

# Teulu Asaph



Sharing Good News with the Family of the Diocese

December/January 2012



## Huge Community project rewarded in Old Colwyn

Since 2005 more than 5,000 hours of voluntary community work has been done at St John's Church Garden in Old Colwyn and now the volunteers have received a special award to recognise their work.

The Ruth Cavill Rose Bowl is presented annually to individuals or groups who have "excelled in and supported the aims of Colwyn in Bloom".

This year, the committee unanimously agreed that the St John's Church Garden Volunteers should receive the prize. The judges recognised that since the project started six years ago it has received a number of wildlife and green awards – as well as encouraging so much voluntary work.

During a ceremony at Rhos-on-Sea Cricket Club in October, the volunteers were presented with the Rose Bowl by the Mayor of Colwyn Bay.

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# DIRNADAETH INSIGHT



Gellir darllen stori'r Nadolig, fel yr holl Ysgrhythurau, ar sawl lefel wahanol. Mae 'na gyfoeth o ramant yn perthyn i'r stori sy'n gyfarwydd i bawb ohonom ers ein plentynod: y baban yn y

crud, yr angylion, y bugeiliaid, y sêr a'r brenhinoedd, gyda chymaint o sglein ar yr hanes o ganlyniad i ddramâu geni'r ysgol a chardiau Nadolig tlws, fel bod y cyfan wedi ei oreuro fel stori tylwyth teg, bron a bod.

Yna, mae 'na stori llawer mwy creulon am drais gwladwriaethol, teuluoedd yn cael eu gorfodi i symud ar gyfnodau anodd o'r flwyddyn er mwyn cael eu cyfrif mewn cyfrifiad trethu, goresgyniad milwrol, ffoaduriaid, llety dros dro, a theulu'n gorfod ffoi erchyllter cyflafan plant a ddigwyddodd i fodloni rhyfeg gwleidyddol.

Mae 'na dreialon personol unigolion yn y stori: mam yn ei harddegau, y mae disgwyl iddi gredu bod ei bechiogrwydd yn rhan o gynllun Duw; dyweddi sy'n gorfod penderfynu pa un ai a ddylai aros gyda'i gymar gan wynebu'r posibilrwydd o gael ei gywilyddio; a genedigaeth mewn amodau budr.

Mae 'na bwysau o ran y disgwyliadau crefyddol, y proffwydoliaethau, yr addewidion yn yr Ysgrhythur y byddai Duw, ryw dro, yn anfon Meseia, y bugeiliaid yn gweld pethau rhyfedd, a seryddwyr yn ymrwymo i genadaethau diplomyddol dros gyfnod o flynyddoedd.

Ymhle rydych chi yn y stori hon, a sut mae stori geni Iesu yn berthnasol i'ch bywyd chi? Y peth diddorol yw nad yw'r un o'r Efengylau yn adrodd y stori yn y ffordd rydym ni'n ei wneud yn ein hysgolion. Nid yw Marc yn cynnwys stori'r geni o gwbl, mae Ioan yn llawn syniadau haniaethol a myfyrdodau diwinyddol, ac mae gan Mathew a Luc ddwy stori wahanol iawn yr ydym yn eu plethu gyda'i gilydd i greu stori'r geni ddefnyddol.

Hoffwn herio pob aelod o'm hesgobaeth i ddarllen un o storïau'r geni – naill ai Mathew 1.18-2.23 neu Luc 1.5-2.52 neu Ioan 1.1-18 – yn eu cyfanrwydd bob wythnos yn ystod yr Adfent eleni, a threulio ychydig funudau yn dilyn hynny yn gweddi. Beth allai fod yn newydd neu'n synod ynghylch y stori? Ymhle rydych chi yn y stori? Ydych chi'n uniaethu â'r fam, neu'r tad, neu'r bugeiliaid neu'r sêr-ddewiniaid? Beth mae genedigaeth Iesu'n ei olygu i chi? Ac yn bwysicaf oll, o bosibl, sut mae'r byd wedi newid, sut mae ein bywyd beunyddiol wedi newid, yn sgil y digwyddiadau sy'n cael eu disgrifio?

Un o'r dulliau hynaf o astudio'r Beibl yn yr Eglwys yw ceisio dod o hyd i chi eich hunan yn y stori, fel bod stori genedigaeth Iesu yn yr achos hwn yn dod yn rhan o'n stori ninnau. Oni bai ein bod ni fel Cristnogion yn gallu dangos fod stori hen a hynod y dramâu'r geni di-rif yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i'r ffordd rydym yn byw ein bywyd, yna ni fyddwn byth yn gallu perswadio ein cymdogion bod y ffydd Gristnogol yn rhywbeth sy'n werth ei chael.

+gregoryfleming

The Christmas story, like all of the Scriptures, can be read on many different levels. There is the rich romance of a story which we've all known from childhood: the helpless babe, angels, shepherds, stars and kings, with so much varnish created by nativity plays in school and pretty Christmas cards that the whole thing has a jewelled, almost fairy-tale quality.

Then there is the far more brutal story of state violence, families forced to move at a difficult time of the year in order to be counted in a taxation census, military occupation, refugees, makeshift accommodation, and a family forced to flee the atrocity of a child massacre to accommodate political hubris.

There are the personal trials of individuals: of a teenage mother, who is expected to believe that her pregnancy is part of God's plan; of a fiancé who has to decide whether to stand by his girl in the potential shame, of a birth in squalid conditions.

There is the weight of religious expectation, of prophecy, of the promises of Scripture that one day God would send a messiah, of shepherds getting strange visions, and astrologers committing themselves to diplomatic missions over the period of years.

Where are you in this story, and what relevance does the story of the birth of Jesus have to your life? The interesting thing is that none of the gospels tell the story in the way we do in our schools. Mark has no nativity story at all, John is all abstract ideas and theological meditation, Matthew and Luke have two very different tales that we put together to make our ideal nativity.

I'd like to challenge every member of my diocese to read one of these nativity stories – either Matthew 1.18-2.23 or Luke 1.5-2.52 or John 1.1-18 – in their entirety every week this Advent, and to spend a

few minutes afterwards praying about it. What might there be which is new or surprising in the story? Where are YOU in the story? Do you identify with the mother, or the father, or the shepherds or the magi? What does the birth of Jesus mean for you? And, perhaps most importantly, how is the world changed, how is our daily life changed, by the events described?

One of the oldest methods of Bible Study in the Church is to find oneself in the story, so that in this case the story of the birth of Jesus becomes part of our story. Unless we as Christians can show that the quaint story of countless school nativities does make a difference to the way we live our lives, then we'll never persuade our neighbours that Christian faith is something worth having.

+gregoryfleming:

## New Parishes for Pauline



As well as her responsibilities in Llay, the Revd Pauline Walker is the new Vicar of Rossett and Isycoed after her induction service in November.

As her induction came on All Saints' Day, Bishop Gregory reminded the congregation of the contribution we all have to being God's ministers and lights in the world.

# Sharing Advent and Christmas



Advent and Christmas are perhaps the most commercialised times of the entire Church year. So how can we hold on to the seasons and share them with our families and friends among the twinkly lights, shopping

and parties? Revd Vittoria Hancock has some suggestions...

**Remember the liturgical colours and use them in your homes – purple is for Advent, gold and white for Christmas. Don't let Christmas invade the house too early – if you do want to put decorations up, why not use the purple colour of Advent and then swop to the gold and white of Christmas on Christmas Eve?**

Have an advent wreath in your own home, and light one candle each Sunday. Or get a count-down candle to Christmas with the names of Jesus on, and light it each day while you're having your meal together.

With each square of the advent calendar, read part of the Christmas story. Or instead



of an Advent Calendar, try putting up Jesse Tree decorations instead. Suggestions – and outlines – can be found on the internet.

**Why not try the Mexican idea of a**

**Posada – a nativity set - the Holy family, shepherds, and kings move from house to house during Advent. Each family takes a turn to host them, before they end up in Church (or somewhere central) on Christmas Eve.**

Try reading a book with the family – both the Advent Calendar by Steven Croft and The Christmas Mystery by Jostein Gaarder provide interesting alternatives to the well-known story.

**Be really radical - put Santa Claus back where he belongs, and celebrate his day on the 6 December instead!**

Take time as a family to enjoy some carols – you could go singing (wrap up warm), or



just stay at home with some hot chocolate and the words.

**When you put the Christmas tree up, use the Christmas Tree Blessing Prayer to remind you why we have one:**

*Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.*

*May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises.*

*May its colourful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world.*

*May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.*

**Author Unknown**

Buy an extra present to give to someone as a surprise... or find a local refuge or shelter and ask them what they need.

Invite someone who is alone to Christmas lunch – and make sure they have presents to open afterwards.

**Celebrate the days after Christmas as well – there are various traditions that can be revived, such as going for a ride on St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day), drinking spiced wine on St John's Day (27th December), eating porridge on Holy Innocents (28th December), and eating doughnuts on St Sylvester's Day (31st December).**

**Take time at the New Year to rededicate yourself and your family to God.**



## Spring/Summer Programme 2012

**Training Together** is a programme of training open to anyone connected with a church in the Diocese of St Asaph, whether they are lay or clergy, a member of the PCC or not. All courses are FREE.

Course	Date & Time	Venue
<b>Setting and Using The Parish Budget as a Ministry Tool</b>	Tuesday <b>28th February</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Using The Standard Form of Accounts</b>	Tuesday <b>20th March</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>So You're On The PCC</b> - exploring roles and responsibilities	Tuesday <b>15th May</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>So You're the PCC Secretary</b> - taking minutes & effective Parish administration	Tuesday <b>22nd May</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Fire Safety Law and Your Church</b> <i>With the North Wales Fire &amp; Rescue Service</i>	Tuesday <b>29th May</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>So You're a Churchwarden</b> - exploring roles & responsibilities	Tuesday <b>12th June</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Media Matters</b> - how to deal with the media	Tuesday <b>19th June</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.
<b>Welcoming Church</b> - you may be friendly but are you welcoming?	Tuesday <b>26th June</b> (6.45pm – 9pm)	St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrexham.

**To Book Your Place:** You can book your place direct, it is not necessary to go through the clergy. Please give your name, address, phone number, parish name and email address to **sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk** or phone on **01745 532582**.

Full details and directions will then be sent to you at least one week before the session takes place.



## Evangelist encourages Church growth at Conference

At the Diocesan Conference in October, keynote speaker Revd Robin Gamble encouraged us to consider who our churches are aimed at as he addressed the question: "what is Church for?"

In a lively address to the Diocese at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse, the Diocesan



Evangelist for Bradford emphasised the importance of reaching those outside the Church.

He suggested that by looking at the life of Jesus and the Acts of the Apostles, twinned with support and training, the majority of our Churches could see some growth.

### He said:

*"Are we a missionary church? Do we want to run a local branch or change the world?"*

*"Church is for those who are on the fringe – we have to be for the world, not for ourselves."*

Bishop Gregory's presidential address encouraged the Diocese to "be church". The Bishop also presented the Venerable Canon Bernard Thomas with a gift to mark his retirement.

After a lively worship session with an African feel led into the business of the day, the Conference spent time in breakout groups considering topics such as Community & Society, Finance and Preaching and Teaching.

The final session saw each of these breakout groups ask a question to an assembled panel of experts which included Robin, as well as clergy and lead officers from the Diocese.



Deanery Conferences will now have the chance to watch the key elements of the Diocesan Conference including the Bishop's address and Robin's keynote speech in a special DVD which will be sent to Area Deans. The DVD contains a challenge set by Robin which Deaneries will be encouraged to respond to.

In addition to this DVD we are still selling copies of Robin Gamble's latest book, Jesus the Evangelist. These are available from the Diocesan Office priced at just £3.00 (plus £1.00 p&p).

**If you would like to order a copy please call 01745 582245 or email [philtopham@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:philtopham@churchinwales.org.uk)**

## New Dean settles into role

The Very Revd Nigel Williams is settling in to his new role as Dean of St Asaph Cathedral.

At his installation service, the former Vicar of Colwyn Bay was presented with a number of special items to help his ministry including hymn and prayer books, a Bible to represent teaching, oil to represent healing and water to represent baptism.

**Bishop Gregory then preached and said in his sermon:**

*"Today we are creating a new dean, a new tenth man to take charge of the chapter of canons and of the cathedral, but of one thing I am certain and that is that I am not appointing the curator of a museum."*

# Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God



*"Instead, this cathedral is to be a place of encounter, of revelation, of the handing on of the truth of God's powerful call to conversion in Jesus Christ."*

## New Rector for Llanfyllin

Bishop Gregory welcomed Revd Hermione Long to her new parishes in **Llanfyllin** by highlighting the similarities between her new role and her previous employment as a nurse.

During the service at St Myllin's Church the Bishop reminded Hermione that Priests are "doctors of the soul."



### Hermione said:

*"Bishop Gregory married my previous vocation as a nurse with my Priestly ministry.*

*"He gave me a mandate to work with God to love, to heal and to*

*gather the harvest. That's what I will take away from it."*

## David Lewis takes over in Hawarden

The Revd David Lewis has taken over as

Team Rector in the Hawarden Rectorial Benefice.

At his induction, Bishop Gregory told the congregation at St Deiniol's Church that David is an exceptional Priest and they are to look after him!

Following his collation by the Bishop, Archdeacon the Ven Shirley Griffiths inducted David.



He was then greeted by the head-teachers and representatives of the pupils of the two church schools, Revd Rosemarie Clarke on behalf of the Cytun group of

churches, Cllr Clive Carver – County Councillor and Chair of Hawarden Community Council and Revd Peter Francis, Warden at Gladstone's Library.

Refreshments were served after the service in the Tithe Barn - a veritable feast provided by members of the congregations.

## Welshpool welcomes new Rector

Revd Steve Willson says he's starting to find his way around Welshpool after Bishop Gregory inducted him to the parishes in October.



During the service at St Mary's Church, the Bishop touched on aspects of the role in Welshpool and aspects of Steve's personality which he will bring to his new position as Rector.

**Steve said:**

*"I had really good day, everything seemed to go smoothly and there was a good turnout from around the parish.*

*"I'm starting to find my way around, I'm getting to know people and I'm getting stuck in!"*

## **Amanda and Mary welcomed into new roles**

Amanda Berry and Revd Mary Stallard have both begun their new ministries in Wrexham.



Amanda has been commissioned as Parish Nurse by Archdeacon Shirley and is one of only three parish nurses in Wales. In fact, she is the first to come from the Church in Wales.

Meanwhile the Revd Mary Stallard was welcomed into her role as School's Development Officer in the County of Wrexham at the St Giles' Centre for Religious Education.

Both were formally commissioned to their new ministries during a special service at St Giles' Church.

## **New Faith course launched for Diocese**

The Exploring Faith Course has run for many years in the Diocese of Bangor and now it's been launched in **St Asaph** – directed by the Revd Manon Ceridwen Parry.

Exploring Faith is designed to help you find out more about the Christian Faith and the teachings of the Church and to help you to consider ministry and mission.



It offers two streams, a foundation year and a three year study course.

The foundation year covers topics including "Faith, the Church and the Future", "Introduction to Theology" and "This is our Calling" and is designed to be used within parishes, benefices or deaneries to help churches discern their needs in mission and ministry.

After this foundation year, individuals or groups can continue with the course in order to be equipped for lay and ordained ministries.

The three year further study course is accredited by Glyndwr University in Wrexham. It is designed for those who want to learn more about theology, as well as those who are training for specific ministries.

**The course was launched in October and commenting on the first seminar day, Manon said:**

*"The Saturday Seminar day went well and there was a real enthusiasm for growing and learning amongst the participants.*

*"It was very exciting to see people coming together to learn more about the Bible and to support each other in growing into different kinds of ministries."*

**Whilst it's too late to join the three year study course this year, parishes or deaneries who are interested in the foundation year (which can be started at any time) should contact Manon on 01492 516728. Please also contact Manon for more information, or to register your interest in joining the study course next year.**

## Review Group heads to St Asaph

Parishioners across St Asaph are being invited to share their ideas for the future of the Church in Wales with a team of advisers who are conducting an independent root and branch review.

In agreement with the Bench of Bishops, the review group has been set up across the Province to:



“...examine the structure and organisation of the Church in Wales with a view to increasing the effectiveness of its ministry and witness to the people of Wales.”

On Monday 28 November 2011 the Diocese of St Asaph received a visit from the Provincial Review Group.

The review was commissioned by the Church earlier this year with the aim of addressing fundamental questions about its role and structures as it approaches its centenary in 2020. It is made up of three independent consultants who will report back next year.

Those in the Review Group are Lord (Richard) Harries of Pentregarth (Chair) the former Bishop of Oxford, Professor Charles Handy formerly of the London Business School and Professor Patricia Peattie OBE who has served as the Convenor of the Standing Committee of the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

All the questions asked by the Review Group can be found on the Renewal pages in the Church Life section of the Diocesan website.

## Changes in Copyright Law affecting Churches

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) is urging churches to be aware of new laws which govern the use of recorded sounds in church activities.

Since Saturday 1 January 2011, it has been a breach of copyright to play recorded sounds during church activities without a special licence called a PPL Church Licence. There has been a year's grace to allow Churches to get up to speed with the new laws, but from Sunday 1 January 2012 churches could leave themselves open to prosecution if they are in breach of copyright.

### How does it affect my Church?

Churches that currently play live music should already have something called a PRS for Music Church Licence. There will now be an additional requirement to get hold of a PPL Church Licence. Previously Churches and charities were exempt from requiring a licence from PPL, that exemption has now been removed.

The only exemption that still applies is if the Church only plays sound recordings during an act of divine worship.

This means that you will need to obtain a PPL Church Licence if you use sound recordings in activities such as youth and children's work, coffee mornings, fetes etc.

### What does it cost?

The PPL Church Licence is payable annually and ranges in price depending on the size of your church. The vast majority of Churches will pay less than £100 a year.



For more information and to find out how to purchase a PPL Church Licence, please visit the CCLI website: [www.ccli.co.uk/ppl](http://www.ccli.co.uk/ppl)

# Deanery Focus

## Canolbwyntio ar Ddeoniaeth

### Deanery of Pool



In the south of the Diocese, Pool Deanery stretches along the Welsh English border with one of our churches in England. There are 16 places of worship, 5 stipendiary clergy, 2 NSMs and some great active retired clergy. The small market town of Welshpool is the largest community in the Deanery which is mainly agricultural although the area attracts a number of London commuters and second homers.

#### Sacred and Welcoming Spaces

A number of the churches in the Deanery remain open during the day and visitors are encouraged in various ways. At **St Michael & All Angels in Forden**, visitors are invited to make themselves a cup of tea with everything laid on. At **St Aelhaiarn in Guilsfield**, the large enclosed church porch is used as a home-grown vegetable market one day a

week. **St John the Evangelist in Pool Quay** (pictured) is conveniently situated on the A483 and has its own car park. The excellent re-ordering of the church and their band of willing volunteers enables them to cater for groups of between 10 and 40 people and with access to the canal from the churchyard this is a great place for walkers to visit.



Last year the Deanery provided supervision for the training of 2 Ordinands and they contributed to our Sacred Spaces by setting up Prayer Labyrinths. A visitor to **St Nicholas in Montgomery** emailed her appreciation: "I enjoyed the space and opportunity for prayer offered in St. Nicholas. Please pass my thanks to the person who put together the prayer labyrinth."

#### Let the children come

On a sunny bank holiday Monday in May a Deanery Fun Day was held on a school playing field in **Welshpool**. The lay team who organised it was made up of people from a number of churches in the Deanery and was a model of working together that we felt worked well. The team are now planning a Messy Church type event to be based at one of the schools in the north of the Deanery in the spring term.



As a spin off to the Deanery Fun Day, lay members of **Guilsfield church** were inspired to hold a week long holiday club in August.

"Rocky's Plaice" was based on Scripture Union material about Peter. 30 children and 30 adults attended, with 13-19 coming along on most days. The week ended with a Sunday All Age Worship followed by lunch on the vicarage lawn. "Rocky's Plaice" is now being held on the 3rd Sunday of every month attracting on average a dozen children with accompanying adults.

The church school at **Forden** brings some of their pupils into church on a Sunday once a term to take part in leading All Age Worship. In October we celebrated One World Week. We are encouraged to have a head teacher and teaching staff who will attend and help out at these services.

At **Berriew** family events include a Vicar's mad pancake party and a Good Friday children's event with the story of the Passion being told through drama, craft and role play, held in the grounds of **Glansevern Hall** thanks to owners Neville and Jenny Thomas. The newly born



at Berriew have a new font for their baptism; it's in wrought iron and beaten stainless steel by local blacksmith and church member William O'Brien.

### **Nurturing and honouring the mature parishioners**

It is true to say that those over 70 years of age make up the majority of our worshippers and our active membership. They have, in the most part, served their local church for many years - even decades.

In **Montgomery** a fortnightly luncheon club for retired folk is now held in the Town Hall under the auspices of a community group but it was started by the church folk in the church and it is still church folk (at retirement age themselves) who do the cooking and serving.

At **Pool Quay** a quarterly "Good Companions" group provides a 3 course meal and entertainment for the elderly in the parish. At **Berriew**, Brenda Leach and Barbara Evans were presented with figures depicting them in choir robes on retiring from the choir after many years service.



### **Every Member Ministry**

A few years ago the Archdeacon led a course for Worship Leaders across the Deanery and in some parishes there has been a continuing and growing lay leadership not least in **Buttington Church**

where those trained by the Archdeacon now train others in an apprenticeship pattern.

One comment for a new Worship Leader was: "At first when I look at the suggested theme I feel blank, but then somehow ideas come along. I'm learning so much."

### **Church in Montgomery celebrates Bible Anniversary**

**St Nicholas' Church in Montgomery** celebrated the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible with a stall at the town's annual Street Fayre.



On display was a Welsh Bible dating back to the 18th century which was used to highlight the story of Mary Jones - the teenager who walked 25 miles to Bala from Gwynedd to buy a copy of the Bible in Welsh. She had saved up her money for six years.

This story was also told during Messy Church in the street hosted by St Nicholas'. Rector of Montgomery Revd Toni Bennett said:

"We want to give our thanks to Investing in Mission for their generous grant towards this outreach event."

# Bywiogi a Chyfoethogi ein Haddoliad

## Historic Churches to be repaired thanks to Grants

Two Churches in Conwy have been awarded almost £10,000 between them from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help pay for initial planning and survey work which should unlock a further £91,900 for essential repairs to both buildings.

**St Elian's Church in Llanelian-yn-Rhos and St Cynfran in Llysfaen** both need the work

to stop damp which is coming through the walls and causing damage to the inside of the buildings.

Providing the planning and survey work is successful, St Elian's will receive £39,900 while St Cynfran's will receive £52,000.

The funds will help pay for re-pointing the exterior walls with lime-render which is vital to maintain the exterior of the buildings and should stop damp from continuing to damage the internal walls.

**Rector of Llanelian the Reverend Phil Atack said:**

*"We're absolutely delighted. We've been waiting for months and you can never be sure that Heritage Lottery Fund applications will be successful, so to get an email confirming our award was amazing.*

*"We're very grateful to those at HLF who have made this decision and also to Peter Jones-Hughes and Judi Greenwood in the Conservation Department of Conwy*

*Borough Council for their invaluable advice and support.*

**Commenting on their award, the Reverend Manon Ceridwen Parry, Rector of Llysfaen said:**

*"We at St Cynfran's are delighted with the news of the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will go a long way in securing the future for this historic building serving the communities of Llysfaen, the Peulwys and Penmaenrhos.*

**Jennifer Stewart, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales added:**

*"Wales' many churches are an important part of our shared heritage and are strongly associated with the local identity of the towns and*

*villages they serve.*

*"We are thrilled that these grants will help secure the future of both buildings so that they can be enjoyed by present and future generations not just as a place of worship, but as a focus for community activity."*

## Church raises cash for re-ordering project

**St Ffraid's Church in Llansanffraid** raised more than £450 towards their re-ordering project during a special flower arranging morning with Ann Kirkham – daughter of the late Percy Thrower who used to present the BBC's Gardener's World programme.

# Enlivening and Enriching our Worship



More than 75 people supported the event organised by Mrs Viv Cook, Grant Co-ordinator for the building project. St Ffraid's are now well over three quarters of the way to reaching their financial target to re-order the church building.

## First REACH events a big success

Dozens of people from across the Diocese have attended events in **Flintshire** and **Wrexham** set up as part of the REACH initiative – a series of events designed to bridge the gap between God, spirituality and everyday life.

The first event in **Holywell** was *"Tapestry of Faith"* where there was needlework and handicrafts on display and a talk from author **Thelma Hancock**.



Then came *"Ecology and Faith"* in **Wrexham** where the Revd Stuart Elliott demonstrated his spinning wheel and

there was a talk from Greenbelt speaker **Bruce Stanley**.

**Reverend Vittoria Hancock** is helping to develop the REACH initiative and said:

*"Both events went very well. It was a wonderful chance to mix and meet with people and exchange ideas on subjects we had in common and discuss how this relates to our faith."*



Don't forget, the next REACH event will be our comedy night at 7pm on 4 February 2012 featuring TV stars **Barbara Nice** and **Jo Enright**. The event will take place at

**Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse** and has a minimum age of 15. Tickets cost £10 to include supper and are available from [sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk) There is more information in the Church Life section of the Diocesan website.

## Church packed as Organist Entertains

Members and friends packed **Christ Church in Prestatyn** to be entertained by **Nigel Ogden**, Organist and Star of the BBC's *"The Organist Entertains"*.



The occasion was the official launch of the

newly installed Wyvern Digital Organ. The Vicar, Revd D Quentin Bellamy welcomed Nigel Ogden and thanked him for accepting the parish's invitation to give the opening concert.

### Quentin said:

*"At long last we have an instrument which is thoroughly worthy of our Parish Church, and tonight we have enjoyed its full range and potential."*

### Reading Room aims to Promote Understanding

A new section of Gladstone's Library in **Hawarden** has been opened to encourage Christians and Muslims to learn more about each other's faith.

The Islamic reading room is called *"The House of Wisdom"* and contains around 900 books about Islam. It's hoped that Christians will take time to learn about the Muslim faith, while Muslims can learn about Christianity during study at the library.

The House of Wisdom was opened in October by Professor Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University. Before opening the doors to the new room he spoke about overcoming ignorance by gaining knowledge.



Tariq Ramadan and Peter Francis outside the Reading Room

Revd Peter Francis is Warden at Gladstone's Library.

### He said:

*"This is a project to nurture understanding and knowledge and it's good to learn about other beliefs."*

*"We hope this will be a valuable resource both to scholars in the field and for those wishing to find out more about Islam and Muslim communities in the modern world."*

### Community gathers for Pool Quay Harvest

The former Bishop of Shrewsbury was guest preacher at **St John's, Pool Quay** for this year's Harvest Festival.



The Rt Revd John Dudley Davies is an honorary assistant bishop in our Diocese and spoke about "Gifts and Talents".

Members of the congregation were able to display their many talents at the service with woodwork, cross-stitching, painting and photography all on display.

### St Bridget's Harvest Festival helps Nepal project

The Harvest Festival at **St Bridget's Church in Dyserth** raised £500 for a charity in Nepal to help support a school there.

Around 40 parishioners enjoyed a harvest

lunch on Sunday 2 October before watching three short DVDs which highlighted the work of the Brick Children School in Nepal.

The lunch and some donations helped to raise the money, while the food products donated for harvest were handed to the Rhyl Nightshelter.



### Memorial Garden planted in Llansanffraid

After a memorial service at **St Ffraid's Church in Llansanffraid** in October, parishioners planted bulbs to become part of a new memorial garden.

This initiative will be eco friendly and will be developed by Mrs Jennie Jukes (pictured) who will oversee the garden and help it to come together.

*. . . continued from front page.*

**Before the award was handed out, Mrs Ingrid Lewis, Chair of the Colwyn in Bloom Committee said:**

*"I would like to read you the final comments of the assessor for the most recent Green Pennant Award presented to St John's Church Garden and in doing so to tell you that this was printed in big, bold font.*

*"These words are: 'Excellent, so close to being exceptional'. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication."*

The St John's Church Garden is mainly run as a wildlife garden and is recognised as an important green space in Old Colwyn which regularly attracts visitors.

Nine volunteers take charge of a section of the garden each which allows them to keep on top of the work.





## Link "Cemented" by African Visitors

We were delighted to welcome Canon John Kwetu and Sister Aneth to the Diocese in October as they visited us from our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika.

Their trip started in the south of the Diocese visiting Newtown and Llansanffraid yn Mechain where they visited a dairy farm and some of our Church schools. After sampling the traditional fish and chips in Llangollen, Canon John and Sister Aneth spent the rest of their time in the north of the Diocese, taking in the Diocesan Conference and the Diocesan Offering Service along the way.



They were also able to visit Deeside College, witnessing the link between the Diocese and the College via the chaplaincy team.

Canon John reflected on the welcome offered by the Diocese as their trip came to an end.

### He said:

*"We want to thank you for your welcome and for your prayers.*

*"Wherever we have visited we have learnt a lot and we have enjoyed your love and hospitality."*



## The link with South West Tanganyika is headed up by Honorary Assistant Bishop The Rt Revd Stephen Lowe.

### He said:

*"The visit was an outstanding success cementing the relationship with South West Tanganyika.*

*"The stories which Canon John & Sister Aneth told us brought home the reality – both positive and negative – of life in Tanzania. Few will forget the moving Diocesan Offering Service in the Cathedral and the wonderful results."*

## Thousands of pounds Presented at Diocesan Offering Service

More than £11,000 has been raised for this year's Diocesan Offering, for our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika.

The offering service took place in October and was an uplifting mix of African and Celtic worship with songs and prayers in Welsh, English and Swahili. The Cathedral played host to a worship band, prayer stations and even a motorbike which the offerings were presented beside.

The money raised will go towards



providing vital transport for clergy and catechists in our linked Diocese.

At the moment they have to travel on foot to see their parishioners, but the purchase of motorbikes and bicycles will change that, meaning they have better access to see more of their Diocese.

Canon John Kwetu and Sister Aneth from South West Tanganyika were able to join us for the Offering Service as part of their visit to St Asaph.

**Around £8000 was presented on the night, but the final totals will be at least £11,000.**

## **Church project helps homeless in Colwyn Bay**

**As we head into the winter months, Revd Ginny Burton reports on the work of the Dewi Sant Project in Colwyn Bay which is helping homeless people...**

It all started a couple of years ago, when a parishioner suggested making soup and sandwiches for local homeless people in Colwyn Bay. These were served on two evenings a week from a van, with different groups and individuals taking care of other evenings. It soon became clear that these vulnerable people needed access to a greater level of care and support.



So, the vision for the "Dewi Sant Project" was born.

Local churches, community groups and agencies, both statutory and voluntary, came together and ARC Communities was born. Co-ordinators were appointed and, with the help of a team of volunteers, ARC began providing homeless people with food



and hot drinks, including a cooked main meal at lunchtime on three days of the week, together with access to organisations which could offer help and support.

Grant support was applied for and, with the necessary faculty in place, an architect was appointed and work began on Eglwys Dewi Sant last September. The new facilities include a kitchen, accessible toilets and wet-room shower, a meeting room, office and storage areas. ARC Communities now operates every weekday and some of those who were helped in the early days are now able to support people who come in for food, shelter and advice.

Since the dedication of the facilities in the re-furbished church by Bishop Gregory on Palm Sunday, the parish's Welsh language service has returned to Eglwys Dewi Sant from its temporary home in St Paul's and is held at 4pm every Sunday. The organ has been moved and completely re-built and Dewi Sant is now home to monthly musical recitals at 3pm on the third Sunday of each month. The facilities are available and well-used by parish and community groups in the evenings too.

### Parish raises cash for Macmillan

The Parish of **Llanddulas and Llysfaen** have raised more than £200 for Macmillan Cancer Support after taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

It's the charity's biggest fundraising event of the year and was held on Friday 30 September 2011.



Last year's event raised more than £8m for Macmillan and the charity hopes to exceed that when the totals are totted up this year.

### St Dogfan's Sparkles in the Autumn Sun

Christian Entertainer Jason Fell gave parishioners at **St Dogfan's in Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant** a wonderful time at their family service in September and then again during a party in October.

On both occasions he was accompanied by Roary the Lion and his puppet friends.



During his second visit, the theme of the morning was "Jesus the Light of the World" and included a Sparkle Party with songs, candle decorating and mask making.

**Frances Hunt from St Dogfan's Parish Church** said:

*"The church really came alive and was full of light and life.*

*"A big 'thank you' to the organisers, to all who helped, to Jason and his friends, and especially to the 30 children and their parents who came along and thoroughly enjoyed themselves!"*

### Interactive Advent Calendar returns

With 24 things to make, do or eat while you explore the Christmas story, the Interactive Advent Calendar at **St Asaph Cathedral** is back.



On Friday 9 December from 5.30pm, anyone of any age is welcome to come and join in the fun.

**Revd Vittoria Hancock** is helping to organise it and said:

*"Boaz the Camel (pictured) will be here, and you can help clear up after Sam the donkey, decorate angels, eat chocolates, see if you can find the wise men on their journey and have some fun.*

*"There will be a quiet zone in the Translator's Chapel as usual, with an opportunity to light a candle."*

The evening will draw to a close around 7.30pm and tea and coffee will be available to anyone who comes along to join in the festive cheer.

### Bonfire Party at All Saints'

The All Saints' Youth Club in Wrexham celebrated Bonfire Night with a fancy dress party and fireworks.

The event was funded by Police and Communities Together (PACT) as part of operation B.A.N.G. (be a nice guy).



Police Community Support Officer **Robina Ahmed** asked **Revd Matthew Burns** if it would be possible to run an event, highlighting the issues of

anti-social behaviour around Halloween and Bonfire Night.

**Revd Matthew** said:

*"The funding from PACT and the presence of the Fire Service enabled us to hold an enjoyable and educational event.*

*"The event was a success – as a Church and a youth group we aim to work with the community. Through the presence of PCSO Robina and the fire service, we will have helped young people to stay safe in the future, and the vulnerable in our community will go undisturbed."*

# Cyfweliad Interview

Canon John Kwetu and Sister Aneth were given a tour of the Diocesan Office in St Asaph during their trip from South West Tanganyika. After sharing lunch with the staff, Communications Officer Phil Topham spent some time interviewing them about the trip...

**First of all, how much have you enjoyed your trip to visit us here?**

**Canon John** – *We have really enjoyed it because we have been taken here and there in the Diocese and it's been very enjoyable to see so many different things.*

**And what has been your favourite thing?**

**Canon John** – *First of all it has been the life, the love, the fellowship and the hospitality of the people in the Diocese of St Asaph. Secondly, the way they led the Conference – this was very impressive for us to see a successful four hour Conference. In South West Tanganyika this would take two days or more so that is something that impressed us very much.*

**Sister Aneth, can I ask you about the Schools here, what did you make of education here?**

**Sister Aneth** – *The schools here are very different from ours. First of all we can see one teacher sat with one student, teaching them how to read or how to write. In our schools you will see maybe fifty to seventy students and just one teacher.*

**And I believe you were able to try out an interactive white board?**

**Sister Aneth** – *Yes, this technology makes some sense in my head! It wrote something to read here (on the board), but it wouldn't write here (on paper).*



**Canon John what can we pray about for your people?**

**Canon John** – *The most important ones are to pray for those who are in need both in our country and in our Diocese. Poverty is something which is growing. The second thing is to pray for the sick because malaria is a problem for us together with HIV so we need to pray for that. We also have to pray for the Church, especially our Diocese because right now most of our clergy do not have transport facilities. Training new pastors is also a problem for us – getting the funds to take these new Ordinands to college. We also have to pray for the Nuns.*

**What specifically can we pray for to help the Nuns?**

**Sister Aneth** – *We would ask you to pray for our schools and we want to open a new primary school next year. Please pray for that and the activities that will be there. Pray too for agriculture and the manufacture of the Communion Wafers. Please also pray for us as we conduct Sunday School and have fellowship there. You can also pray for some more people to enter our Community.*

To read the full interview please visit the news pages of the Diocesan website



## Church Schools gather for National Society Celebration

Children from Church Schools across England and Wales gathered at Westminster Abbey in October to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the National Society.



The Abbey was a sea of banners carried by school children – one representing each Diocese in England and Wales.

The Diocese of St Asaph was represented by year 6 children from St Pauls School, Isycoed and their teachers who were the winners of the banner competition held in our own Diocesan celebrations for the National Society in June.

The National Society was set up in October 1811 with the aim of building a church school in every parish. By 1861 there were 12,000 schools 'in union' with the National Society.

Today nearly 5000 church schools and academies educate one million students in England and Wales. The National Society still works to support church schools in providing a distinctive education based on the principles of the Anglican Communion.

School's Officer Roz Williams was among the group from St Asaph who went to the Abbey.

**She said:**

*"The service was full of celebration of our schools, and we enjoyed dancing and drama, readings and reflections and the address by the Archbishop of Canterbury.*

*"After the service the children representing Welsh Dioceses gathered together by the Great West Door and with their 'ddraig goch' flag unfurled began to sing Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau.*

*"On hearing them sing, the Archbishop of Canterbury came across and joined in as did the Archbishop of Wales. It was the perfect end to a wonderful occasion."*

## Children's Pirate Adventure at Cathedral



Children from more than a dozen schools visited **St Asaph Cathedral** as part of the North Wales International Music Festival.

Festival organisers invited schools to take part in a pirate themed concert called

"Sea Dogs" where children sang sea shanties they had learnt in class.

They were all dressed as pirates and also took part in a treasure hunt by looking for ancient artefacts on display around the Cathedral. The children were then able to enjoy workshops with a local poet, an artist and a harpist.

One of the schools taking part in the "Sea Dogs" event was Ysgol Carrog.

**Headteacher Bronwen Lebbon said:**

*"It's been fantastic for the children; they've enjoyed the treasure hunt and the music."*

*"This has helped a lot with our music and Welsh studies."*

### **African Visitors to Deeside College**

As part of their trip to St Asaph from South West Tanganyika, Canon John and Sister Aneth visited Deeside College to see the work done there by the Chaplaincy Team.

They were given a tour of the college before meeting with students who are

studying for the Welsh Baccaalaureate. The visit was set up to highlight the unique link between the Church and the College as the Chaplaincy Team provides counselling and a guidance service for young people.

**Deeside College Student Services Manager, Karen Senior said:**

*"The chaplaincy at Deeside College has provided another additional service contributing to the wellbeing of our students."*

*"We were delighted to welcome Sister Aneth and Canon John to the college to meet with some of those students who have benefitted from the service and also to meet with some of our students studying on the Welsh Baccaalaureate."*

**Vicar of Bistre, Revd Martin Batchelor heads up the Chaplaincy Team at Deeside College.**

**He said:**

*"This was an opportunity for Canon John and Sister Aneth to see an educational institution in a very different context and enabled them to see what's possible."*



*"They met a group of students who were interested in learning about South West Tanganyika and the visit helped to strengthen relationships between young people in different continents – they were able to share their experiences and discover common values."*

### Sunday School engages with Joseph story

With the countdown to Christmas well and truly on, Revd Matthew Burns from the Wrexham Rectorial Benefice looks back on the topics covered during the Autumn term at All Saints' Sunday School.

After starting back in August, we've been exploring the brilliant story of Joseph and his Technicolor dream coat.

Together we have delved into numerous topics ranging from how God has a plan for all our lives, the importance of listening to God even when it is hard and how He speaks to us in many different and exciting ways when we really seek him. We have also explored how to resist people trying to make you do things that are wrong, Gods prophecy and the amazing way he keeps his promises.

It all came together in our final week culminating in God's forgiveness, being born again and God taking you as you are and turning you into something more than you thought you could be. The children wrote letters to God about things they had done that they were sorry for, told no one what was enclosed and burnt them to signify the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, they really enjoyed that!

We had lots of other fun activities to help us relay the story from designing our own storage solutions for seeds, writing our own secret messages in Hebrew, making weather mobiles and – the children's favourite – tie dying shirts to make our own dream coats.



In the final week during the family service, the children did an amazing dance in the Church for the congregation, with homemade props and costumes. We even had our own Joseph and narrator and a guest appearance from Elvis! We now look forward to revealing the wonder of the Christmas Story.

### The new Diocesan Directory

is now available to order from the Diocesan Office priced at £5.00

(including postage and packaging).

To arrange your copy please call 0 1 7 4 5 5 8 2 2 4 5 .

The office will issue quarterly updates to the Directory to correct errors and update information that is out of date. The first correction will be sent out via StAR in January.



# Amgylch yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

**Light Up a Life Service –**  
2 December at 6 p.m.  
in St Asaph Cathedral

**Choral Evensong with Carols  
by Candlelight –**  
4 December at 6.30 p.m.  
in St Asaph Cathedral

**Interactive Advent Calendar –**  
Friday 9 December at St Asaph  
Cathedral from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.  
*There will be 24 things to make, do or  
eat while exploring the Christmas story.*

**Candlelit Christmas Craft Fair –**  
Saturday 10 December  
at Waen Congregational Chapel  
(Next to Farmers Arms) 1 p.m. - 4.30  
p.m. in aid of St Kentigern Hospice and  
support for older people.

**St Asaph Choral Society Concert –**  
10 December at 7.30 p.m. In St Asaph  
Cathedral

**Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir  
Concert – 11 December at 7.30 p.m.**  
in St Asaph Cathedral

**REACH Comedy Night –**  
Saturday 4 February  
7pm at Bangor-on-Dee Racecourse.  
£10 to include supper –  
call 01745 582245 for tickets.

**Plygain – 27 January at 7 p.m.**  
in St Asaph Cathedral.

The chocolate company that brought us the Real Easter Egg have come up with Christmas Tree decorations that tell the Biblical Christmas story.

The Meaningful Christmas Tree

Decorations cost £3.95 for six chocolates. Although the deadline for bulk orders has passed, individuals can order decorations for their Christmas Trees until Monday 5 December. There is no guarantee orders received after that date will arrive in time for Christmas.

Find out how to order on the Evangelism page of the Diocesan website or by calling 0845 122 2882.



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

**Editor:** Phil Topham, Diocesan Communication Officer  
Diocesan Office, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 ORD 01745 582245  
[comms.stasaph@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:comms.stasaph@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 eriau, yn Saesneg. Diolch yn fawr.*

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