA 'colleagues', spending time in the staff canteen and being available for confidential conversations.



The scheme has been warmly welcomed by ASDA, and by Andrew Highway, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Town Centre Development Manager, who helped introduce the new scheme after being approached by local clergy. "These are challenging times for those who work in the retail sector and I am delighted that our local churches and ASDA have responded by developing an initiative that provides support for retail staff," he said.

Revd Mark Thomas said the chaplains' role is 'providing Christ-like compassion and support to those with particular needs. Naturally, we would rejoice at any faith-sharing opportunities this generates'.

ASDA is a major employer in the parish and Revd Matthew Tregenza sees the chaplaincy as an important part of being church in the heart of the community.



Raven House

Raven House desperately needs Volunteers and also food, duvets and pillows. Contact Margaret Smith margaretsmith117@btinternet.com

www.ravenhouse.org

Community

The Credit Union comes to Maindee, Newport

St Matthew's Church, Maindee, Newport, is the new collection point for Newport Credit Union. We opened our doors for business on June 20th and were very pleased with the responses both from church members and people from the local community. The Revd David Neale, Vicar of Maindee, who was the very first investor, said, "I am delighted to support this new Credit Union collection point and hope that many people will take advantage of the convenient way of saving and of getting low-cost loans".



Pictured are some of the volunteers who will run the collection point at St Matthew's church on a rota basis. The volunteers received training from Jerry Gibson of Credit Union who will also be on hand for the first three months to give 'on the job' training.

The collection point will be open every Monday except bank holidays between the hours of 10.30am and 12.30pm at St Matthew's Church, Church Road, Maindee, Newport.

A Credit Union is a Financial Co-operative owned and run by its members, all of whom live or work in the same area, and exists in order to serve the members and does not seek to make a profit from them. Accounts can be opened with as little as £1.

All Credit Unions are regulated by the Financial Services Authority, the same body which regulates banks and building societies. There are legal guidelines setting out on how a Credit Union should be run with regular checks and audits. The Credit Union is also a member of the Financial Ombudsman Service.

For further information please contact Newport Credit Union on **01633 214913**

Koinonia Church Community Project, Bettws, Newport

St David's Church, Bettws, and the United Reformed Church are partners in a project which involves a number of organizations and individuals working together in a variety of ways to benefit the community.

Koinonia has supported and worked with Communities First and other organizations on a variety of events: eg workshops, estate tidy up, jobs fairs, fireworks displays, lantern festival and carol service, and the distribution of Christmas hampers for Raven House.

Koinonia has also developed fruitful links with the police and local schools. It has been particularly supportive of a local primary school, helping them develop an organization of Friends and a Credit Union savings system.

The inclusion project at Newport High School engages with those who can't cope with formal education. Those pupils who might not have achieved any GCSEs now get good portfolios. This has a significant effect on their attendance, employability and on their confidence in accessing further and higher education. It started at St David's Church Community House and is still based partly there.

Koinonia is funded by the Anglican parish and the United Reformed Church. The URC Church Related Community Worker, Rosie Buxton, is moving on. However the URC is committed to continue to support the project and the work of Koinonia continues with enthusiastic volunteers from the local churches.



Last year's Summer Fair

Revd Canon Henry Davies

www.bettws.org.uk



The finale of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*

St Mary's Priory Church Festival of the Arts

Music, art, storytelling and hospitality all featured at the first St Mary's Priory Church Festival of the Arts in Abergavenny in June.

Nearly 1,000 people enjoyed music ranging from the choral splendour of Mozart to infectious pop songs, and from a soaring organ recital to the power of a bass baritone and the beat of a brass band.

The quilt, photographic and art exhibitions were well attended and, as all good art should, caused controversy as the debate between modern and traditional art was again rehearsed.

One of the highlights was the concert production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, sung by children, mums and volunteers from the church, accompanied by Fr Jeremy Winston on piano. A packed audience joined in with the last song and there was a wonderfully joyous atmosphere.

Over the five days of the festival, it's estimated that over 600 people were catered for, from the opening champagne reception for 150, attended by the High Sheriff of Gwent, Lady Hayman-Joyce, and Chief Constable of Gwent, Carmel Napier, to the final festival lunch for 200, via refreshments for musicians, artists and volunteers – with all the food being prepared by volunteers from the church.

Put all that together with the wonderful music at the three Evensongs, sung by St Mary's Choir, Welsh Camerata and St Peter's Collegiate Choir, from Ruthin, and the Festival Eucharist, at which Bishop Dominic presided and preached, and there wasn't much that was missed—although someone did mention a rock concert at one point!

Planning for the next Festival of the Arts, to be held during the first week of June 2013, is already under way.

Caroline Woollard

Fr Ignatius pilgrimage

The annual Fr Ignatius pilgrimage takes place on Saturday, August 20, in the Llanthony Valley north of Abergavenny.



Fr Ignatius is best remembered for his efforts to restore monastic life to the Church of England, as well as for his considerable success as a mission preacher. In 1869, having failed to buy Llanthony Abbey, Ignatius acquired a tract of mountainside above Capel-y-ffin, and began building a monastery.

Shortly after the monastery was built, visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary were seen by young boys playing football and by Ignatius himself.

The pilgrimage starts with a Solemn Mass at St David's, Llanthony, beginning at 11.30am, followed by an

opportunity for pilgrims to eat their picnic lunch or to visit the Abbey Hotel.

The pilgrimage walk to St Mary's, Capel-y-ffin, starts at 1.30pm and Vespers takes place at St Mary's at 3.30pm. At the end of that service, pilgrims will process to the Abbey, now in ruins. Prayers will be said at the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, marking the site of the visions.

This is always a wonderful day—the Honddu Valley has an immensely spiritual atmosphere, the scenery is stunning and the walking not too strenuous—although it is advisable to wear good walking shoes and take a raincoat (it can rain there and be sunny in Abergavenny).

For more information please contact Fr Jeremy Winston on 01873 853168 or priory.church@virgin.net

Life after retirement

Since retiring from parish ministry I have been visiting South India frequently, spending a few months at a time there on each occasion. The purpose is to set up a Retreat Centre where those working in difficult ministries can go for rest, recuperation and prayer, in a quiet place in the hills, away from the constant noise of vehicle horns and loudspeakers which can blare all night long.

While waiting for the wheels of government red tape to turn, I am able to help various friends. One time I spent 6 weeks in an AIDS Hospice. There were HIV positive children also living there and attending school, and I helped in different ways.

Another time I was living in the compound of a Mission Hospital and spent time scrubbing wards clean just to prove that 'staining' could be removed. The nurses became enthusiastic cleaners, but the cleaners didn't want to know.

On another occasion I stayed in the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary and conducted some sessions with students and staff. I also conducted part of a retreat with the clergy of one of the Church of South India dioceses.

My last visit was November 2010 to February 2011. Most of that time was spent in the Dohnavur Fellowship where I was born and lived for nine and a half years. I was helping them to look at the future of the hospital and also think about issues relating to the current generation of orphaned children living in Dohnavur.

The photo is of me with a group of young people from Dohnavur aged 16 to 20, waiting to go out to training or jobs. We had climbed 1,000 feet, very carefully and quietly at one point, as dangerous wild elephants were about, up to this natural pool in the mountain river in the middle of virgin jungle. The already cooked rice, the raw vegetables for the curry, and the gas rings and bottles, were all carried up by the young people in their saris. (No fires allowed in the Forest Reserve.) Once we got there they changed into long shorts and T shirts and we had a wonderful time, swimming, splashing and shouting and eating plenty.

Tarie Carlyon (tariecarlyon@btinternet.com)



The Friends of our Lady of Tintern invite you to

Vespers in Tintern Abbey at 3pm on 4th September

This year's speaker is the Greek Orthodox Metropolitan, Kallistos, probably the first Greek Orthodox Bishop to speak in the Abbey since its foundation!

Parking has been arranged behind the Anchor Inn, (providing it doesn't rain like it did last year).
Please **bring your own chair** if you wish to sit.
After the service there will be refreshments in the Village Hall.



Timothy Ware, Kallistos's English name, was born in 1934. He gained a double first in Classics and then studied theology. He went on to Princeton and, returning to Oxford, was awarded his DPhil. From 1966 he was the Spalding Lecturer on the Orthodox Church until he retired in 2002. In 1970 he became a Fellow of Pembroke College. He has been a prolific writer and a prominent participant in ecumenical discussions.

Kallistos was drawn from Anglicanism into the Orthodox Church in 1958. While still a layman he wrote *The Orthodox Church* which is widely considered to be the best introduction to Orthodoxy in English. In 1966, the year he began to lecture at Oxford, he was ordained a priest and took monastic vows at the Monastery of St John the Theologian in Patmos, Greece. In 1982 he became the titular bishop of Diokleia, the first Englishman to become a bishop since the 11th century, and when the Diocese was raised to the level of a Metropolis he became its titular Metropolitan.

Rev'd John Dearnley 01594 530080

GAZETTE

Appointments

Readers Licensed on 26th June in St Mark's, Newport
Nicholas Cox licensed to the Llanddewi Rhydderch group of parishes
Allan Randall licensed to the Rectorial Benefice of Magor
Gillian May licensed to the Govilon group of parishes
Jeffery Alun licensed to Abergavenny group of parishes

Revd David Osborn, Vicar of Llantilio Crossenny; to be Area Dean of Abergavenny (12 Sept)

Resignations

Revd Gavin Knight, Chaplain, Monmouth Boys' School; to be Vicar of Summertown, Oxford (August)

Confirmations

11 Sept	10.30am	St Paul's, Newport
25 Sept	10.30am	Ebbw Vale
9 Oct	10.00am	St Julian's, Newport
9 Oct	3.00pm	St Gabriel's, Old Cwmbran
23 Oct	11.00am	Michaelstone-y-Fedw
6 Nov	10.30am	St Peter's, Goetre
20th Nov	.am	Caldicot
27th Nov	.am	Pontypool
11 Dec		St Mark's, Newport



The Revd Beverley Smith SCL, a chaplain at the University College Hospital, Cardiff, has been licensed as a house-for-duty priest in the Rectorial Benefice of Mynyddislwyn. *Pictured after her installation are:*

l to r: Marian Curtis (Church Warden), Revd Beverley Smith, Bishop Dominic, Revd Marian Barge, Fr John Humphries, Mr Howard Jones (Church Warden)

An exhibition of Flowers and Hymns

**St Bridget's church,
Skenfrith
27 - 29 August**

Admission Free

Monmouth Guild of Church Needlework Sale of surplus materials

23m Off-white Calico 63" wide @£3.15/m

31m Cream Curtain Lining 48" wide @ £2.20/m

10 Lavabo Towels @ £1

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or Mrs Mahoney 01633 214041

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'Unbreakable Love'

A conference for personal renewal organised by the Rectorial Benefice of Ebbw Vale 8 -11 August

with speakers:

Revd Dr Clifford Hill &
Mrs Monica Hill
Revd Gervais Angel &
Mrs Evelyn Angel
Revd Andy Economides
Revd Geoff Waggett

£25 for the conference or £10 a day

Contact:
Revd Geoff Waggett 01495 301723

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Articles up to 300 words welcomed.
Pictures of children must have parental permission for publication in print and on the web.



Golf win is a first for Monmouth

Revd David Osborn, priest-in-charge of the Llantilio Crossenny group of parishes, won the Church in Wales Golf Cup.

He is possibly the first winner from Monmouth Diocese.

Archbishop Barry came third in the tournament.

The Cup is sponsored by EIG.