



FAREWELL

Bishop John and Mrs Joan Davies, on the occasion of Bishop John's retirement as Bishop of St Asaph.

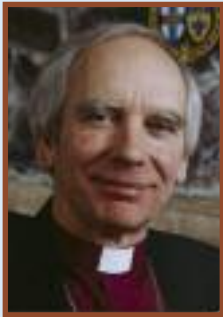
The diocese gathered to say farewell to Bishop John at a service in the Cathedral on Friday 21st November.

Inside; a reflection on Bishop John's ministry and some photographs of the last ten years . . . and before.



Inside...

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Dear Friends,

Sorting out my books in preparation for retirement has been a chastening experience. Downsizing by 75% means hard choices have to be made, and

much that I thought was essential has had to be jettisoned.

Books hold strong associations with different stages of my life and it is painful to let them go. Yet when I lay sentiment aside I can acknowledge their past usefulness but admit that they are now expendable. So what I do with my books is becoming a parable for other parts of my life.

This is not so much about my furniture or a garage full of things I rarely use, but much more to do with setting aside those aspects of my life which belonged to my role as bishop and rediscovering my vocation, for God is one who "calls", and continues to do so. And that vocation is constantly being renewed and refreshed as circumstances change. Being released from the pressures of the diary gives me an ideal opportunity to discover what the future holds.

In the meantime I want to express my deep appreciation to you all for the generosity of welcome I have received throughout the diocese and for the companionship and support you have shown.

With every blessing

Pob Bendith



Bishop John at his last meeting with the Bench of Bishops.

*From left to right,
Rt Revd David Yeoman,
Assistant Bishop of Llandaff;
Very Revd Wyn Evans,
Bishop-elect of St David's;
Bishop John;
Most Revd Barry Morgan,
Archbishop of Wales;
Rt Revd Dominic Walker,
Bishop of Monmouth;
Rt Revd John Davies, Bishop
of Swansea & Brecon.*



Special Services

Community Carols in St Mary's, Johnstown; in aid of the Mayor's charities.
- Sunday 7th December at 4 p.m.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in St Giles, Wrexham
- Sunday 21st December at 6 p.m.

Bilingual Crib Service at St David's, Rhosllanerchrugog
- Wednesday 24th December at 4 p.m.

Christmas Eve at the Cathedral Nine Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m.

Midnight Eucharist at 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Eucharist at St Melangell, Pennant Melangell at 10 a.m.

Christmas Day at the Cathedral
Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m.
Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m.
Evening Prayer at 3.30 p.m.

Plygain at St Melangell, Pennant Melangell on the Feast of the Epiphany
- Tuesday 6th January at 7 p.m.

Plygain in St Asaph Cathedral
- Friday 30th January

Training & Retreats

All-age worship seminar at St Ethelwold's Church Hall, Shotton with Canon John Leach and Mrs Chris Leach - Saturday 31st January from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Booking fee £5. Crèche.
Contact Revd Martin Snellgrove 01978 762127 or martinsnellgrove@hotmail.com

Musical Events

Christmas Concert in All Saints' Church, Gresford with The Rhos Orpheus Male Voice Choir and Gresford Handbell Ringers

- Friday 12th December at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets £7 (Concessions £5) 01978 852933 or at the door

Ensemble Cymru - lunchtime recital in St Giles, Wrexham

- Monday, 15th December at 12.30 p.m.
Contact Parish Office 01978 355808 admin@wrexhamparish.org.uk

Other Events

Christmas in Wrexham

Victorian Christmas Market
- Thursday 11th December 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Carols & Camels
- Thursday 18th December Starting at 5.45 p.m. in Queen's Square
Contact Parish Office 01978 355808 admin@wrexhamparish.org.uk

Advance Notice

Holy Land Pilgrimage through Jordan and Israel. *Contact the Revd Alastair & Mrs Rosina Shufflebotham 01824 704619*
- 18th April - 1st May

Calling all Artists: start creating your contributions for an exhibition in St Mary's, Mold.
- 4th - 9th May
Contact Denise Owens 01352 752473 or public1@boltblue.com

Holy Land Pilgrimage

- 18th - 29th October
£1399 per person; *contact Llanrhos Parish Office 01492 541615*

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales

Corff Cynrychiolwyr Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru

Anna Morrell, Archbishop's Media Adviser, introduces the Annual Report and Accounts 2007.

Look carefully at the back of your church this autumn and you should find a white, attractively designed, A4 sized document in a well placed spot accessible to all. Peep inside and you'll find a wealth of useful facts and figures about the work of the "support arm" of the Church.

It tells you, for example, how financially stable the Church in Wales is, where it invests its money and what it spends it on. It explains the services the Representative Body – or "RB"- provides to support your local church and clergy. And it also has a helpful reference section so you can find out how the RB is run and who's who on the various committees.

The report is introduced by the RB chairman, Lord David Rowe-Beddoe. He points out that a new arrangement to fund churches, introduced in 2007, has had a positive reception. The RB now gives a "block grant" to each diocese in Wales which they can choose how to spend themselves. In fact, the RB meets more than a third of the Church's total expenditure – a much higher contribution to dioceses than is the case in other provinces.

Several examples of the services the RB provides to support the ministry of the church are highlighted in the report. These include:

• Property advice and grants

From listed buildings to churchyards, the RB offers advice on maintaining all church property. It helps, for example, with

securing grants, meeting health and safety regulations and promoting open access.

• Child protection

Everyone wants our churches to be safe places for our children. The RB helps by providing parishes with a Child Protection Pack and by administering all Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for clergy and volunteers across the province.

• Re-ordering churches

The RB offers help and advice for parishes keen to change their layout as they adapt to serve their communities more effectively.

• Websites

After the successful set up of the new provincial website in 2006, last year saw the launch of the updated diocesan websites. That has been followed this year by a scheme to help parishes set up their own websites easily too.

• Pensions

A large part of the Church's assets goes into supporting clerics in their retirement through a final salary scheme. The number of pensioners is expected to rise significantly over the next five years.

• Membership and Finance

A new database was developed in 2007 which includes figures for attendance, giving and spending in each parish and diocese, as well as in the Church as a whole, for the past 17 years.

• Training clergy

Last year it was decided to support St Michael's College, Llandaff, where nearly all Church in Wales ordinands now train, in its plans to develop and expand over the next five years.

If you can't find a copy of the Annual Report at the back of your church, you can get it online at:

www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/repbody/

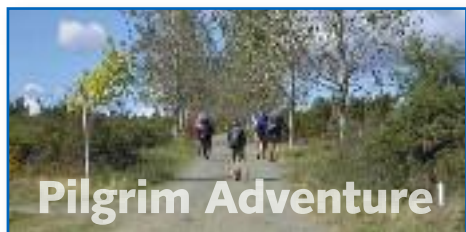
More copies can be ordered from the Representative Body at 39 Cathedral Rd, Cardiff CF11 9XF

HYSBYSFWRDD NOTICEBOARD



ST. ASAPH CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

St. Asaph Cathedral Christmas cards are now on sale. The superior quality, bilingual cards are sold in packs of 10 and can be purchased from the Cathedral Shop or the Cathedral Office for £4.70 per pack. **The cards are also available by mail order (£5.30 inc. p & p) from St. Asaph Cathedral, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 ORD. Tel: 01745 582245**
All proceeds in aid of St. Asaph Cathedral.



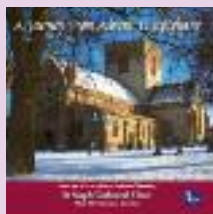
Pilgrim Adventure is a non-profit seeking Christian company, founded in 1987. Now in our third decade, our purpose remains the same; to provide a range of small-group holiday journeys in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, allowing all who take part to deepen and enrich their Christian life, as well as enjoy a refreshing break.

Our 2009 programme includes visits to the Mountains of Mourn, the Cistercian Way, Fair Isle and Shetland, the Isle of Man, West Cork and Pembrokeshire.

**Contact David Glead, Pilgrim Adventure, South Winds Culver Park, Tenby. SA70 7ED
01834 844212**

pilgrim-adventure@virgin.net

www.pilgrim-adventure.org.uk



St Asaph Cathedral Choir has launched their first CD, "A Journey From Advent To Epiphany." This new CD, directed by Alan McGuinness, features both traditional and modern Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Carols sung by the boys, girls and layclerks. It is the first commercial recording of the Cathedral Choir for 18 years - an ideal Christmas gift.

Alan McGuinness has also recorded "Sain Llanelwy" - "Sounds Of St Asaph." It is the first solo organ CD from St Asaph Cathedral and celebrates 10 years since the £250,000 restoration of the Cathedral Organ. It features a wide range of music including J.S. Bach, Saint-Saëns and various Welsh classics.

Both CDs are £10 each + £1 postage and packing and are available from the Cathedral Music Office (01745 584039) or via the Cathedral Webpage www.stasaphcathedral.org.uk

✦ SPIRITUALITY *Spirituality*

The Revd Dr Trish Owens, Curate in the parish of St Matthew's, Buckley, recalls her recent pilgrimage along El Camino de Santiago – the Way of St James.



In walking the Pilgrim Way, I was tracing the route established by many feet over more than a thousand years. The pilgrim's attire may have evolved over the centuries – I doubt if tenth century pilgrims carried a rucksack or wore micro-fibre, quick-drying T-shirts – but the traditional scallop shell, pilgrim staff and water-bottle are still common sights on the camino, and its traditions of hospitality and comradeship are unchanged. The way is clear, marked with yellow arrows, which we soon learned to look out for when we approached a fork in the path. If there was doubt, we looked for the footprints of yesterday's pilgrims, and felt reassured when they led us to another yellow dash.

There are pilgrim hostels, many provided by local churches, and monasteries, dotted all along the way, but to be eligible to stay in one, you need to provide evidence that you are a genuine pilgrim, not a mere tourist looking for free bed and breakfast. The accommodation is simple, and the food basic; but after walking 15 – 20 miles, you really don't care! In each place, you have your credential, or pilgrim record, stamped

Santiago

The Book of Acts records the martyrdom of James, the brother of John, by Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:2). According to legend, his friends returned his body to Spain, where he had established a church. The legend tells that the group was miraculously transported to the coast of North West Spain, which was then under Roman occupation. The friends requested permission to bury the apostle at the site which is now Santiago, but had to overcome several challenges, reminiscent of the Labours of Hercules, in order to be allowed to do so.

After several hundred years of obscurity, the tomb's whereabouts were revealed in the ninth century to the hermit Pelayo in a vision of a shower of stars. He immediately alerted the bishop, who authenticated the relic, and the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the third holy city after Jerusalem and Rome, was born. The pilgrimage route, almost 500 miles, from St Jean-Pied-de-Port in the French Pyrenees through Northern Spain, was the foundation for social and cultural exchange across Europe, and in recognition of this, was proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Itinerary in 1987.



and, if you have walked at least 100 kilometres (about 62 miles), production of your completed credencial on arrival in Santiago entitles you to a "Compostela" – a document in Latin granted by the "Chapter of this Holy Apostolic Metropolitan Cathedral of St. James" authenticating the spiritual nature of your journey.

My friend and I set out from one of the highest points of the Camino, at O Cebreiro, a little hamlet in the mountains about 100 miles from Santiago. The weather was fine: cold overnight, cool in the morning, and pleasantly warm later in the day. The way was variable; sometimes a quiet tarmac road, sometimes a cart-track linking farms, often just a footpath through the woods. This was the pattern for the next few days. We stopped in little wayside chapels or in sun-dappled woods for prayers, and listened to the drilling of a woodpecker, or the chatter of a red squirrel as we sat in silent contemplation. We met people who had been walking for several weeks, and people who joined the route further along than we did. Everyone greeted one another with "Buen Camino", regardless of what language we spoke. Sometimes we overtook fellow pilgrims; often they overtook us. It was interesting to hear their stories in the evenings at the next hostel. One man had started from his home in Nuremberg, another from Maastricht. We met people from Ireland, Canada, France, Germany, Korea, and Japan, but no-one else from Britain. We walked further each day than either of us had thought possible at the outset, averaging about 16 miles a day, stopping now and then to marvel at the view, or to visit an ancient church, or just to drink from a village well and rest our dusty feet.

We had one morning of mist and rain, the day we walked into Santiago, and so we couldn't see the view from Monte de Gozo, "the Mount of Joy", so-called because it gives the pilgrim a first glimpse of the spires of the cathedral they have travelled so far to visit. We queued with many fellow-pilgrims to hug the statue of the apostle; we visited the crypt to see the casket holding his relic; we took our places in the huge cathedral for the pilgrim Mass, and watched as the huge botafumeiro – the incense burner to fumigate the smelly pilgrims - swung impressively, and alarmingly, over our heads. But the beautiful building in the city turned out not to be the real destination. In a sense, it wouldn't have mattered if we'd never got there. The Compostela was almost incidental. The journey itself became the goal; the spiritual companionship of fellow-travellers; the re-ordering of priorities; the enjoyment of simple pleasures, and the opportunity to take delight in Creation and thank God.





Esgob John

The Ven John Thelwell, Archdeacon of Montgomery, recalls Bishop John's ministry - and expresses the best wishes of the diocese on the occasion of Bishop John's retirement.

Nearly 40 years ago I attended my first Hebrew lecture at Bangor University. I sat next to a total stranger who turned out to be a fellow ordinand from the St Asaph Diocese, John Stewart Davies. We were both embarking on the B.D. course but more significantly forging a friendship that has stood the test of time.

I never imagined then that our ministries in the Diocese would be so closely connected and that I would be an Archdeacon to his Bishop. The fact that John became our Bishop didn't surprise me. Why? John has always been totally committed to the mission and ministry of God's church, as Warden of Ordinands and Director of the Diocesan Ministerial course he nurtured the vocations of many priests, directing their training with great wisdom, vision and expertise. As well as fulfilling his commitments in these demanding diocesan roles he was a very dedicated parish priest and Archdeacon who energised and encouraged churches to move forward and grow. He was a very sympathetic and understanding pastor, with time to listen and counsel wisely.

These qualities, and many more, he has brought to his episcopate. He has proved to be a wonderful pastor, finding time in his fiendishly busy diary to meet with his clergy who seek his advice and wisdom. He has shown great compassion yet has never been afraid to make hard decisions. Bishop John has also encouraged the diocese to move forward in exciting and courageous ways, reorganising the Diocesan Administration Team; introducing the Bishops review for clergy; encouraging more and more lay participation in worship and pastoral work; re-ordering the Diocesan Boards so that they are now much more productive; and leading us to re-think our Fair Share formula so





that it is fairer and at the same time introducing the Investing in Mission programme.

Having said all that, the two qualities that I most admire are his deep sense of the spiritual and his preaching. Bishop John is a prayerful person who has sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit throughout his ministry. This has always given me confidence in his decision making. Yet there have been occasions when he has not been pleased with some of these decisions, but he has had the humility to admit it. Even with God's help we are not all perfect. Bishop John has proved to be a good teacher who communicates well in both the written and spoken word. His sermons are always relevant, not without humour, and displaying theological soundness. He is thought provoking and can be extremely challenging. The clergy who attended this year's Christ Mass service will never forget Bishop John's wonderfully inspiring sermon.

This is becoming too much like an eulogy. So, does Bishop John have any faults? Well, when he gets behind the steering wheel he is a boy racer, maybe the result of a misspent youth at Oulton Park motor racing circuit. His speed has been useful on the numerous occasions he has been late for appointments. He was known as the late Archdeacon of St Asaph! In his defence he is usually late because he has attempted to fit people into an already busy schedule. Is it a fault to be caring?

Our diocese has been blessed with a Bishop who has led from the front with compassion, vision, energy and prayer. He would be the first to say that his wife, Joan, has been a tremendous support and soul mate. Joan's ministry to John has been so important to him. So we thank God for John and Joan, their dedication and commitment to our diocese. We wish them a long, healthy and relaxing retirement, with time to enjoy their family to the full.





Rural Life Bywyd Gwledig

The Revd John Barden Davies, Rural Life Advisor, asks, "Is recession a city or rural problem?"

Economists tell us that we are entering a recession. The signs are there for us all to see – falling share prices, banks in difficulty, rising unemployment, falling house prices. The Governor of the Bank of England recently said that in early October the British banking system had come nearer to collapse than at any time since the beginning of World War 1. Today's complex society relies heavily on the banking system, but we do well to remember that money is simply a symbolic means of "exchange", developed from systems of bartering. Without natural resources - and workers to extract and process them - money means nothing.

As I see it, two of the greatest problems facing the world are the increase in world population and the reduced availability of natural resources. The world recession may well have come about because we are living beyond our means; not just financially but, more significantly, in the sense of having achieved a life style which the earth's natural resources can no longer sustain. Global warming and climate change accentuate both of these problems.

Recession, then, is not by any means a problem for the city bankers alone, but very much a problem for farmers and a challenge to what farming methods should be employed in the future. We face the real prospect of a world food shortage; not simply in the Third World, but also in countries that consider themselves wealthy. The dramatic rise in grain prices earlier this year was a clear indication of what is happening. Oil will not be available for ever and despite the short term decreases in oil prices, this is unlikely to continue in the long term as oil supplies begin to get scarce.

We hear much about our "carbon footprint" and how we can reduce it. This includes reviewing our shopping habits, and most of us now see the sense of eating food grown and produced locally and eating fruit and vegetables in season. It is not only shopping habits that look set to change in the future, but also farming methods. With the likelihood of world food shortage, we may well see a return to smaller farms producing food for their own locality.

Our diocese is predominantly rural, and most parishes have a farm in them. Farmers are not having an easy time and the recession is hitting them. There is worry about the future of subsidies. Many small tenant farmers are getting into serious financial difficulty; yet we shall need these farmers more if the way forward is to produce more food locally. Our farmers need massive support and encouragement if they are to continue to earn a living and provide the food we all need simply to live.

If any farmers reading this are facing difficulty or anyone knows of farmers who need help, please contact me on 01824 704866 and I can offer some support through the Farm Crisis Network.



Since the last edition several people have made contact with news of initiatives in their parishes.

In **Llansantffraid ym Mechain** the parish has been running a series of Eco-Bible workshops based on material provided by the Eco-Congregation Network. They are coming to the end of series of six studies and hope to produce a brief action plan.

Many churches in **Wrexham** borough are signing up for the 'Sacred Spaces' project – this is a wide ranging project and some of the churches are looking at how environment-friendly policies might be incorporated into activities – perhaps, for example, by making sure that parts of churchyards are used as habitats for a diverse range of wildlife.

How about re-cycling your **Christmas Tree** in an unusual way? Some churches strip off the outer branches (and dispose of thoughtfully!) and cut the main stem into two pieces to form a simple Lent or Easter Cross which can also be used as a reminder of the links between Christmas and Easter.



In the last edition of Teulu Asaph **Bishop John** encouraged us to 'stay connected' in various ways. One way to stay connected to what others are doing is to use the internet. Christian Ecology Link provide a free monthly newsletter. In the latest edition there is news of events around the United Kingdom and also some sample parish magazine articles. To subscribe, simply contact jallinson@christian-ecology.org.uk, and if you are a 'Facebook' user a new group has just been established - 'Christian Ecology Link'.

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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In Training Mewn Hyfforddiant

The diocese is currently sponsoring seven ordinands in training; three are training non-residentially, but four are in Cardiff at St Michael's College, Llandaff. They are (as pictured opposite) Adam Pawley, Deborah Swann, Neil Kelly and Alex Mayes. Adam, now in his second year of training, tells us a bit about academic life:

Most of us follow the Cardiff University diploma or degree in Theology. Last year I took introductory modules in the Bible, New Testament Greek, Church History and World Religions. This year I'm studying modules in Worship, Anglicanism, Epistles, Further Greek, Israelite History and Religion, and Church, Ministry and Mission. The study is proving to be very useful; for example, when preaching on placement.

Wednesday afternoons are spent back in St. Mike's, following the Core Ministerial Skills programme. Currently, we are training in Leadership. This week, we studied theories for good teamwork. For example, consider the P.C.C.; just how vital is *Trust* in order to work through *Conflict*, *Commit* to a decision and ultimately gain *Results* within the church?

Together with College, Chapel, Placement and Family life commitments, term time can all be very busy and intense – but, even so, it's still good fun

and there's a good community spirit. Furthermore, isn't this what parish ministry is supposed to be all about?

Adam moved to Cardiff with his wife, Rachel, who many will know from her work with children in Wrexham. Rachel is pictured here with their son, Joshua.



Neil and Deborah have come from the rural parish of Llangynog. They are the first married couple to go through ordination training together at St Michael's. Deborah writes,

My first impression of training for the ministry is that it is hard! Hard, in terms of having to adjust to living in community; worshipping, eating (especially at breakfast), studying and socialising with the same people and hard, in terms of juggling the workload of theological study, with placement

demands, College commitments and family life. It is taking time for me to adjust emotionally, spiritually and physically to this new lifestyle. One thing I can say without reservation is that I am learning a great deal and, despite the challenges, enjoying it; perhaps all ordinands have a masochistic streak! I



feel my attitudes to the Church, to other people and my understanding of God is undergoing change. If the rest of my training is going to be anything like my first six weeks at St Michael's I will be a different person by the end of it. I think this is a good thing.

Neil writes,

This September I entered my second year of training. Each component of training has its joys and challenges. For me being on placement and learning from experienced parish priests and the communities that they work with is a

particularly enjoyable aspect of training. This year, in contrast to my two previous rural placements, I'm working in the parish of Cathays in Cardiff with Caroline Downs, the parish priest.

My placement involves worshipping with the parish on a Sunday at both churches, including, at times, preaching and leading services. I'm also involved in the life of the parish during the week. For example, supporting the art exhibition of a member of the congregation at the Millennium Centre, or socialising with people at a coffee morning. One of the most intimate moments I've experienced on placement so far has been that of sharing home communion with those who are ill and unable to get to church.

I've felt very welcomed and supported by parishioners and have learnt so much from those who have sat in the pews and observed me and who have chatted with me and shared their own experiences. The many different aspects of placement all contribute to me gaining a greater understanding of the diverse nature of being a priest.

Finally, Alex offers us 'A Day in the Life of a St Mikes ordinand'.

This is my typical day...

5.30 a.m. I get up. It's not essential that one gets up so early; it's just that I am used to getting up early and putting some study/prayer time in. Ideal time as no-one is around, and the silence really helps.

7.30 I normally ring the bell for Morning Prayer; I have asked for the practice!

I think I am getting better at bell ringing now, but I still have a habit of overpulling the rope and it sounds like several spoons have hit the ground.

7.45 Morning Prayer. On a Monday we have a Eucharist as well at 7.30 a.m. There is a rota for pretty much everything at St Mikes, including helping at Morning Prayer. The worship is quite straight-forward in the morning, but some people do play music as we walk in to chapel, which quietens the community ready for prayer.

8.30 Breakfast. Toast and cereals – but with a cooked breakfast when the non-residential students are in. Thank you, non-residentials!

9.00 Mostly at the University. I am doing a BTh degree. There is a hard core of very brave people who are doing Greek and Hebrew as well, and you can always tell who they are as they zip off very early.

2.00 p.m. On a Wednesday, we have Core Skills. Because I am fairly new to the Anglican tradition, this time is essential for me. We learn the real basics like how to serve at a Eucharist, how to preach a sermon and even voice training! Those of us who need or want to learn Liturgical Welsh get the opportunity on a Tuesday. We have a great instructor called Falmai who is extremely passionate about Welsh language and culture and ensures that we really get the words in our head. This is usually followed by the Welsh Eucharist. We have a good number of Welsh speakers

here this year and it's a very good service, enabling us to worship and also put into practice the Liturgy we have learned that day.

5.00 Service. We have different types of worship throughout the week; so on a Monday we have a Guest speaker, on Tuesday we have Tutor Group worship, on Wednesday we have a Eucharist with the non-residential students and Thursday is All-age worship, which families are encouraged to join in.

6.00 Tea time. There is a great culinary team here, led by Louise - and the food is fantastic! The staff here at St Mikes really keep the place going; how many colleges would have people come in and clean your room? Here they do!

7.00 Free time! In the first week I was really nervous that I would even make friends, but now my evenings are pretty full. Sometimes we go into Cardiff if there is a special service or concert; but usually we hang out with each other in the common room or Cottage One. Once a week we have student notices, a round up of news from the week.

9.30 Compline. This is the last service of the day. It's a chance to rewind after the hectic day and really be still and know God. After compline, it's usually bedtime for me...unless there is a movie in the common room, or drinks elsewhere!



"We have 'bean' there..." say the members of St John's, **Rhosymedre**, pictured here before a sponsored walk with a difference. Shirley (in the fancy blue shorts) walked for the entire five miles with her Wellington boots full of baked beans. The walk raised some £600 for church funds; the menu for the evening meal was said to be "Beans on Toes". What a way to spend a lovely sunny August Bank holiday Monday!

Llanferres PCC was delighted to be one of the first recipients of an "Investing in Mission" grant in September. So often when the church looks to the wider community it is in the role of fundraiser, but this time the church wanted to organise an event that would give back to the village; an enjoyable harvest supper. Even those villagers who do not attend church regularly have supported special appeals for funds or have joined in working parties to maintain the churchyard in good condition. The PCC just wanted to say thank you to the community and to help strengthen that feeling of mutual belonging between church and wider

community, which is such an important seedbed for mission. A grant of £200 was supplemented by money from the PCC's own resources, so that all the volunteer cooks from the congregation who prepared meals for 60 people could be reimbursed as required. The evening was a



warm community occasion, especially appreciated by some of the older, less mobile residents. We are glad to have had an opportunity to increase further the goodwill of the village towards its parish church.

Apologies to anyone who has submitted items for this section and finds they are not included. Look for them in the next edition!

News in brief



The second Disability Awareness Conference sponsored by the Board of Church & Society was held in Wrexham on Saturday 18th October. The keynote speaker at 'All One in Christ' was Martin Cowden from the L'Arche community in Liverpool.

At the meeting of the Bishop's Council in Pool Quay on Tuesday 4th November, Bishop John signed the Companion Link Agreement between the two dioceses of

St Asaph and South West Tanganyika. Plans are now being made for a diocesan group to visit Tanzania next summer.



On a recent trip to South Wales, your editor was able to visit the premises of Hartley Wilprint in Cardiff, where Teulu Asaph is printed. As well as seeing the various stages of the printing process, he was able to inspect a copy of the last edition



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

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: February/March 2009 edition: **20th December**
April/May edition: **23rd February**