



## Signing out

The outgoing Diocesan Secretary, the Revd Brian Harvey, recently conducted a 'mock wedding' in the parish of Nannerch. Read Brian's account on page 15. Brian is moving to the parish of Flint – where the brides and grooms are usually taller!



Photo courtesy of NWN Media Ltd.



## and signing in

Our incoming Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Gregory Cameron (*pictured on the right*), assumed legal responsibility for the Diocese of St Asaph on March 16th at the Sacred Synod where the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales confirmed his appointment. His consecration as Bishop is on April 4th in Llandaff.

### Inside...

- ◆ **Around the Diocese** – from Easter to Pentecost
- ◆ **Fifty days of Easter** – our new Bishop writes
- ◆ **Communion Wine and Coffee** – in support of others
- ◆ **An introduction to Llanrwst** – the subject of our Deanery Focus
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## Dear Friends,

I went to the local newsagents on Boxing Day. They were taking down the Christmas decorations. "But why?" I said. "Christmas is over," came the reply. "What about the

twelve days of Christmas?" I asked plaintively, but they were in no mood for continued celebration. It was to be business as usual. Even we're bad at keeping the full twelve days of Christmas. So what are we like at "the fifty days of Easter"?

The liturgy invites us to journey with Christ through his Passion, "his glorious resurrection and ascension" and beyond into the celebration of Pentecost. The liturgical season of Easter is meant to last all the way to the sending of the Spirit on "the fiftieth" day, the literal meaning of "Pentecost". The message of Easter is meant to be carried with us throughout our discipleship. But is it business as usual once the busy liturgies of Holy Week and Easter are over?

In one sense, I hope it is, because for Christians, business as usual should be about carrying an awareness of Christ's

living presence into the everyday. Jesus once said (John 5) that the Father is continually at work, and that "the Son can do nothing by himself; he does only what he sees the Father doing" (v19). This image of the Son quietly sensitive to the work of the Father in every situation, and then himself being an agent for the healing, renewing and inspirational change which the Father imparts is a powerful one.

If the message of Easter is "Jesus is alive", then what does that mean for us now? How is Jesus prompting us to work for him in the present moment? What encouragement is God seeking to impart to us at this very second? Jesus said: "... in me you may find peace. In the world you will have suffering. But take heart! I have conquered the world." (John 16.33) Not all of us may be suffering at the moment, although some will be; how does God want us to be in good heart - how is he seeking to breathe peace into our lives? Are we making the time for God to encourage us in this way, opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit in prayer, meditation or bible reading?

God willing, I will have my own journey to make in these fifty days from an ordination in Llandaff to a Cathedral Confirmation on Pentecost. Let us be praying for one another: that our spirits may be ever more sensitised to the living Jesus so that our usual business becomes the business of change and growth in God to new blessings and new opportunities.

In Christ

† Gregory Llanelwy



## Gwasanaethau yr Wythnos Fawr ac y Pasg

### Services for Holy Week and Easter in St Asaph Cathedral

See [www.stasaphcathedral.org.uk](http://www.stasaphcathedral.org.uk) for  
details of services throughout Holy Week

#### **Palm Sunday - Sunday 5 April**

Choral Eucharist and distribution of Palm  
Crosses at 11 a.m.

#### **Maundy Thursday - Thursday 9 April**

Chrim Eucharist with Renewal of  
Ordination Vows at 11 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist with stripping of the altar  
at 7 p.m.  
Taizé Watch from 8.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.

#### **Good Friday - Friday 10 April**

Three Hours at the Cross – starting in  
the Parish Church at 12 noon with  
Walk of Witness at 12.50 p.m.;  
continuing until 3 p.m. in the Cathedral

#### **Easter Eve - Saturday 11 April**

Easter Vigil & Choral Eucharist  
at 6.30 p.m.

#### **Easter Sunday - Sunday 12 April**

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m.  
Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m.  
Choral Evensong at 3.30 p.m.

**Holy Week Pilgrimage** to Pennant  
Melangell with Llansantffraid and  
Llanfechain churches - **Wednesday 8 April**  
9 a.m. Holy Communion Service in

St Ffraid's, Llansantffraid, or meet at  
Llangynog. Bring packed lunch; hot  
drinks provided. *Contact 01691 828244*  
[pampowell@micro-plus-web.net](mailto:pampowell@micro-plus-web.net)

**Benefit Concert** for Anajali School,  
Kenya, at Trefnant Village Hall  
- **Saturday 18 April** at 7 p.m.  
Tickets £5/£2.50 including hot-pot  
supper. *Contact 01745 582500*

**Inauguration** of the ministry of the new  
Bishop of St Asaph, in St Asaph Cath-  
edral; *admission by ticket only*  
- **Saturday 25 April** at 3 p.m.

**Eucharist with the Bishop of St Asaph**  
at St Mary's, Welshpool  
- **Sunday 26 April** at 11 a.m.

**Wales' Biggest Coffee Morning**  
in aid of the Mobile Dental Clinic  
and the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic  
- **Friday 1 – Sunday 3 May**  
*Further details on page 6*

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## **Petryal Festival**

*For the following Festival events,  
including season tickets, contact*  
*Richard Smyth 01745 870345*

**St Mary's, Llanfair Talhaiarn**  
- **Friday 1 May**

**Organ Recital** by Graham Eccles at  
10.30 a.m. & 2 p.m.

**Concert** by St Peter's Youth Choir,  
Wolverhampton at 7 p.m.

**St Digain's, Llangernyw**  
- **Saturday 2 May**

**Organ Masterclass and Recital**  
with Brian Armfield and Graham Eccles  
at 10 a.m.

**Choral Evensong** - with St Asaph Cathedral Choir at 3 p.m.

**Concert** by musicians from Hereford Cathedral School at 7 p.m.

**St Mary's, Llanfair Talhaiarn**

- **Sunday 3 May**

**Festival Eucharist** at 10.30 a.m.  
Preacher, the Ven Bernard Thomas,  
Archdeacon of St Asaph

**Deanery "Y" Service** at 6 p.m.

**St Sannan's, Llansannan**

- **Monday 4 May**

**Organ Recital** by Brian Armfield  
at 10.30 a.m.

**Jazz Workshop** with Scott Stroman and  
Brian Abrahams at 2 p.m.

**Songs of Praise** with a modern twist;  
a celebration of 20th and 21st century  
sacred music led by Scott Stroman at 7 p.m.

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**Froncsyllte Male Voice Choir** in concert  
at St Mary's, Chirk

- **Thursday 7 May** at 7.30 p.m.

*Tickets £9 from The Vicarage, Trevor  
Road, Chirk, Wrexham LL14 5HD  
Please enclose cheque payable to St  
Mary's Church PCC and a S.A.E.*

**Virgin Art exhibition** at St Mary's, Mold.

Admission Free; refreshments available

- **Monday 4 - Saturday 9 May**

from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Contact Denise Owens 01352 752473

or [public1@boltblue.com](mailto:public1@boltblue.com)

**Flower Festival and Fete** at All Saints'  
Church, Sinan Marli, in support of  
St Kentigern's Hospice and Anajali  
School, Kenya, with entertainment by  
Beulah Band.

- **Saturday 16 May** from 11 a.m.

**Group Family Service** in a marquee at  
All Saints', Sinan Marli, followed by  
shared lunch.

- **Sunday 17 May** at 11 a.m.

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

**Gala Concert** with the Brymbo Choir and  
Ysgol Derwenfa Choir in Christ Church  
Pontblyddyn

- **Saturday 16 May** at 7.30 p.m.

**Christian Spirituality Day** in All Saints  
Church, Lane End, Buckley

- **Saturday 23 May** from 10 a.m.

*Further details on page 15*

**Musical evening with Sinan Singers** at  
All Saints' Church, Sinan Marli

- **Saturday 30 May** at 7 p.m.

Contact Mr & Mrs Helm 01745 582500

**Flower Festival Weekend** at Christ  
Church, Pontblyddyn; church open

- **Saturday 30 May** from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

*Refreshments available.*

**Festival Evensong**

- **Saturday 30 May** at 6.30 p.m.

**Holy Communion** communicated in sign  
language; and Parish Lunch

- **Sunday 31 May** at 10.30 a.m.

**Pentecost Confirmation** at the Cathedral

- **Sunday 31 May** at 6.30 p.m.

**Open Garden** at the home of Breda

Baxter, Cross Roads, Gwespyr, Holywell  
from 2.30 - 7.30 p.m. on

- **Thursday 4 June**

- **Friday 12 June**

- **Tuesday 16 June**

- **Thursday 25 June**

Admission £2 includes refreshments.

Groups welcome. Contact 01745 857355

Proceeds to Llanasa Parish Church.

**Noah's Amazing Family Fun Day** with  
members of the Mothers' Union, families  
and friends, at Ty Clwyd, Llanfair Talha-  
iarn, Abergele

- **Saturday 13 June** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets £2.50 (individual), £10 (family)

Contact 01978 357339

[stgilesshop@yahoo.uk](mailto:stgilesshop@yahoo.uk)

**Holy Land Pilgrimage**

- **18 - 29 October**

£1399 per person; contact

Llanrhos Parish Office 01492 541615

# HYSBYSFWRDD NOTICEBOARD

## Fairtrade Communion Wine goes red!

Whitebridge Wines Ltd was founded in 1984 by Francis Peel, an Oxford theology graduate. The company aims to provide churches around the country with an ethically sourced, well made, and high quality Communion Wine. The wine is shipped direct from the vineyard to their warehouse in Stone, Staffordshire, enabling them to

offer a competitive price. Their Amber Communion Wine is an established

product; made from the Muscat grape, lightly fortified to 15% alcohol content, pale in colour with fruit flavours and a balancing sweetness, it has been well-received by communicants.

Now they have launched a red wine, made from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Muscat grape varieties with 100g of residual sugar (the same as port) to produce a rich, fruity communion wine. The wine comes in a screw top 75cl bottle, is certified organic and vegetarian and has excellent longevity once opened.

The wines come from South Africa's leading Fairtrade wine estate, Stellar Organics. Says Maria Malan, manager (pictured), "My life and those of my fellow workers have changed. After Stellar Organics became a Fair Trade accredited farm, the possibilities were there to improve our lifestyles and securities. The standards of everybody on the farm changed. Our houses are more than 90% electrified and we have the necessary sanitary systems. In the past, before linking with Fair Trade, all the money went to the owner of the farm. However, nowadays the workers also share in the profit of the farm."

The wines cost £5.49 per bottle for 12, £4.99 per bottle for 24 (including VAT and next day delivery).

See [www.poterionfairtrade.co.uk](http://www.poterionfairtrade.co.uk)

Contact [sales@poterionfairtrade.co.uk](mailto:sales@poterionfairtrade.co.uk)  
or phone 01785 817229



# DATHLU CENHADAETH FYDEANG CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION



## Wales' Biggest Coffee Morning

People across Wales are being invited to take part in "Wales' Biggest Coffee Morning" to raise money for a church-funded health clinic in Gaza. From coffee breaks with colleagues at work to cuppas after church services or on shopping trips, it is hoped thousands of people will take part in the event over the first weekend in May.

All the money raised will go to the Church in Wales' Jubilee Fund to restock and rebuild health centres in Gaza, including a mobile dental clinic, run by the Near East Council of Churches, which the Fund has supported since 2000. The Archdeacon of Margam, the Ven Philip Morris, who co-ordinates the Jubilee Fund, invited people to take part. He said, "Conditions for ordinary people in Gaza are desperate following the bombing campaign and basic humanitarian aid is the priority. We have been completely supporting the mobile dental run by the NECC for nearly a decade but are now also supporting the work of the NECC's other health centres, one of which was destroyed by an Israeli bomb in January. They are in urgent need of equipment and medical supplies to deliver frontline care.



"We have already had an excellent response to our latest appeal, with more than £37,000 raised in the past couple of months. The coffee morning is a simple way for more people to get involved and give what they can to the appeal. We hope people will make it a three-day event, holding coffee mornings at work on the Friday, taking a coffee break while shopping on Saturday and staying for a cuppa after church services on Sunday."

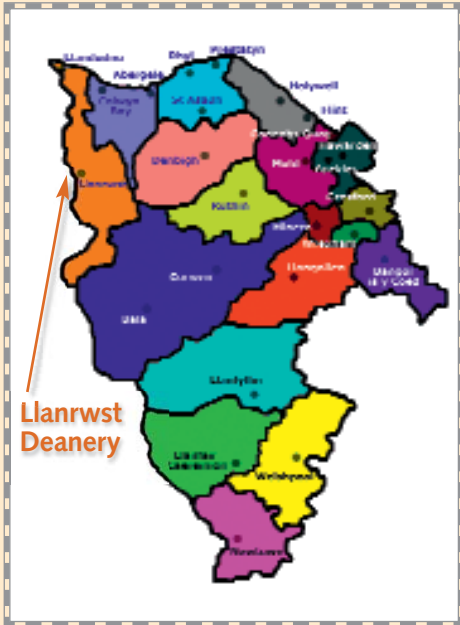
Cheques should be made payable to **Church in Wales Jubilee Fund** and sent to the Treasurer, Mrs Louise Davies, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF  
Tel: 029 2034 8228

[louisedavies@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:louisedavies@churchinwales.org.uk)

*Donations from individuals should, if possible, be giftaided - gift aid envelopes are available from the Treasurer.*



# Deanery Focus Canolbwyntio ar Ddeoniaeth



*From the south of the Diocese and the Deanery of Cedewain, in the last edition of Teulu Asaph, we now travel to the north-west border and the Deanery of Llanrwst. With thanks to the Area Dean, the Revd Prebendary Bob Griffiths, the clergy and laity of Llanrwst Deanery for contributions in word and pictures.*

The Deanery of Llanrwst stretches along the Conwy Valley on the eastern side from Llanrwst to Llanrhos. There are eleven churches served by five incumbent status clerics (when fully staffed); there is provision for an assistant curate at Llanrhos, and at

present there are two NSM clerics, and six Readers, together with Worship Leaders and Pastoral Assistants. In recent years the clerics of the deanery have endeavoured to work closely together, meeting regularly and, wherever possible, helping each other to sustain ministry. There has been much talk of enhancing our collaborative ministry whilst enabling individual parishes, very different in their make-up and needs, to retain their own identity and individuality.

**Llanrwst** is a small market town which takes its name from 'the church of Grwst', founder of the church in the 6th century whose name appears alongside Deiniol (founder of the see of Bangor) and Trillo among the signatories of the grant of land by Maelgwn Gwynedd to Kentigern for the building of a church at Llanelwly. Many travel to the Church of St Grwst to visit the Gwydir Chapel erected in 1634 by Sir Richard Wyn. Within the chapel are some remarkable tombs and monuments amongst which is the stone coffin of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth the Great, Prince of Wales from 1195 to 1240.



of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth the Great, Prince of Wales from 1195 to 1240.

**Llanddaged** is a small village situated above Llanrwst. The present church is a 19th century replacement and is unique in that the orientation of the church is north-south, with box pews facing the triple-decker pulpit and the altar in the north nave on the east wall, which makes a curious orientation.

The church in **Eglwysbach**, dedicated to St Martin, was built in 1782, replacing an earlier church, and sits at the centre of this small village set in a nook or recess above the Conwy Valley. Within the parish are the world famous Bodnant Gardens, now owned by the National Trust, and which provide much employment for local people within the gardens, tea room, shop and house. The village also hosts the largest one day non-county agricultural show in North Wales, in which the church is having a greater presence.

**Llansanffraid Glan Conwy (Glan Conwy)** has developed from a rural village into a "commuter" dormitory. Its name means, 'the church of St Bride (Brigid, Ffraid) on the bank of the Conwy'. The present church dates from 1839, built on the foundations of an earlier church. The church is in the centre of the 'old' village with the large Church House (Hall), recently refurbished, across the road, where many community events take place, including Welsh lessons.

**Llangystennin** parish is served by three churches, two set in rural areas and one in the centre of Llandudno Junction, which grew as a community around the railway and is now set for a new phase in its life with the construction of the new North Wales Welsh Assembly building. The parish church was built in 1843, replacing an earlier church on the site and is very much 'on its own', along a country road, with the population it serves, Mochdre, on the other side of the A55 and main railway line, crossed by bridges. In a recent edition of Teulu Asaph the churchyard project was highlighted; further progress has been made in clearing overgrown areas and the introduction of bird feeders and nest boxes. St Katherine's Church in Bryn Pydew serves this small hamlet. In Llandudno Junction, with the large increase in population due to the coming of the railway, an iron mission church was erected in 1905 which was replaced by the present church of St Michael and All Angels.



A Christmas Tree Festival was held last year, with not only trees on display but craftwork available for purchase and refreshments served constantly! Lots of people visited, including two schools from the community, Ysgol Nant y Coed and Ysgol Maelgwn. The attendance seems to show that if we've something people want to see, they'll take the trouble to find us. Those involved say it was hard work but well worth it.

The parish of **Eglwys Rhos (Llanrhos)** is about the fourth largest parish in the diocese, is served by four churches and covers a large part of the seaside resort of Llandudno – the boundary (between Llanrhos and Llandudno and, respectively, St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses) running very close to the centre of the town. The Parish Church at Llanrhos was built by the monks of Maenan Abbey, in the 13th century, replacing an earlier church on a site where Maelgwn Gwynedd, a great benefactor of the church and of the see of

Llanelwy (St Asaph) took refuge from the yellow pestilence, died and was (reputedly) buried within the church. In the Victorian period, as the resort town of Llandudno sprang up and was developed, churches were built in Craig y Don, Deganwy and Penrhyn Bay (the wooden church being replaced by a brick built church in the 1960s). The mining community of Penrhynside was served by a mission church which closed in 1998.

## Outreach and Mission

The parishes within the deanery support many mission agencies and have links with various projects both 'at home' and overseas. The Coffee Stop in Llansanffraid Glan Conwy and in Eglwysbach provides meeting places each week for the people of these two communities. In Eglwysbach it came into existence when the local Post Office closed and people had nowhere to congregate. The Post Office has since reopened – but the Coffee Stop remains.

In **Eglwysbach** over the past year there has been a feeling that they should move outwards and links have been forged with 'Kinawataka Women Initiatives' in Uganda – whose main aim is to eliminate poverty and uplift the standard of living amongst women and the community as a whole. They engage in making shoes, bags etc using straw – and care for orphans, training them in direct work and taking them to school. Fund raising events for the whole of Eglwysbach village community have taken place at Harvest and over mulled wine and carols at Christmas. The community say it is a joy to be able to have a personal overseas link and that they enjoy receiving the regular updates from Benedicta, the founder, who recently informed us that the money sent at Christmas time has, amongst other things, enabled them to purchase a water tank.



In **Llanrhos Parish** there are links with St Vincent's Hospice in Ein Kerim near Jerusalem which cares for severely handicapped children (Jewish, Muslim and Christian); two visits have been made to the Hospice and one is planned for October this year as part of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A link has also been made with the parish of St Peter the Fisherman, Hout Bay, South Africa (which contains within it the area called Llandudno Bay) just outside Cape Town. We are able to help with the work done there with people who have HIV/Aids through the "Love Project". The parishes keep in touch with one another and people from Llanrhos have visited Hout Bay whilst visiting South Africa. It is hoped to develop this link further. In addition, sponsorship of children in the Third World, to enable them to receive an education, has been established by the Ladies Fellowship and the children of our Church School.

Most of our congregations are made up of those who are mature in years and, as in many parishes, there is concern about the lack of young people in the congregations. In some of the parishes of the deanery, children are encouraged to be servers. The clergy and laity in all the parishes of the deanery visit local schools and requests are often made for visits to the churches as part of the curriculum. In Llansanffaid Glan Conwy this past Advent a four week course was held for children between 4 and 8 years of age to teach them the real meaning of Christmas (as reported in the last edition of Teulu Asaph).

In Llanrhos the church is very involved in our Church Aided School – Ysgol Bodafon – where an After School Club is held every Monday in term time. More recently a new children's club – Hope – has been set up in Deganwy using the Sea Cadet Rooms next to the church, and they even met on Christmas Day!



*St Hilary, the parish church of Llanrhos*

There is within the parish a traditional Sunday School and three of the four churches have a family service each month which are growing through the encouragement of parents who come to the Baptism Preparation meetings. There is also a weekly children's singing group under the direction of the Director of Music at St Paul's Church where children learn to sing, read music and enjoy fellowship together. An exciting development is the proposed Youth and Schools Officer working under the umbrella of Llandudno Cytun and Youth for Christ.

The Church Halls within the parishes are let to local organisations and enhance the contribution the church makes to the local community. In Llanrwst the hall is used both by the church and by 'Sure Start' and the halls are used for the usual community events; in one, young disabled people come along to learn how to cook and be more self-sufficient.

A partnership is being developed with Conwy County Borough Council who recently obtained funding for a 'Church Trail' in the Conwy Valley. As a deanery we come together on a regular basis to share fellowship in this diverse part of the diocese, an area of outstanding natural beauty where we endeavour to serve the people in the more English urban areas and the more Welsh rural areas. Much more could be written of how each day we meet the challenges of ministry in our parish communities and in a very bi-lingual deanery, as we look out in mission and service in and to our communities.

TEULUASAPH 10



*The Revd David Lewis, Church & Society Officer, thanks you for your support for the Diocesan Offering 2008*

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Church and Society Board, I would like to thank all the parishes and individuals who worked so hard in collecting last year's offering for Cruse Bereavement Care North Wales. As a result, a cheque for £8000 was presented to Cruse at the January meeting of Church and Society.

Those who are eagle-eyed will have noticed that the sums for the last three offerings have each been £8000. Has this

been an amazing coincidence? Well, no. In actual fact the Board of Church and Society decided to top up the offering to £8000 for each of the nominated charities for the last three years.

The actual amounts raised over the last three years have been

- 2006 offering for CAIS: £6,383
- 2007 offering for the Wrexham Night Shelter, Ty Nos: £7,947
- 2008 offering for Cruse Bereavement Care: £6,212

As a Board, we are aware of all the hard work that goes on in various parishes to support the nominated charities, from coffee mornings to ladies fellowship fund raising events, and we are extremely grateful for all of your efforts.

There are a number of parishes, however, who choose not to support the annual appeal. I would like to challenge those parishes to think seriously about making this year's Diocesan Offering a part of their mission plan and outreach. The charities that are selected have a direct impact on people in our Diocese. And we as a Diocese should be reaching out in Jesus' name to support their vital work.



*The Revd David Lewis presents the Diocesan Offering 2008 to Mrs Lorraine Johnson, Chair of Cruse Bereavement Care North Wales.*

From this year, the Board has decided not to top up the amount raised for the actual offering. So it is more important than ever that you the parishes make our offering a success and support the worthwhile causes that seek to improve and support people in crisis situations. Please continue to help us as a Diocese make a difference.

## Diocesan Offering 2009

This year's recipients for the 2009 offering are Rhyl Samaritans and Hafal. Hafal is a small charity that works in the Province, helping people recovering from severe mental illness and giving support to their families and carers. Rhyl Samaritans help and listen to people who are in crisis, giving a non judgemental ear to their stories. Although The Samaritans are a nationwide charity, each branch has to raise its funds independently. The Rhyl branch's catchment area is the whole of North East Wales.

This year we have also decided to revamp the Diocesan Offering. On 21st June the appeal will be launched at the Diocesan Conference as usual. At the Conference, however, Diocesan Offering packs will be available to help parishes raise the profile for this year's offering. These will contain profiles of the charities, intercessions to pray for their work, stories of people helped and supported by the organisations for use in a sermon and an envelope to return the offering.

The Board of Church and Society with The Bishop's Office have nominated **Sunday 13th September as Diocesan Offering Sunday**. We ask parishes to publicise the offering on that Sunday, pray for the charities using the set intercessions and to consider preaching on the importance of the Offering as part of God's witness, using the stories provided.



*In words and in movement, the congregation at the Diocesan Offering Service 2008 remembered and prayed for the work of Cruse Bereavement Care. The offerings were received from the parishes by Mrs Joan Davies and blessed by Bishop John.*

**The Diocesan Offering Service 2009 will be on Wednesday 14th October at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral.**

*Please help us to make this year's offering the most successful yet.*

*The Lifelong Learning department in the Diocesan Office is always pleased to hear news from our church schools. Here are some things to celebrate!*

Very few schools in the country can boast a Welsh Food Hygiene Gold Award, but **St Ethelwold's V.A. School, Shotton** has just joined that elite number with a spotless kitchen and the healthiest of menus. It's all down to the high standard set by school cook, Jenny Roberts.

Headteacher Paul Oliver, who was certainly proud to accept the award on behalf of the school, said "This is a brilliant achievement. Not many schools reach Gold standard, but we are among them. It's a great testament to Jenny Roberts and all the kitchen staff at St Ethelwold's."



*Photo courtesy of NWN Media Ltd*

**Pentre Church in Wales Primary School** is a small village school in North Wales, with 71 pupils and just three classes. Internationalism is embedded throughout the curriculum of the school and they have received the International School Award in recognition of this. For some time now they have been working with a partner school in Alentejo, Portugal. Classes from the two schools chat online on a regular basis and have completed a number of curriculum projects together. The children love to chat and find out more about each others' lives. They send cards and presents to each other and it's wonderful to hear them all trying to speak a little of each others' language.

The school is also coordinating a Comenius project with schools from Wales, Northern Ireland, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Latvia, Croatia and Cyprus. They are working together on various curriculum based projects over a two year period. During this time children from the schools are being given the chance to exchange visits.

This is such an amazing opportunity for everyone involved and the pupils learn so much. A couple of years ago, many of the children in school would not have been able to name many of the countries in Europe and beyond. If you asked them now they would not just be able to tell you where they are but also what the children eat for breakfast and what they watch on TV!

*More news from church schools in the next edition.*



The Revd Phil Atack reports that Churches Together in **Old Colwyn** and Colwyn Bay Football Club organised a joint event, 'Colwyn Community Christmas Carol Sing'. A crowd of over 300 met on a very cold Sunday afternoon, and raised over £200 for Ty Gobaith Children's Hospice. The singing was accompanied by Beulah Brass, who also play at the parish's Remembrance Sunday service.

Last year the Mission and Evangelism Committee at St Collen`s Church, **Llangollen**, arranged to invite people who they knew would be on their own on Christmas Day, or may find it difficult to cook a full Christmas dinner for themselves, to share a meal together. Twenty six people from around the town, including helpers, sat down together to eat a three course meal of soup, turkey with all the trimmings and vegetables and Christmas pudding. The tables had been colourfully decorated and everyone received a small present.

After the meal a member of the church choir brought her family to entertain the guests with Christmas carols and songs played both on the piano and guitar. It was much appreciated and it is planned to hold the dinner again this year.

At 12.30 p.m. on January 10th, kings and camels were seen walking the streets of **Overton**. Our Messy Church for Epiphany had just finished and the children and adults were returning home, armed with camel masks, crowns, pipe cleaner camels and boxes

filled with gold coins (well chocolate ones; we are in a credit crunch, after all!). Even Rector David Lewis was persuaded to make a pipe cleaner camel, which is proudly sitting in his study!



It was a wonderful morning, jointly organised by St Mary's Church and the Methodist Church in Overton. Twenty children and adults joined together to celebrate Epiphany by drawing and colouring, gluing and sticking and having lots of fun. One lady even wrote a humorous poem about how the camels met up with the three kings.

Una McLean, Methodist minister,

enthralled the children by telling the story of the fourth wise man, with added actions. Everyone enjoyed themselves and voted unanimously to hold a second Messy Church at Easter.

Some of **Nannerch** School's younger children recently took part in a mock wedding at St Michael's Church in the village. The children all had parts to play and staff and pupils entered fully into the spirit of the day.

"As with all weddings, a lot of hard work went into the preparations and it was a very happy occasion", commented the Priest in Charge, the Rev'd Brian Harvey. The couple were married by the 'assistant vicar', Sammy Harrison.

Afterwards, the wedding guests joined the bride and groom for the reception in the village pub, The Cross Foxes, where the groom's father is the landlord!

In the parish of **Pontblyddyn** at a school assembly they were thinking about



'uniforms' and ended up with four Vicars at the front – these three, and the Revd Carole Poolman. They then explored the idea that what we wear doesn't change who we are, and it's who we are and how we behave that really counts. Pictured in different clerical 'uniforms' are Liliana Da Rosa Bartolomeu, Megan Reynolds and Molly Evans.

### **Christian Spirituality Day** at All Saints', Lane End, Buckley.

Saturday 23 May from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rocky Bateman, who is training to be a Diocesan Evangelist, is currently on placement at the Parish of Bistre. In conversations with people with little or no contact with the church, one of the things she has discovered is that for many there appears to be little connection between spirituality and the life of the Church.

Rocky, encouraged by the parish, has risen to the challenge and is planning a 'Christian Spirituality Day' for those both on the fringe of the church and established church members, as an opportunity to explore what Christian spirituality is.

On the day there will be prayer stations, a space for meditation, healing and opportunities for personal prayer. A variety of people from the parish and the diocese will be leading sessions on spiritual direction, study and learning, and how to grow your faith within our Church.

For those interested, they will be invited to join an Essence course in order to explore further some of the questions raised on the day.

*Contact:*

Revd Martin Batchelor 01244 550947 [martinbatchelor@btinternet.com](mailto:martinbatchelor@btinternet.com)

Rocky Bateman 01244 538910 [rocsandoneillbateman@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rocsandoneillbateman@yahoo.co.uk)



## Enthusiastic for Green issues? You are not alone . . .

Since the Eco-page has been running we have been contacted by various churches sharing news about what they are doing, and also by others asking where they can get resources and ideas.

One way of doing this is through organisations such as Christian Ecology Link, and the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Together, these two organisations have recently launched 'Operation Noah' in Wales, a campaign which focuses on the issue of Climate Change. Their publicity material describes their mission, 'Operation Noah exists because God's creation faces the most urgent peril, which, to be averted, requires a rapid and radical transformation of our economy and culture - towards liveable, supportable lifestyles'.

Another way many are getting involved is by learning more about what is involved in becoming an 'Eco-congregation', which is an initiative jointly organized by the Environmental Issues Network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Government funded charity ENCAMS.

Operation Noah can be contacted at [www.operationnoah.org](http://www.operationnoah.org), or The Grayson Centre, 28, Charles Square, London N1 6HT, or on 020 7324 4761.

There is also a short video of the Welsh Operation Noah launch in Cardiff on youtube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwVlrbZ1-0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwVlrbZ1-0)

To contact Christian Ecology Link go to [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk) or write to 3, Bond Street, Lancaster, LA1 3ER or phone 01524 36241

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: How at peace with our environment are we?

*Send any thoughts, on this or any other related subject, to Revd Adrian Copping, on behalf of the Diocesan Ecology Group*  
- [adriancopping@hotmail.com](mailto:adriancopping@hotmail.com)  
The Rectory, 8, Ludlow Road, Bangor Isycoed, Wrexham, LL13 0JG  
☎ 01978 780608



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

**Editor:** Revd Peter Mackriell, Diocesan Communications Officer.  
Diocesan Office, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 ORD 01745 582245  
[petermackriell@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:petermackriell@churchinwales.org.uk)

*What is your good news? Let us know what is happening in your parish or deanery. Interesting photographs and short articles particularly welcome.* Croesewir unrhyw erthyglau ynglyn a digwyddiadau eglwysig yn Gymraeg. Gellir cynnwys crynodeb byr o'r erthygl, na ddylai fod yn fwy na 250 o eiriau, yn Saesneg. Diolch yn fawr.

**Deadlines:** June/July edition: **27th April**  
August/ September edition: **15th June**