



To Canterbury - via St Asaph



We were privileged to be able to host six bishops from overseas, before they travelled to the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. A tour of the Diocese on Monday 14th July concluded at St Joseph's High School, Wrexham, where the bishops met members of the Mothers' Union as well as clergy and church members from across the Diocese.

Pictured here are Bishop Sebastiao Gamaleira Soares of Recife, Brazil, and his wife, Maria Madalena Fonseca Soares; Janet Rees; Susan Varah; Bishop John Simalenga, of South-West Tanganyika, Tanzania; Anne Clutton; Bishop Salalah Okumu of Mumias, Kenya; Bishop Dean Wolfe of Kansas, U.S.A.; Carol Chamberlain; Canon Philip Williams (Mothers' Union Chaplain); Bishop Devaraj Bangera of Karnataka South, India; Bishop John; and Bishop Doug Stevens of Riverina, Australia.

More photos inside...

Also Inside...

- ◆ grants for mission-minded parishes
- ◆ stories of mission from the world church
- ◆ a green audit for your church
- ◆ be an evangelist or a street pastor
- ◆ Diocesan Offering 2008
- ◆ and news from the parishes of the Diocese



Dear Friends,

It is reported that of the 800 bishops invited to the Lambeth Conference, about 200 have declined. I am one of those who have said 'yes' to the Archbishop of Canterbury's

invitation, because Wales has something to share with the world.

The Lambeth conference of Anglican bishops from across the globe is held every ten years, so we should make the most of our opportunity. A contemporary prayer refers to Wales as a small nation but with a high purpose, called to share what we have with others. As a small province within the worldwide Anglican church, what we have to share is an openness and hospitality that says to people, "You are loved by God, without condition". The church in Wales includes not excludes. We are a church that opens doors rather than closes doors. And it is important to go on saying that in the face of current action which will undoubtedly damage the unity of the church.

The present conflict within the worldwide Anglican church has been building up over many years. It is now at the point where certain parts of the church, mainly from the southern hemisphere, are so unhappy with what they see as conformity to the secular liberal culture of developed economies, that they have formed a coalition to rescue people from spiritual

decline. The tipping point was the consecration of a gay bishop in the US diocese of New Hampshire and the blessing of same sex partnerships in Canada.

The Church in Wales is not unmindful of the pain that these decisions have caused to other members of its Anglican family. We have sympathy with those who want clarity and direction in working out their faith and acknowledge that matters are never that simple or straightforward. We too wrestle with matters of faith and the interpretation of scripture. Nevertheless, we should trust other family members to order their own affairs believing that they have acted with prayerfulness and integrity in arriving at their decisions. They believe passionately that the church should open doors for people to live full and abundant lives.

The crest of the Diocese of St Asaph is the "cross keys". A key can lock or unlock a door. So it is not surprising that since earliest Christian times the key has endured as a powerful symbol of what the church finds acceptable or unacceptable. Whatever those keys represented in the past, they speak to me of the role of faith in unlocking doors that help people move out of the place of imprisonment into a place of freedom. Unconditional love is not unconditional approval, and behaviour does matter.

The Christian faith does not approve of betrayal, violence, hatred, discrimination and injustice, and all other expressions of evil. But as has been pointed out in a new book by the Warden of St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, Peter Francis,

"In the eyes of many outside the church, the church's right to speak out on issues of justice is negated by the lack of justice shown by the church to a significant proportion of its adherents who are gay".

+ John of Asaph



Organ Recital in St Asaph Cathedral by David Houlder, Sub Organist, Leeds Parish Church

- **Wednesday 3rd September**
at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4

Open Church Day For details see www.ctnw.co.uk or phone 029 2071 0014 john@ctnw.co.uk

- **Saturday 6th September**

Car Boot Sale in the Cathedral Car Park, for the Cathedral Choir Association

- **Saturday 6th September** from 9 a.m. £7.50 per car. Booking early is advised; Contact 07887 826973

Diocesan Spirituality Team
Quiet days

Tuesday 9th September led by the Revd Bethan Scotford at Cottsmore House, Wrexham

Monday 17th November at St Beuno's, Tremeirchion

Contact Revd Dr Peter Wykes
01745 730263

Flower Festival Festival at St Thomas, Flint Mountain - **Friday 12th – Sunday 14th September** 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Contact Christine 01352 761395

Racial Justice Sunday A banquet for all peoples - **Sunday 14th September**
Resource material available from CTBI publications www.ctbi.org.uk

Llanasa Scarecrow Festival on the theme of "Nursery Rhymes" in aid of Llanasa Parish Church, the Village Hall and Llanasa Conservation Society with barbecue, jazz band, children's attractions, craft and gift stalls

- **Saturday 20th September**

Why not make a scarecrow? Prizes awarded.

Contact Allan Boden 01745 856348

North Wales International Music Festival in St Asaph Cathedral with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Julian Lloyd Webber, Llyr Williams

- **20th – 27th September**

Contact 01745 584508

www.northwalesmusicfestival.co.uk

George Herbert Festival in Montgomery

- **26th - 28th September**

Further details:

www.montgomery-wales.co.uk

Young Voices Festival in St Asaph Cathedral led by Dr Ian Sharp and cathedral organist Alan McGuinness

- **Wednesday 15th October** from 10.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact Jacqui Blore 01978 355808
jacblore@yahoo.co.uk



All One in Christ - Disability Awareness Conference at St Joseph's High School, Wrexham

- **Saturday 18th October**

With Martin Cowden from the L'Arche Community, Liverpool and other workshop leaders. *Contact Revd Una McLean 01978 860877*

People of Promise with Dave Bilbrough at St Mary's, Flint

- **Saturday 18th October**

Afternoon workshops and seminars and an evening concert.

Contact 01244 546323

Advance Notice

Diocesan Offering Service in St Asaph Cathedral

- **Wednesday 5th November** at 2 p.m.

Welsh Spirituality Seminar in the Dean's Library, St Asaph; with Revd Dr Elwyn Richards, Bangor

- **Thursday 6th November** at 2 p.m.

Farewell Service for Bishop John in St Asaph Cathedral

- **Friday 21st November** at 6 p.m.

Victorian Christmas Festival in Llansilin, during Advent, beginning with the annual Plygain

- **Friday 5th December** onwards



ORDEINIADAU '08 ORDINATIONS



Outside the Cathedral with Bishop John on Saturday 28th June, the Revd Godfrey Chigumira, who was welcomed into the Diocese, to serve as curate in the Rectorial Benefice of Hawarden; along with the Revd Dr Trish Owens, the Revd Richard Carter and the Revd Stuart Elliott, who were all ordained priest.

HYSBYSFWRDD NOTICEBOARD



Three miles north of Welshpool on the A483, **Pool Quay Church tea room** is open every summer, until the end of September, for coffee, light lunches, tea and cakes. Small parties catered for.
Contact 01938 590218

St Ffraid's Church, Llansantffraid

is looking to appoint an organist.
Enquiries to the Vicar, the Revd Pam Powell 01691 828244

Berse Drelincourt Charity

The Trustees of the Berse Charity invite applications for this year's award of grants. The purpose of the charity is to assist with education expenses of no more than twenty girls, or women under the age of 25, who are resident in the Diocese of St Asaph. The assistance

given is modest, but may be used in a range of ways; for example, to subsidise extra curricular lessons, to assist in the purchase of books, or to go towards university expenses. Second or subsequent degree courses are not eligible for a grant; only first degrees can be considered. For your guidance, successful applicants usually receive a grant of between £50 and £100.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/life/resources and are also available from the Diocesan Office. Completed forms, countersigned by the sponsoring cleric, must be received at the Diocesan Office before Friday 28th November 2008.

Sacred Space

Rural churches in the Wrexham area have been invited to take part in a new project which celebrates the ecology / biodiversity / genealogical interest in churchyards. The aim is to engage the local community in the varied habitat of the churchyard, and encourage people to enjoy them, and participate in their management.

As with Wrexham's Open Church Network, the project is expected to be free to all participating churches, with funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The remainder will come from match funding and volunteer time. If your church (in rural Wrexham) might be interested, *please contact Sue Kelly on sacred-space@hotmail.co.uk or 01978 854469*

Ymddiriedolaeth Elusengar Archesgob Rice Jones



Cynorthwyo Ysgolion Drwy Gofio
Archesgob Alwyn

Mae gan lawer o bobl atgofion annwyl a chynnes o Archesgob Alwyn, Esgob Alwyn fel yr oedd o yn Esgobaeth Llanelwy; mae gan sawl un achos i fod yn ddiolchgar iddo am ei ddiddordeb personol ynndynt a'u teuluoedd.

Er côf am Archesgob Alwyn ac yn enwedig i barhau ei waith yn annog a datblygu ysgolion cynradd, eu disgyblion a'u staff, mae Ymddiriedolaeth Elusengar newydd wedi ei sefydlu o dan nawdd Mrs. Meriel Jones, ei weddw, a chyda cefnogaeth lawn ac anogaeth ei olynnydd fel Esgob Llanelwy, Esgob John Davies.

Wedi ei gyhoeddi yn y Gwasanaeth Addysg Esgobaethol Blynnyddol yng Nghadeirlan Llanelwy ar Ebrill 28ain 2008, pwrpas yr Ymddiriedolaeth ydi adeiladu cronfa y gall ysgolion wneud cais iddi am arian i gynyddu eu hadnoddau tuag at ddatblygu eu haddysg grefyddol a chyd addoli, amcanion yn agos iawn at galon y diweddar Archesgob drwy gydol ei dymor yn ei swydd pa un ai fel Offeiriad Plwyf, Deon Cadeirlan, Esgob neu Archesgob.

Gobaith yr Ymddiriedolwyr yw y bydd cymaint o bobl a chymdeithasau ag sy'n bosibl drwy'r gymuned sy'n cofio Archesgob Alwyn gydag annwylder a diolchgarwch yn rhoi i'r Ymddiriedolaeth fel y gall y gwaith a gymerodd ef cymaint o ddiddordeb ynddo sef Addysg Plant, gael ei gryfhau gyda grantiau o'r Ymddiriedolaeth.

Bwriedir gwahodd ceisiadau oddiwrth ysgolion ac i wneud y grantiau cyntaf yn ystod yr Hydref eleni.

Dylid gweud rhoddion yn daladwy i Ymddiriedolaeth Elusengar Archesgob Rice Jones a'i anfon i'r Swyddfa Addysg Esgobaethol, Y Stryd Fawr, Llanelwy LL17 ORD neu ei dalu'n uniongyrchol i gyfrif yr Ymddiriedolaeth ym Manc HSBC, Côt Dosbarthu'r Gangen 40-19-12, Rhif y Cyfrif 21401564.

Cyswllt am wybodaeth pellach:
John Harris 01352 720000
johngharris@btopenworld.com



Give a candle. Promise to pray. Make a difference this Advent.

This Advent, your church can share the hope of Christ in your community with Share the Light, the CMS Advent mission resource. Share the Light involves three simple, yet powerful steps:

1. Give a candle to a friend
2. Promise to pray for them for a year
3. Invite them to a special Advent service at your church

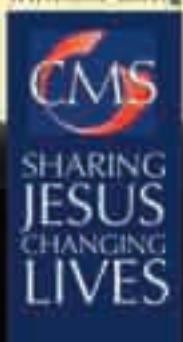
"Through Share the Light, families came to our church for the first time... some continue to come regularly!"

"I think the light of Christ broke into the darkness... one woman was baptised and her husband gave a testimony!"

To find out more about this FREE resource pack, contact Phil Evans.

Tel: 01865 787515 Email: phil.evans@cms-uk.org

www.cms-uk.org



Adnewyddiad / Datblygiad Plwyf Renewal / Parish Development



Meet Rocky Bateman – training as an evangelist on the new Diocesan course. And – yes – she's the one in the chef's hat

For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? How can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!'

Romans 10:13-15, New Living Translation.

What do you think when someone mentions an evangelist? Is it the TV evangelist? Striding back and forth, shouting their heads off, a Bible in one fist and a request for money in the other? On the other hand, maybe the person you see on the street, standing on a box, or with a sandwich board, shouting hell, damnation, and love - all in the same breath.

I am quite sure that the person you imagine won't be a slightly overweight (my husband would laugh at the 'slightly'), greying, middle-aged woman, who works in a shop. A typical Brit who would rather die than make a show of herself. Well, that's me. An evangelist. You won't find me shouting the Bible at anyone from a stage, or standing on street corners. You may well find me in the Tithe barn in Hawarden with Tim (he's a puppet, but don't tell the children) or helping to run an Alpha group.

I've just finished my first year of training with the Diocese of St Asaph as an evangelist. And I am looking forward to starting my second year placement in Bistre parish. I believe passionately that we as a nation desperately need God, and worry that a whole generation are growing up without the benefit of a relationship with Him, and without any knowledge of the enormity of the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf. Also, of how in that relationship we have the support of a helper, in the Holy Spirit. I feel that our relationship with God and Jesus is the most important relationship we can ever have. I find it deeply saddening that so many people these days have no knowledge of that relationship.

If you feel the same about this as I do, maybe this is also your calling. (When I say calling, it may not be a voice from heaven talking to you directly, but is more likely to be that niggling feeling, as it was with me, like an itch you cannot scratch). As with everything, check it is in line with the Bible's teaching. If this sounds like a possibility, go and speak to your minister, or phone the Diocesan Evangelism Officer, Vittoria Hancock on 01745 730176, or go onto the Diocesan website, to find out about the course.

Finally, you get a lot of support. As everyone is very much an individual, the course is structured to build on the strengths of that person, and to strengthen their weaknesses. Not forgetting to mention that it's fun! I've laughed a great deal this last year, and made new friends. Why not think about joining me?

Money, money, money...

Is there something your congregation, church, parish, group or deanery would love to do if only funding were available? Is there something you'd like to try that doesn't quite fit the normal boxes? Where is your church heading in the future and how is it going to achieve that? Dream dreams. Have a think. Plan it out. How could you do it? What resources are needed? What time? What facilities? What people? What do you hope the end result will be? How are you going to check if it's worked? If it does work, what next? How much money do you need?



Now for the good news – as part of the investing in mission initiative, grants are available from the diocese for up to £500 for small projects and up to £5000 for larger projects. The money is available for projects which will further the work of the church, group or deanery. The project should be seen as the start of something, not as an end in itself. Churches should not be afraid to do something new or different, but are actively encouraged to do so.

Perhaps a parish might have a bold idea of a church plant by leasing a room or hall elsewhere. Maybe you'd like to try out some different worship you think will work in your patch. How about a baptism follow-up project? It may be that the reordering of a building might further mission. What do you want to do? Dream dreams. There is no one single blueprint.

If you would like to discuss a project, or would like an application form, please feel free to contact the Diocesan Officer for Renewal and Development, the Revd Huw Butler (01824 704160) or any other member of the Board of Renewal and Parish Development. Alternatively, the application form and guidance notes can be downloaded from the website.



This year's Diocesan Offering recipient is Cruse Bereavement Care, North Wales. Cruse has over 100 volunteers in North Wales, who counsel and deal with

some two to three hundred clients a year. They play a vital role in supporting, encouraging and helping people deal with bereavement.

On the Cruse website is a series of poems and I was particularly struck by this poem by Tanya, called 'You hold my Hand',

*As we go along together,
I realise how lucky I am...
You are my comfort,
my weakness, my joy.
I thank God everyday for
sending someone like you
to care and comfort me in
times of need.*

Please support our appeal so that the Cruse team will continue to be a light of hope to people like Tanya; and come to our Diocesan Offering service in St Asaph Cathedral on Wednesday November 5th at 2 p.m.

Many thanks,
David Lewis
Church and Society Officer

Cruse Bereavement Care - here to support



Approximately 24,000 in North Wales are closely affected by a death each year. Sometimes it helps to talk about the loss of a loved one with someone other than a friend or family member, a person trained to give bereavement support, someone who understands the grieving

process. We helped 1,566 bereaved people during the year 2006/07 and had 605 client referrals - 48 being children. Our 100 or so volunteers gave 5,307 hours to our work during this period, which includes mandatory supervision and on-going training.

The name 'Cruse' is derived from the Old Testament book of Kings, where a widow shared her last cruse of oil with the Prophet Elijah and in doing so, miraculously, found she did not run out. Although Cruse has its genesis in the Christian Faith, bereavement counselling is not religiously based and our support is offered to people of all faiths and none.

Cruse offers a free, confidential service for adults and children through the medium of Welsh, English Polish, Italian and British Sign Language. Support can be given on a one-to-one basis, or for couples or families, and also in a group setting. We can also help where grief is anticipated - for example in situations where an illness has been diagnosed as terminal. A highly trained crisis support team is also available, which can be mobilised at very short notice to support in traumatic incidents.

Talks on the work of Cruse, training and workshops on topics such as loss and grief, breaking bad news, grief and children, Post Traumatic Stress and listening skills can be arranged for those whose work brings them into contact with bereavement and we are very keen to work in partnership with churches and community groups to set up, and help support, bereavement support/social groups in communities across North Wales.

A wide array of bereavement literature is stocked and available free of charge,

some in bilingual format.

Cruse are always looking for volunteers to train to become bereavement support workers, people with office and IT skills and fundraisers - even if the fundraising is on a 'one off' basis.

Please contact us on 0844 561 7856 or crusenorthwales@btconnect.com

We also have a local website www.crusenorthwalesarea.ik.com, an interactive website for children and young bereaved people www.rd4u.org.uk and a free phone helpline for children 0808 808 1677

Funding is an ongoing problem for us; demand for our services increases year on year and the statutory funding we receive falls far short of our needs in order for us to maintain and further develop our bereavement provision. As you can imagine Cruse North Wales are delighted to be the designated charity for this year's Diocesan Offering and wish to convey our deep gratitude to the Diocese of St Asaph for this invaluable support.

Wrexham Street Pastors are Recruiting

Revd Richard Carter of Llangynhafal, Llanbedr D.C., Llanychan and Llanarmon yn Ial reports:

It was blowing a hooley on the night of Good Friday, earlier this year, and it was Beth Attwell's first time out with the Wrexham Street Pastors. What a very special and significant night to begin ministering in a public and committed way. In fact the whole experience felt appropriate to Beth. In her own words, "It's right for me. A gentle approach. I just had to do it. I felt I was following," she says.

Wrexham Street Pastors project is one of sixty throughout the U.K. Up and down the country these projects are enabling people to minister to young people – *where the young people are* and at the point of their need. As the website will tell you, "Street Pastors is an inter-denominational response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets, to care listen and dialogue." www.streetpastors.co.uk

As Beth explained "You don't barge in - people come to you." It is an interactive, and dialoguing, Christian presence on the streets of the U.K., *demonstrating* the gospel of Christ. "You have to listen to people from where they are," says Beth. And talk, or demonstrate, Jesus in the context of people's need. It is a ministry in *response* to the needs of strangers. Whether that be giving a lost person directions at midnight, giving someone a shoulder to cry on because of what has just happened to them (or what happened to them 10 years ago), having a 'space blanket' to hand to warm someone up, being willing to listen to someone's frustrations. And what makes the street pastors effective is that they are prayerfully and practically prepared to work as a team but also that they have a flexibility to help. Street pastors don't say, "You'll have to make an appointment," or, "Fill out this form first." What makes street pastors effective is their presence, their *immediate response* supported by the group effort of inter-denominational prayer.

Trainees have a monthly training session, and are out ministering, always as a group, for at least one night per month from about 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. After one year a trainee can become a qualified street pastor. Wrexham Street Pastors currently have another eleven trainees as well as Beth. Street Pastors is "filling a gap," she says, "and able to engage with people who have been let down by more institutional social support."

Street Pastors is a growing phenomenon which has touched the heart of communities. People with absolutely no church background are in support of this



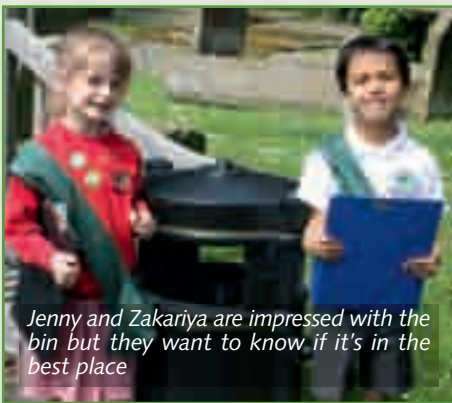
Church initiative to undermine the corrosion of community. Each project works in partnership with both the town council and the local police force, who support the street pastors training program because it has been proven to reduce crime statistics. In Southwark a nine-month police evaluation recorded up to a 95% reduction in calls relating to public disorder whenever the Pastors were deployed. Inspector Simon Smith of Southwark police said, "We're very impressed with their work. I think their secret is their ability to communicate to the community. They're able to engage and divert people and - because they are independent - there are none of the barriers that people might associate with the police or social services. I admire what they do." (*Praise to the Pastors who are cutting crime*, The Times, July 27th 2005)



How eco-friendly is your church?

If you don't know, how might you find out? The Parish Church at Marchwiel hit on the idea of asking the village school's 'Eco-Club' to carry out a survey.

Like many schools Ysgol Deiniol, Marchwiel has a group of children who learn and work together as the school's champions for environment issues. The school already had an 'audit' tool to enable the children to go around the school and make an assessment of how well it was doing, so it was a relatively simple task to convert that for church use.



Jenny and Zakariya are impressed with the bin but they want to know if it's in the best place

The school's ten strong eco-club members spent a whole lesson assessing the church in the areas of Litter, Reducing Waste, Energy and Water, Transport, Healthy Living, the Churchyard, and Global Citizenship. The results were then reported to the Parochial Church Council.



The Church scored well in many areas but, as the result of the visit, the PCC agreed with the children that some areas needed improvement. Bird boxes are to be provided in the churchyard and the children are helping to make these. The church is seeing if a water-butt can be provided to save tap water when watering church flowers and the garden outside, and is reviewing its paper re-use and re-cycling arrangements.

Send any thoughts, on this or any other related subject, to Revd Adrian Copping, on behalf of the Diocesan Ecology Group – adriancopping@hotmail.com

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 01978 780608

DATHLU CENHADAETH FYDEANG CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION



The Diocese is establishing a link with the Diocese of South-West Tanganyika in the province of Tanzania. Bishop John Simalenga was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese on Sunday 6th July before travelling to St Asaph, where he joined our other visitors before the Lambeth conference. On Sunday 13th July, Bishop John preached at the Induction Service of Revd Pam Powell.

The congregation of St John's, Rhosnesni, recently met their new mission partners - Paul, Grace and Isobel Robinson. You can meet them here...

At first glance Paul and Grace seem to be a case of 'opposites attract'!

Paul was born in Thailand and flew to boarding school in Malaysia; Grace was born in Stoke-on-Trent and walked to school. By their 18th birthdays, Paul had lived in more than twenty places and Grace in just one. Paul is a 6ft 4 basketball player and Grace a much shorter reluctant jogger.



However despite the differences, there are some similarities. Both come from Christian families and gave their lives to Jesus at a young age. Both have lived overseas; Paul in Thailand and Malaysia; Grace teaching English in Djibouti. Both love the verse, 'For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.' For Grace, who had bad dreams about dying when she was little, it was an incredible comfort to think that it was possible to say those words and mean them. For Paul, it is the inscription on his mum, Jenny Robinson's, gravestone, who died from cancer in her fifties.

The Robinsons have been preparing for overseas mission for a number of years and will be heading out to Cambodia with OMF International on July 6th.

After a year of full time language study, they both hope to get involved with the Cambodian Church; Paul will also be involved in architecture education and Grace will teach English. Their 2 year old daughter Isobel will also be involved making friends and playing in the sun!

Paul and Grace are partnering with St John's, Wrexham in taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Cambodia. They believe that mission, both local and overseas, is something the whole church needs to be involved in and are thankful for St John's care and support. They are excited that Christians in Wrexham will be strategically involved in the lives of the Cambodian people as they pray, support and even visit! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul and Grace at paulgracerobinson@gmail.com

The Revd Mike Harrison, Vicar of Ruabon, travelled to Thika, Kenya, in June, and has sent a number of 'letters home' (via e-mail) with news of Action for Children in Conflict, of which his daughter, Eleanor, is the director.

The project supports

- The Interim Care Centre, a small unit providing short term residential care for the most difficult children while links are re-established with family members and children are prepared to re-enter mainstream schooling.
- The Day Care Centre, providing a range of programmes including youth clubs, women's empowerment groups, social work support in the community and work with those displaced by the recent violence.
- Kenya Children's Legal Aid Work, providing legal aid to families and children.

Mike writes, "Action for Children in Conflict is a small charity. The work in Kenya costs £150,000 a year. Besides Ellie, we employ 15 staff locally, run 3 building bases and a legal aid scheme and support several hundred children. The scheme to support families displaced by the violence is a separate one-off scheme for which £130,000 has been raised including your contributions."

We look forward to hearing more about this work when Mike returns.



Eleanor Harrison, with Wilson, one of the boys from the project, and Godfrey, one of the leaders in Kiandutu slum.



A successful fund-raising Festival in aid of the church roof was held in **Corwen** Church over the first weekend in May. Twelve community organisations, including the Primary School and Youth Club, created wonderful floral exhibits on the theme of 'Celebrations'. The Lady Chapel became a fine exhibition space for a display of sculpture, ceramics, mosaics, fine needlework and embroidery and candle making. The festival opened with an inaugural Concert by 'Choral Variations' and a Choral Evensong was held on the Sunday evening. The newly opened café 'Martha's Place' did a fine trade in light refreshments throughout the weekend.

Valle Crucis Abbey, Llangollen, has been the venue for a service during the week of the International Eisteddfod since the event began in 1947.

Bilingual and ecumenical, "the Bishop attended, the chosen preacher brought their local primary school choir and a choir from overseas, performing at the Eisteddfod, also took part," writes Ann Lamb from St Collen's. "A special bus was laid on to bring people from the town centre. However in latter years, for a number of reasons, the congregation lessened."

This year the Revd Andrew Sully, Vicar of Llangollen and Llantysilio, after consultation with Cytun, decided to hold an ecumenical service at the Abbey on the Feast of Pentecost. The Sermon was preached by Branwen Niclas of

Christian Aid Cymru, as it was the beginning of Christian Aid Week. The music was led by a Gospel Choir.



Canon Mary Stallard used a large puppet of a monk to engage the children and they had the opportunity to dress up in habits. Christian Aid collectors were commissioned during the service. "We were blessed with beautiful weather and many people stayed on to eat a picnic lunch after the service."

On Friday 23rd May, the Revd Matthew Burns was licensed to the parish of **Towyn**. "I'm looking forward to working with the people of Towyn," Matthew said later, "They have made me very welcome in my first few weeks. There are challenges ahead - not least to build on the work done by the church in the summer season, by developing the 'Pilgrims' rest' which opens the church to the tourists and the semi-permanent residents of the holiday parks.



To misquote Bishop Stephen Cottrell, one of our aims in Towyn is to see Tourists become Pilgrims; and Pilgrims become Apostles." Matthew is pictured here (on the right) after his licensing, with the Revd Mark Taylor, Vicar of Sutton, near St Helens, with whom he trained at The College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.

The Time4Me Ladies group from St John's **Old Colwyn** ran in the "Race for Life" on June 1st in Rhyl, and raised over £700 for Breast Cancer research.



The team ran as the "Pink fairies". Pictured here are Ros Dentith, Enid Jones, Elaine Attack, Dawn Williams and Pam Skinner.

A farewell party for Chancellor David Hugh Rees and his wife, Janet, was held on Saturday 7th June. He retired as parish priest of **Meliden** and **Gwaenysgor** after twenty-four years.



The parish had put together a 'This is your life' volume with contributions from those who had known him throughout his ministry, beginning with teaching in Nigeria before training for ordination. Professor Gareth Lloyd Jones, Chancellor of Bangor Cathedral, contributed memories of their training at Westcott House, Cambridge; other contributors remembered his curacy in Salford, his work at Long Eaton Grammar School and at St Margaret's School, Aigburth, Liverpool. Friends and family travelled to be present, to the surprise and delight of David and Janet. Sooty, the Vicarage dog, was also brought in to join the celebration; he had been a regular attendee at the evening service and contributor to the church magazine!



Wrexham celebrated the confirmation of thirty-six candidates on Sunday 8th June, all of whom are pictured here outside St Giles, with Bishop John and the benefice clergy.

The Diocesan Choral Festival in **St Asaph** on Sunday 8th June was a great celebration of church music. During the service the Dean, Very Revd Chris Potter, presented Royal School of Church Music Awards to Mrs Anne Nicholas of St



Mary's, Mold (Silver/Bishop's award); and Bronze/Dean's award to Joshua Elsmore, Bethany Elsmore and Alexandra Hastings (St Paul's, Colwyn Bay), Jasmin Bamber (St Thomas, Rhyl) Keir McGillivray (All Saints' Gresford) and Peter Huyton (Holy Trinity, Gwersyllt)

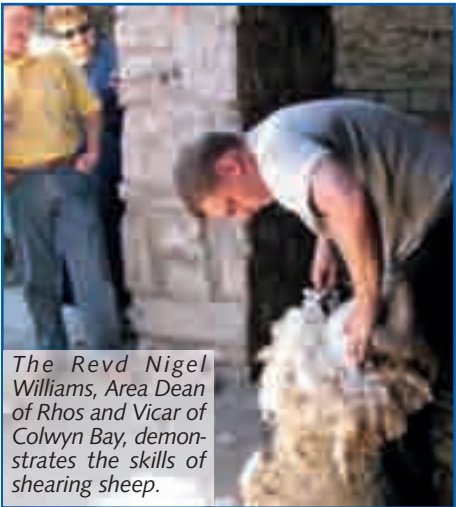
*Hundreds were there - and thousands also got the message - when the deaneries of **Rhos** and **Llanrwst** "Food for Thought" event descended on Llandudno's Bodafon Farm on June 8th. Neil Moran reports on a day of unrivalled sunshine and family celebration.*

"Nothing could have been more successful," was the unanimous verdict. For not only was the occasion enjoyed by some three hundred smiling faces on the day, but its prime focus - on our food and the environment - was shared by listeners on both Radio Wales and Radio Cymru. Worshippers from more than twenty five churches across the region made a pilgrimage-style journey, converging on the sanctuary farm with picnic baskets aplenty - and not a single umbrella in sight! But if the glorious weather was a bonus, so, too, were the numerous displays of produce and cookery demonstrations. alongside the varied assortment of stalls and stands pointing to the virtues of locally sourced food in our age of increasing environmental concern.

Food apart, fun and Christian family



fellowship were the order of the day with entertainment provided by an agile sheep shearing vicar, and by the Year Six pupils of Ysgol Llandrillo yn Rhos, whose ability to 'beat out that rhythm on a drum' caused feet to tap and faces to smile. And if that wasn't enough, the facilities and varied wildlife and domestic residents of the farm itself provided a respite for parents, friends and visitors alike, prior to the climax of the day.



The Revd Nigel Williams, Area Dean of Rhos and Vicar of Colwyn Bay, demonstrates the skills of shearing sheep.

Held within the two hundred-seater marquee and led by Archdeacon Bernard Thomas and the combined clergy, the Eucharist featured a drama entitled "The Mud People", written and produced by Elaine Atack from St John's, Old Colwyn. Pictured in white are the members of the



drama group - Sophie Williams, Laura Williams, Bethany Starr, Katie Owen, Eleri Jones and Rebecca Turley – along with five "volunteers", including Revd John Harvey, who agreed to have their faces (and beard!) made up, and represented "creatures great and small".

'Quindici' is a chamber choir drawing its singers from a wide area. Rehearsals, under the musical direction of Suzanne Edwards and Tim Mills, take place in St. Cynon's Church, **Tregynon**. Holding a recital, or choral services at Festival time, pays the dues.



"This year proved to be different," writes Clive Edwards, Reader in the parish, "Contact had been made some years ago, through distant family connections, with the Music Department of Wheaton College, Illinois. Wheaton is a Christian

liberal arts college whose motto is, 'For Christ and his Kingdom'. On this year's European tour, the Wheaton Chamber Musicians planned to visit the U.K., France and Russia. They had for some years wished to visit Mid-Wales and this year their wish was fulfilled. A little detour - London, Paris, Tregynon, Moscow!"

Pictured in the panelled Blayney Room at Gregynog Hall are the guests from Wheaton, Tony Payne (piano), Carolyn Hart (soprano), Terry Schwartz (trumpet) and Gerard Sundberg (baritone). Their recital programme included a great variety of works. 'Quindici' were joined by Carolyn Hart and Gerard Sundberg in a performance of Tony Payne's composition, 'Be Strong'.

Africa came to **Holywell** on Friday 13th June through the vibrant music and dance of the Watoto Children's Choir. St Peter's church was packed full for the concert. Tony White's photo captures the energy of these children, Ugandan orphans who live in a Watoto Children's



Village near Kampala. As well as hearing the music – and joining in – the audience were told of the charity's vision to see these children come into leadership in their country and heard the faith stories of a number of the choir members. Visit them at www.watoto.com

At a recent Sunday School morning at St Mary's, **Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd**,

the focus was the symbol of the fish. The children made ceramic fish in a previous session (with the help of ceramicist Judith Williams) and then painted them. The children particularly enjoyed 'drawing' half a fish shape in a tin (containing ground rice) which another child completed, exploring the idea of a 'special secret sign'. They used pipe cleaners to make the shape of the fish, and also used some 'french fries' potato snacks...but they ate those! On a really busy morning, the Sunday School can have up to fifteen children.



Fish & Chips?

Amongst those licensed as Readers at the Cathedral on Saturday 14th June were Adrian Murray and Dorothy Madogwen Evans, both from the parish of **Bala**. They are pictured here, after the service, with their Rector, the Revd Nia Wyn Morris. Also licensed were Simon Ferrer, Hawarden; David Fewster, Wrexham; Alan Griffiths, Shotton; and, transferred into the Diocese, Christopher Evans, Llanfechain; Kate Tiltman, Buckley; Michael Winwood, Llangollen. Those interested in Reader ministry

should contact their own minister to discuss this significant lay ministry.



A teddy bears' picnic was held in St. Marcella's Church, **Denbigh**, on June 15th. Recently baptised children, their teddies and their families were invited to the celebration. As it was Fathers' Day the Revd Jonathan Smith chose the story of the prodigal son as his theme. The role of the father was ably played by Big Ted while two smaller bears were the sons. Everyone got the message about the father's unbounded love for his children. After a short service with lots of singing accompanied by Anne Hughes, there was a treasure hunt for carefully concealed teddies in the churchyard, followed by tea served in special teddy bear boxes. When tea was over there was some more singing, a prayer and the party ended with a rousing chorus of the 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' (of course!)



Lianne Rogers lives in Deganwy and worships at St Michaels in Llandudno, in the parish of **Llangystennin**. She has just gained a BA Hons Degree 2.1 in Design from Bangor Parc Menai. This course has taken her 5 years part time to complete. As part of her course she undertook an altar cloth for St Michael's, which reflects the stained glass window above the altar. She also had to undertake a smaller item and decided to make an altar cloth for St Katherine's, which is a small church. The cloth at St Katherine's has been made out of recycled materials - carrier bags and an old bible which had fallen to bits. She was inspired by 'Making something beautiful out of something nasty'. Pictured is the Revd John Harvey with some members of the congregation at St Katherine's, around the altar.

Our visiting bishops, on their way to the **Lambeth Conference**, were treated to an afternoon at the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen on Saturday 12th July. They met Terry Waite, the festival's president – and Bishop Doug Stevens from Riverina, Australia, got to sit in his chair, upholstered in a very Episcopal purple! Later, the Bishops travelled to Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch where Evensong was led by the Dean and sung by the Cathedral Choir. On Monday 14th July the bishops met at St Giles', Wrexham, where they heard a presentation by TCC



Bishop Doug Stevens

before a coach tour took them to Bala and Holywell, returning to Wrexham for tea at St Joseph's High School. They met members of the Mothers' Union there, before representatives from across the Diocese came to hear the bishops talk about the life and work of their own dioceses. Bishop Salalah Okumu of Mumias, Kenya, is pictured here in conversation.



Bishop Sebastiao Gamaleira Soares of Recife, Brazil, spoke movingly of the problems in his Diocese, after a recent split. Bishop Devaraj Bangera of Karnataka South, India spoke of the challenge to serve the poorest of the poor. His diocesan priorities are to empower women and to give leadership to young people. Bishop John Simalenga, of South-West Tanganyika, Tanzania, talked about the church's response to the AIDS pandemic and said, of the link with St Asaph Diocese, "When we have formalised our link, you are most welcome to Tanzania."

Bishop Salalah's fifty-five priests face their challenges with faith and hope. Kenya have been hit hard by AIDS and whilst investment is made in the cities, rural areas are left in peril. Resources are short to support the local church - priests don't even have a bicycle. Bishop Salalah has attended the GAFCON conference in Jerusalem. "We can't deny the controversy in the church," he said, "The issue is how we present ourselves to God."

Bishop Doug explained the difficulty of identity in his diocese – one third bigger than the UK it has a population of 120,000 people, divided between twenty-five parishes staffed by sixteen clergy. Five Archdeacons have been commissioned to support the mission of the church. Riverina is an inland, rural diocese which shows signs of being deeply affected by climate change.

Bishop Dean Wolfe of Kansas, U.S.A., said of current debates, "People are predicting the disintegration of the Anglican communion, and that might be quick. But I don't see that as the most likely outcome, from where I view the Anglican communion." But, he said, "We are going to have to reconfigure the way we do church, if we are going to make Christ known to the next generation." Asked about women bishops he gave the most succinct response - "Try it, you'll like it."

A Royal Pardon?

This is the photograph that should have appeared on the front cover of the last edition of Teulu Asaph! The most observant of our readers will have noticed that in its place was half of the photo from the previous edition. Our designer apologises for this 'cut and paste' error and we're pleased to be able to print this image of The Prince of Wales with the Revd Lynette Norman, on the occasion of his visit to the parish of Llanrwst on Friday 25th April. His Royal Highness is pictured in the Gwydir Chapel inspecting the details of the lineage of Llywelyn Fawr, the Welsh prince to whom he is related through two of his grandparents.



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

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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.

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December/January edition: **20th October**