



A Royal Welcome



The Revd Lynette Norman reports on a recent visitor

It was a shock to receive a telephone call telling me that H.R.H. The Prince of Wales had requested to visit St Grwst's Church, Llanrwst when in the Conwy Valley in April. After weeks of keeping quiet, and several visits from the powers-that-be, I was able to inform the Bishop, the P.C.C. and invite the guests. Such a lot to do in a fortnight, such a lot of protocol to follow, and with parish work continuing as well!

April 25th finally came - and it was a day enjoyed by all. After my husband David and I were presented to The Prince, I then had the

pleasant task of presenting our church officers, and the four founder members of our Mothers Union. I then gave the Prince a quick guide to the history of the church, before he listened to the choir from local church school, Ysgol Llanddodog.

We left the church through the Gwydir Chapel where the sarcophagus of Llywelyn Fawr lies. The Prince was extremely interested in this building and despite running late and being encouraged to leave he was adamant to have a good look around. On leaving the chapel The Prince was presented with locally made gifts from the P.C.C. to mark his visit. Everyone who met The Prince was delighted and I found him genuinely interested in all that he saw.

The secrecy, the planning and the protocol had all been worth it!

Inside...

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Dear Friends,

"Where Wales meets the world" is the tag line used by Llangollen because of the annual International Eisteddfod hosted in the town every July. As a Diocese

we have a unique opportunity this summer to engage with this kind of hospitality when we host representatives from the world church for the Lambeth Conference. The Bishops will be arriving throughout the UK prior to the conference and we are participating in the joyful work throughout these islands of welcoming Bishops from every part of the Anglican Communion. And the July Eisteddfod will be an important focus of this visit, as will a range of our parishes and Diocesan projects.

Whenever guests are expected, there are, inevitably, preparations to be made. In the Diocese, people have generously volunteered to host visiting bishops and their spouses in their homes, despite some uncertainty over the number of guests expected. In addition, a team drawn from across the Diocese, including members of the Mothers' Union and led by Canon Bill Rowell, has been hard at work planning a timetable of events and activities to make

our guests feel welcome and to give them a flavour of church life and culture in this part of Wales. There will be opportunities for everyone to meet and share with our guests on the evening of Monday 14th July at St Joseph's School, Wrexham.

The experience of being a host is one of mutual learning. We can recall visits from friends or family which have gone especially well or badly! But we learn from those experiences so that we ourselves become better hosts and more sympathetic guests. There is a rich connection between ministry and welcoming people. The whole story of Jesus' life can be understood as a visit from God to humankind, and the Bible is full of stories about how welcoming strangers leads to new life and growth.

Receiving visitors calls us to be considerate of the needs and gifts of those who come into our lives for a while. We can learn about their background, their ideas and perceptions and discover how we appear to them. If we make the most of these opportunities, barriers break down and relationships grow and flourish.

Let's make our hospitality as generous and as memorable as we can before our visitors leave for the Lambeth Conference itself. We regard the Conference as an especially important one for the Anglican Church precisely because it is expected to be controversial. Much has been made of the divisions between different Anglican churches and cultures, but being hosts in preparation for this event gives us a space to demonstrate the welcome that is properly at the heart of the Gospel, so that we can indeed say that the Church in Wales welcomes the world.

+ John St Asaph



Sponsored Walk – help your church by raising sponsorship, and help Hope House children's hospices with your £5 entry fee. A choice of two walks, 6 or 10 miles, around Llangollen.

- **Saturday 7th June** *No advance booking required: register between 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ysgol Dinas Bran. Further details via Sue Kelly 01978 854469*

suekellyctnw@hotmail.co.uk

R.S.C.M. Festival at the Cathedral directed by Paul Ledington-Wright (the BBC's *Songs of Praise* Conductor), accompanied by Alan McGuinness Organist and Master of the Choristers, St Asaph Cathedral.

- **Sunday 8th June** Rehearsal (pre-booking required) from 2 p.m. Public service at 5 p.m.

Food for Thought – the Deaneries of Llanrwst and Rhos meet at Bodafon Farm Park, Llandudno, to celebrate and look at rural and farming issues here at home, and issues relating to the production of food in the Third World. Exhibitions, demonstrations, worship and fellowship. Entertainment throughout the afternoon by local schools.

- **Sunday 8th June** from 12 noon

Chester St Cecilia Singers in concert, with sacred organ music, at St. Ethelwold's Church, Shotton

- **Wednesday 11th June** at 8 p.m. Tickets £5. Contact 01244 819646 or 01244 816717 or

dj11cg@talktalk.net

Readers' Service at the Cathedral

- **Saturday 14th June** at 4 p.m.

Anglicans and the Future of the Communion Hellins Lecture with the Revd Canon Dr Gregory Cameron, Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. In the Dean's Library, St Asaph.

- **Tuesday 17th June** at 7 p.m.

Diocesan Spirituality Team **Quiet days**

Pennant Melangell

- **Thursday 19th June** at 10 a.m.

Cost £15: bring your own lunch.

Noddfa, Penmaenmawr

led by Revd John Harvey

- **Monday 23rd June** at 10 a.m.

Cost £15: lunch included

To book for either day, contact Revd

Dr Peter Wykes

01745 730263

wykesclattwm@ukonline.co.uk

or Revd Bethan Scotford

01490 412278

bscotford@toucansurf.com

Celebrating Past & Present Join us in Church and the Old School at Bwlch-y-Cibau for craft displays, photographs, parish registers, vintage tools, floral displays. Refreshments all day.

- **Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June** a10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

with 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday at 6.30 p.m.

Small Gardens of Berriew - more than 8 gardens to visit, cream teas, plant sales, central parking; in aid of St Beuno's, Berriew.

- **Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June** 2 to 6 p.m. Contact 01686 640524
mrandmrsnat@btinternet.com

Diocesan Conference at the Cathedral
- **Sunday 22nd June** at 2.30 p.m.

North East Wales Racial Justice and Interfaith Forum at NEWI, Wrexham
- **Wednesday 24th June** at 7 p.m.

Ordination Service at the Cathedral
- **Saturday 28th June** at 10 a.m.

Eco-justice in the context of climate change - St Asaph Theological Society, with Professor Celia Deane-Drummond, Director of the Centre for Religion and the Biosciences, University of Chester. At St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden.
- **Monday 30th June** at 7.15 p.m.

King's School, Chester, in Concert at All Saints' Church, Gresford; Fauré's Requiem and a selection of popular choral works - **Saturday 5th July** at 7.30 p.m. Admission and refreshments £7/ £5
Contact 01978 852933
dpi11cg@aol.com

Pre-Lambeth Come and meet four visiting Bishops at St Joseph's High School, Wrexham (parking on Erddig Road).
- **Monday 14th July** at 7 p.m.

Organ Recital Series 2008

- St Asaph Cathedral. All recitals at 7.30 p.m. Admission £4

John Hosking, Assistant Organist

- **Wednesday 4th June**

William Smallman, Organist, St. Mary's Shrewsbury

- **Wednesday 2nd July**

"Midas Touch Duo" - Roger Sayer, Director of Music, Rochester Cathedral, and Charles Andrews, Royal College of Music

- **Wednesday 6th August**

David Houlder, Sub Organist, Leeds Parish Church

- **Wednesday 3rd September**

Advance Notice

Open Church Day For 2008 Churches Tourism Network Wales *visit-waleschurches* is again managing this project with support from the Church in Wales. If you would like to be involved, please register with CTNW *visit-waleschurches*

029 2071 0014

john@ctnw.co.uk

- **Saturday 6th September**

Racial Justice Sunday A banquet for all peoples (Isaiah 25.6-9)

- **Sunday 14th September**

Resource material available from CTBI publications

www.ctbi.org.uk

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

- **Saturday 18th October** *Book the date! Details to follow.*



Hot air is something which many PCC members report too much of. But could wind – of any temperature - be of help to churches?

In response to the appeal on this page in the last edition Alyson Goldstein, Reader in the parish of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, contacted us with a purely personal idea. What, wondered Alyson, would be possible if we really want to show concern for the environment and fitted wind turbines to all churches?

Now research reveals that Alyson is not alone. Maggie Durran writes in the Church Times about church buildings. Someone recently asked the same question – prompting a cartoon where church spires are replaced by wind turbines!

But both suggestions were serious. Alyson asks if wind turbines could save the earth's resources, save money – maybe even generate money, provide weekday lighting to welcome visitors, make a statement about Christian concern, and encourage others?

Wind turbines, especially big ones, are controversial. At present installation costs can be high – but a brief wander along the Llangollen canal revealed narrow boats using mini-turbines producing 170 watts of electricity at 12 to 24 volts, and available second hand for about £175.



And the church spire cartoon need never become reality. Free standing units are more efficient than roof top ones and don't damage buildings. Maggie Durran reckons we should keep asking the questions and presenting ideas.

Send any thoughts, on this or any other related subject, to Revd Adrian Copping, on behalf of the Diocesan Ecology Group – adriancopping@hotmail.com
The Rectory, 8, Ludlow Road, Bangor Isycoed, Wrexham, LL13 0JG

☎ 01978 780608

Youth and Children's Work

Gwaith Ieuencid a Phlant

Tim Feak, our under 25s Officer, introduces the latest recruit to youth work in the Diocese.

As reported in the last edition of Teulu Asaph, we are currently supporting several people who are training at University and College in 'Christian Youth Work' and in 'Evangelism', as part of the 'Diocesan Youth Work Strategy'. The help that we can provide can cover anything from helping a student find a placement, helping them find the right course and much more. In the last edition we introduced Andrew and Danny. Now meet Ben, who is just starting a placement in the Diocese.

Name : Ben Lines

Age: 19

Where do you come from? : Birmingham

Likes: Sports.

Dislikes: Olives.

How would you describe yourself?

Up for a laugh and enthusiastic.

Where are you on placement? In the Deanery of Holywell for 3 years as part of my Centre for Youth Ministry Degree.

What is the best bit about your placement? The new challenge.

What advice would you give to anyone who was thinking about training as a youth worker with St Asaph Diocese? Go for it!



There will be more news of the Diocesan Youth Work Strategy at the Diocesan Conference on Sunday 22 June. If you are thinking of embarking on the exciting process of training in Youth Work, Children's Work or Evangelism, or feel that your parish or deanery could benefit from a Youth Work placement please do not hesitate in contacting Tim Feak on 01745 582245 or 07918 729461

Email: timfeak@churchinwales.org.uk

Keeping Faith in Education: Opportunities for service!

As a Diocese we are very proud of the church presence that we have in the great majority of schools in our parishes. We have 54 church schools with whom we have particularly strong relationships and who give us unique and special opportunities for sharing, teaching and learning. Our work in schools is supported by many clergy and lay people who take an active interest in their local schools. Much of this is supported by our Diocesan education team which is comprised of four, part-time, office based staff and a large number of volunteers. We will shortly be advertising in professional journals for a new Director of Lifelong learning.

There are also a number of opportunities for more people to become involved with this important work. We'd love to hear from you if you feel that you could contribute in any of the following ways:

- Bishop's Visitors are appointed by the Bishop to become the link people between our church schools and the Diocese. They visit a school (usually not in their own parish) at least once a term and are an important channel of communication and support. Bishop's Visitors may be lay or ordained; they are people who have a passion for learning. We have a particular need at present for Welsh speaking Bishop's Visitors.
- Church Schools are often very popular and consequently over-subscribed. One of the pastorally challenging tasks for our Board of Education is to staff Admissions Appeal Panels which scrutinize contested decisions made by our schools from time to time. We are looking for new people who could be a part of these panels. The time commitment for this is small (about one morning or afternoon per appeal, and full briefing and training is provided). You do not need to have been a teacher to qualify for this work; again, the most important requirement is that you care about education.
- One of the most important aspects of our work in speaking up for schools is through liaison with Local Government. St Asaph Diocese is spread across six LEAs – Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Powys, Wrexham and Flint. Keeping conversations going with each authority requires constant vigilance and a presence on many committees. If you have a talent for local politics and an interest in speaking up for our schools this may be another area of Christian discipleship where your diocese could benefit from your help.

If you are interested in any of these aspects of Christian learning, please contact Revd Canon Mary Stallard at the Bishop's Office (01745 583503) or via the Diocesan Office in St Asaph (01745 582245)

Bishop John is pictured at the Education Service on April 29th, looking at one of the Bibles presented for use in schools. Schools Officer Ros Williams looks on.



HYSBYSFWRDD NOTICEBOARD

Helping schools by remembering Archbishop Alwyn

Many people have warm and affectionate memories of Archbishop Alwyn - Bishop Alwyn, as he was in the Diocese of St Asaph. Many have reason to be thankful for his personal interest in them and in their families.

It is in memory of Archbishop Alwyn and especially to continue his work in encouraging and developing primary schools, their pupils and staff, that a new Charitable Trust has been established under the patronage of Mrs. Meriel Jones, his widow, and with the full support and encouragement of his successor as Bishop of St Asaph, Bishop John Davies.

Announced at the annual Diocesan Education Service in St Asaph Cathedral on the 29th April 2008, the purpose of the Trust is to build up a fund to which schools can apply for funding to increase their resources for developing their religious education and collective worship, objectives very close to the late Archbishop's heart throughout his period in office, whether as a Parish Priest, a Cathedral Dean, a Bishop or Archbishop.

The Trustees hope that as many people and organisations as possible throughout the community who remember Archbishop Alwyn with affection and thanks will donate to the Trust so that the work in which he took such a



strong interest, children's education, can be strengthened by grants from the Trust. It is planned to invite applications from Schools and to make the first grants in the autumn of this year.

Donations should be made payable to the Archbishop Rice Jones Charitable Trust and sent to the Diocesan Education Office, High Street, St Asaph LL17 ORD, or paid directly into the Trust's Account at the HSBC Bank, Branch Sort Code 40-19-12, Account Number 21401564.

Contact for further information:

John Harris 01352 720000

johngharris@btopenworld.com



ORDEINIADAU'08 ORDINATIONS



The Revd **Richard Carter** (33) works with the Revd Huw Butler in the parishes of Llangynhafal, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, Llanychan and Llanarmon yn Ial.

Richard's academic training was as a geophysicist. On leaving university he was keen to work outdoors – and eventually found himself in a desert, working for a seismic surveying company in the Sultanate of Oman. At the same time, he was aware of exploring spirituality and was greatly affected by the sight of the Muslim men downing tools to pray in the middle of the desert. He was moved to prayer himself – but experienced such a spiritual crisis that it made him “dysfunctional” in his work. Returning to the U.K., he “secretly studied

theology” until the price of oil changed and he was made redundant. Taking the opportunity to explore faith further, he offered to work for the Society of the Sacred Mission in Durham, where he enjoyed the chapel and community life for over a year. Whilst there he was confirmed as an Anglican and began to explore vocation, before going to Cairo Cathedral with U.S.P.G., and then working for Mencap.

Having only experienced the church in an urban context before his training at Westcott House, Cambridge, Richard came to the Diocese on placement in the Deanery of Penllyn and Edeyrnion. He felt so much at home that he was pleased to return with his wife Rachel and children Francesca (3) and Emily (1), and says that his new job is “excellent”. He is finding parish life very busy, despite the relatively small population of the parishes, and particularly enjoys his work with local schools. Weddings, though, are “surprisingly scary”!

The Revd **Stuart Elliott** (33) is curate in the parish of Holywell, working with the Revd John Lomas in what has been a very interesting and exciting year. “I’ve come along late in the process of building St Peter’s,” he said, “but it has been a privilege to be here at the end to see it come together. You do get a rather rose-tinted view of it when you come in at the end, when all the money’s come in.”

Before training for ministry at St Michael's College, Llandaff, Stuart worked at the Chaplaincy at Bangor University for a total of six years and undertook research into Chaplaincy provision across the U.K. He came to the Diocese with a 'green' reputation. His lasting legacy to St Michael's was a drinks machine with 'fair trade' coffee! Whilst working in Bangor he and his wife, Helen, renovated a cottage "in the middle of nowhere", turning it into an eco-house. Stuart and Helen now have two children, Rebecca (9) and Chloe (7).

During his diaconal year, Stuart has enjoyed that servant role and believes that we should "cherish" our deacons. Now, looking ahead, Stuart recognises that being ordained priest "will bring its own set of challenges. I would like to think people can look beyond the obvious, into what it means to be ordained priest, seeing a process of 'becoming' which is mirrored in their own lives.

Readers may remember being introduced to the Revd Dr Trish Owens (53) last year. She continues to teach at Liverpool University as well as serving as curate in the parish of Buckley. So, how's it going? "What I've particularly enjoyed," said Trish, "is getting to know the people of St Matthew's better, coming alongside them. What I do find disappointing – although there's nothing much I can do about it – is that I'm only able to be there on Sundays, Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings." This means that she is still to take her first 'solo' funeral but has conducted a lot of baptisms. "But I'm used to babies, so that's been nice."



Last year Trish told me that she was concerned about preaching – but now she quite enjoys it and so does the congregation, she believes. But she's glad that she only preaches once a month as it takes her about that long to prepare! Having a full-time job, as well as work in the church, is stretching, but stimulating; she has noticed that people at work now ask her to pray for them and someone has asked her to baptise their baby.

She now looks forward to the "spiritual gear change" of being ordained priest. She can't quite anticipate what it will be like – but expects that, like a child growing, she will notice the change in retrospect.





Trawsnewid Cymunedau a Chynulleidfaoedd

Transforming Communities and Congregations

Old church buildings that adapt to 21st Century living are breathing new life and energy into the community around them. That's the message the Archbishop of Wales gave at a conference on Monday April 14 which explored how churches can make the best of their assets and reinvent themselves to serve today's needs. From developing conference facilities to catering for schools groups, to offering counselling sessions - Dr Barry Morgan urged congregations to think creatively about their church buildings, develop a vision of their wider use, and play a central role in regenerating towns and villages.

One hundred people attended the conference, Transforming Communities and Congregations, held at Venue Cymru, Llandudno and heard about flagship projects in the Church in Wales' northern dioceses of Bangor and St Asaph which are changing people's perspective of the role of the church. A similar conference was also held at the Gate Centre, Cardiff in July 2007.

Dr Morgan, who gave the keynote address at the Conference, says these projects are all good examples of churches renewing themselves and working in partnership with their communities. He says, "This is about changing perspectives as well as reality. Too often we are perceived to be rather peripheral to the mainstream Monday to Friday life of organisations, communities and individuals. This is another way to help us move from the edge of people's

radar screens so that they can see the relevance of Christianity to their lives.

"A church that is closed Monday to Friday is the worst possible advertisement for Christianity. We cannot go on locking up our treasures in closed buildings any more. We have to open the doors of the churches physically, as well as metaphorically. Developing community buildings will involve us in new relationships with our communities and opens doors for us to rediscover and develop a proper and appropriate place alongside others in our parishes across the whole of Wales."

Made-over or "re-ordered" churches in St Asaph featured at the conference include Christ Church, **Bala**; St Peter, **Holywell**; St Mary, **Cilcain**; St Aelhaiarn's, **Guilfield**; St John's, **Llangollen** and St John the Evangelist, **Pool Quay**.

The new St Peter's church in **Holywell** was consecrated by Bishop John on Palm Sunday.





Croeso! Welcome! to two new incumbents in the Diocese. Inducted to the parishes of **Llanfair Caereinion, Llanllugan and Manafon** on Passion Sunday, March 9th, the Revd Linden Fletcher has travelled cross country with her black and white collie from a group of eight parishes in rural Suffolk, swapping the arable farms of East Anglia for the sheep farms of Powys.



Photograph, courtesy of the Shropshire Star, shows Linden outside St Michael and All Angels, Manafon.

Linden brings with her a personal, long-standing commitment to, and understanding of, the countryside; she particularly appreciates the continuity of rural communities. A farmer's daughter, ordained in 1989 in Norwich Diocese after a career as a music teacher, when she

came to take study leave in 2002 Linden focussed on 'the land and what it means to us', working with the Arthur Rank Centre. She also has experience as a tutor training curates and offering work consultancy to clergy. Linden is settling into the parishes for which she now carries responsibility, despite being in temporary accommodation until she can move into a newly-purchased Vicarage. She is very grateful for the practical help she has received from parishioners since she arrived. Now she looks forward to supporting and co-ordinating the good work that is already happening in this group, situated in an area that she describes as 'idyllic'. Linden has already discovered that a good number of holidaymakers, particularly those from the West Midlands, share her appreciation of the Montgomeryshire countryside; one of her concerns now is to develop ministry to visitors.

The Revd Colin Mansley was inducted to the parishes of **Trefnant, Tremeirchion and Cefn** on April 30th. Originally from Chester – and still a keen supporter of Chester City Football Club – Colin comes to the Diocese from Birmingham, where he has served as Vicar of Bartley Green for twelve years. That was a parish with two curates, two Readers and only one service on a Sunday – with a population of 16,000. By contrast, he now looks forward to four services on a Sunday in three parishes with a combined population of 2,500. It will be very different from what he has been used to – as he



discovered when his first journey to a service in Cefn was disrupted by a herd of cows crossing the road. Colin looks forward to getting to know the rural communities and exploring ministry in this new context. After lots of committees and community action in Birmingham, he hopes for more time to get to know people better and to pray. "When I visited the parish churches here, they were all open and I was impressed with that. The people seemed friendly and the advert said they wanted a person of prayer, so I want to try to be that person." Colin is a Companion of the Society of St Francis and completed a Masters degree in Contemporary Theology whilst in Birmingham, with a particular emphasis on the theology of Creation. Colin comes to the Diocese with his wife Carole (pictured with him after his induction) and sons André (8) and Deon (7).

The Rectorial Benefice of **Wrexham** will miss its Rector, the Revd Canon Geoffrey Marshall, when he and his wife, Hazel, move to Brecon in August. But, as Bishop John said in his recent 'Ad

Clerum', "It is good to share your gifts, which is why we rejoice in the appointment of Geoffrey Marshall as Dean of Brecon Cathedral. We trust



that the energy he has given to leading one of the largest parish clergy teams in Britain will now be used in his new role."



Mothering Sunday was a special occasion in **Nercwys** this year as the congregation were joined by children from the church school (pictured). The Vicar, the Revd John Bernard Jones also reports that the Easter bonnet competition this year included a number of boys – wearing cowboy hats!



During Holy Week and Easter in the joined parishes of **Llansantffraid** and **Llanfechain** a full week of services was enjoyed, with Worship Leaders leading the evening services. A donkey called Bruno led the Palm Sunday procession from the Community Hall to church and on Wednesday of Holy Week they enjoyed a pilgrimage to Pennant Melangell (pictured).

Bishop John opened the new headquarters of the Pennaf Housing Group at **St Asaph** Business Park on 19th March. Commenting on the timing of this event, the Bishop said, "This is the time of year when we tell the stories of hope and resurrection. The Pennaf Housing Group is offering hope to those trying to get on the housing ladder and dignity to people who are homeless."



Bishop John is pictured here with Human Resources Officer for the Pennaf Housing Group, Sam Williams.

On Low Sunday, the Corwen Group of Churches met for a Eucharist in Cynwyd Church. This service was planned and led by Worship Leaders and members of the **Cynwyd** Bible Study House Group that had met weekly during Lent to follow the USPG Lent Course 2008 'Love one another'. The service followed a Eucharistic Setting from the Church of South India, and members of the group led the worship in prayers, reflections and stories about the work of the Church



in Bangladesh. Pictured are members and Worship Leaders, with the Revd Bethan Scotford.

"Who says you can't laugh in Church?" asks Yvonne Pryce, P.C.C. Secretary at **Rhosymedre**. In a recent Family Service the Revd Aidan Coleman dressed up as Noel Tarrant (amalgam of Noel Edmunds and Chris Tarrant) – or, as one wit put it, 'No Talent'! Yvonne says, "The



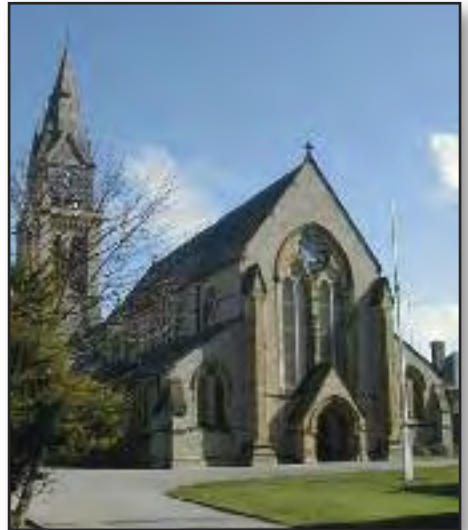
service was a great success and enjoyed by all. Maybe this expression of a church having fun could be transmitted to the wider community. Not just a place that always appears sombre and miserable - have a laugh, come to church. But maybe that's controversial?!"



Bishop John and the Archdeacon of Wrexham, the Ven Malcolm Squires, visited the Eagles Meadow site in **Wrexham** on April 22nd. Site foreman Adrian Smith showed them round the site of the 400,000 square foot development, which is on course to open at the end of October and has already attracted some big names from the retail industry, including Debenhams and Marks & Spencer, and Odeon cinemas.

Archdeacon Malcolm, who served as Rector of Wrexham, commented on how interesting the visit had been and said, "This is a significant development for Wrexham **and for the diocese as a whole**, offering work to local people and drawing visitors in to the town. Bishop John and I were pleased to see the progress that has been made on the project."

Living by the sea does have some drawbacks, including corrosion due to the salt air. This is why the latest restoration work to St Thomas', **Rhyl**, will be taking place during the summer months. A grant of £74,000 from CADW and the Heritage Lottery Fund has made the work possible. The high level rose windows and the north porch will be renovated. The church remains open during the work.



Roy Stewart, as the most senior member of Christ Church, **Prestatyn**, (having been a parishioner for 94 years) was invited to pronounce the newly refurbished Prestatyn Parish Community Hall open for business once more. The Community Hall had fallen into a state of disrepair, and had become prone to vandalism and neglect, and there had been calls to close and dispose of it. But thanks to the demand of the people of the parish, the hall has been saved and given a much needed face-lift. New accessible toilet facilities have been installed, and much TLC has been bestowed upon the kitchen, and the whole hall given a much needed lick of

paint. The first Parish event to take place in the newly re-opened hall was the Parish Music Makers' dinner-show of music from the Wild Wild West – which may explain the costume worn here by the Vicar, the Revd Quentin Bellamy. An extremely faithful sidesman in Prestatyn Parish Church, and a regular attendee at the Golfers' Service at Meliden Parish Church, Roy told the gathered audience that his 100th birthday is to be on Friday 13th June - unlucky for some, but not for him!



Quiet Gardens offer a variety of local venues where there is an opportunity to set aside time to rest and to pray. These may be in private homes and gardens, which are open for occasional days of stillness and reflection; in retreat centres or local churches; or in inner city areas. Some simply offer a quiet space, others offer a more structured programme ranging from a brief introduction perhaps with a meditation to led quiet mornings or days. A full description of our work is available on the Quiet Garden website. <http://www.quietgarden.co.uk> 01753 643050 quiet.garden@ukonline.co.uk

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: August/September edition: **23rd June**
October/November edition: **11th August**

Review of 2007 - 08

Highlights of the reports of the Diocesan Officers to the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference, May 2008.

Full copies of the report can be obtained from the Diocesan Office, High Street, St. Asaph LL17 0RD 01745 582245 or downloaded from www.dioceseofstasaph.org.uk

Board of Education and Lifelong Learning

Canon Mary Stallard,
Acting Lead Officer

Tim Feak, *Under 25s Officer*

Revd Christine Owen,
Child Protection Officer

Revd Alan Tiltman,
*Continuing Ministerial
Education Officer*

- Working with our schools and LEAs to bring a Christian dimension to discussions about primary school reorganisation
- Offering curriculum support to schools and help with inspections; focus on preparation for the new Foundation Phase
- St Joseph's Catholic/Anglican High School contributed to meeting of the Church in Wales Governing Body
- Revised Code of Good Practice for child protection circulated to all parishes. Forthcoming Independent Safeguarding Authority will bring changes
- Worship Leaders and Pastoral Assistants training courses successful across the Diocese
- Pioneering work by the Revd Janice Jones, ecumenical chaplain at NEWI and Yale College
- Flourishing Diocesan Theological Society, with new members, lay and ordained
- The Revd Manon Parry retains responsibility, with the Diocese and St Michael's College, for training Readers and ordinands

- Board has new structure
- Links with Chester University's Christian Youth Work course and the Light Project - 4 students currently placed in the Diocese
- Working on vocational training opportunities for people interested in training as Children's or Youth Workers
- Links developed with Youth for Christ and the Church Army Bus Project, in Wrexham, and Hope 37, in Holywell
- Diocesan Youth Grants awarded; continued support, enabling churches to develop sustainable, creative and effective youth & children's work
- Godly Play, Schools work and 'Y' services continue across the Diocese
- Clergy Training - a residential conference in Lancaster in September, and training days in February and June
- Clergy/Reader day on the theme 'The pastoral care of the sick'
- 'Changing posts' conference
- Area Deans' training

Board of Ministry

Revd James Harris,
Diocesan Director of Ordinands

Canon Mary Stallard, *Chair*

- Developing a strategy for promoting vocations to ordained ministry among young people
- Diocesan officers asked to devise job descriptions and to identify mentors for themselves
- New constitution for Board

- 4 ordinations hoped for in 2008 and the reception of a priest from another denomination
- One new candidate recommended for training
- 2007 saw 4 Readers licensed, along with 2 transfers into the Diocese. 4 Reader candidates in training. Readers continue to receive training in funeral ministry. Returns indicated that 65 active readers had taken 1,605 services and delivered 1,129 sermons
- First candidate training for the licensed evangelist course
- Revd Canon Tudor Hughes continues to oversee Initial Continuing Ministerial Education
- Following Lancaster clergy conference, a group has made proposals to survey the effectiveness of support structures available for clergy
- £100 allocation grants for clergy to help them attend conferences
- The board continues to work closely with St Michael's College
- Pre-retirement courses are now run on a provincial basis and a mid-ministry course was successfully piloted

Board of Renewal and Parish Development

Archdeacon Bernard Thomas, Chair

Revd Huw Butler, Lead Officer

Revd Vittoria Hancock, Evangelism

*Revd Dr Peter Wykes,
Spirituality & Healing*

Revd Pam Powell, Ecumenism

Canon Bill Rowell, World Mission

Mrs Sue Kelly, Tourism

- Reviewed constitution of Board
- Diocesan grants to be available to parishes or deaneries in response to

Bishop's question, "What would you most like to do in furthering the mission of the Church, if only the finance was available?"

- 3 Deanery Development Workshops in the past year
- Courses planned to assist new Church Wardens and Treasurers
- Encouraging every parish to undertake process of prayer, reflection and discussion, to discern a vision for what God is calling them to be and do
- In Evangelism, contact with over 20 non-church groups and approximately 1,500 children in a variety of situations and schools
- Development of a Diocesan Strategy for Evangelism
- Work with Cymdeithas y Beibl / Bible Society, Saint y Cymuned / Urban Saints and others
- Quiet days in Pennant Mellangell, Noddfa & St Beuno's
- A highly successful Plygain in the cathedral at Candlesmas
- Welsh Spirituality Seminar by Bishop Saunders & Cynthia Davies
- 7 training from St Asaph on 2 year training course for spiritual directors, run with Chester Diocese
- Officer for ecumenism established Support and Steering Group; developing three year plan. Attended a number of events to forge positive links
- New and exciting ecumenical arrangement at Rhostyllen
- Anglican-Catholic study days offer opportunities to pray and share together
- The Revd Kate Johnson recently appointed as Liturgical Development Officer

- World Mission Officer has preached or spoken at a number of services and events, attended USPG Council and the PWM conference, and arranged the annual World Mission Appeal, for Sierra Leone and South West Tanganyika
- Pre-Lambeth Hospitality Initiative
- National Church Tourism Conference held in NEWI
- Open Churches Day in September
- Open Church Network runner-up in the Wales National Tourism Awards (for marketing)
- Rural Life adviser networking with various interest groups; visited a number of farms facing financial problems, especially in the wake of foot & mouth scares
- Deaf Church North Wales continues to meet and to grow
- Chaplain supports signed services in Wrexham and Pontblyddyn
- "Introduction to sign language" course trialled in one parish; further Deaf awareness training to be offered to parishes
- Chaplain continues training in counselling

Church and Society

Revd David Lewis, *Lead Officer*

Revd John Barden Davies,
Rural Life Adviser

Revd Peter Mackriell,
Chaplain with Deaf People

Revd Aidan Coleman,
T.C.C. Organiser

Revd James Aylward,
Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- Campaign to open a permanent Night Shelter in Wrexham; £8000 given to the shelter as a result of the Diocesan Offering
- £5000 given to support the work of the Wrexham Refugees and Asylum seekers group
- Disability Awareness conference held in St Joseph's school in October
- Assisted planning of the clergy residential in Lancaster
- Group looking at environmental change and developing a Diocesan Response
- Quiet day on St Luke's day, led by Canon Bill Rowell
- Continuing to work closely with T.C.C. on community and leadership development issues
- Before Welsh Assembly elections, three accountability meetings - in Wrexham, Clwyd South and Deeside
- Working with Wrexham Muslim Association to find a building in Wrexham to be home to a new mosque
- Organiser led teaching at T.C.C. training; has spoken to groups and individuals about T.C.C.
- Worked with Fairtrade Wales to organise the Wales Fairtrade conference at NEWI in October

Board of Communications

Revd Peter Mackriell,
Communications Officer

- This is the 13th edition of Teulu Asaph in the 'new' A5 format
- Launched new Diocesan website, in collaboration with the province, in October
- Media coverage of various good news stories

- Diocesan database created as the basis for the new Diocesan Directory, published in February
- Bishop's Visitation News 2007 and Archdeacons' Visitation News 2008 produced in co-operation with Ecclesiastical Insurance
- Communications Officer convenes the Diocesan Officers' meeting

Funding & Parish Support

Tracey White,

Funding & Parish Support Officer

- Support for parishes looking at Christian Giving, assisted by the Stewardship Team of four volunteers
- Edited and produced the Investing In Mission programme for use during 2008
- Co-ordinated meetings of Provincial Stewardship Executive, working with provincial colleagues on various projects
- Represented the Diocese on the Provincial Group responding to the Government's consultation on Giftaid; on the DVD "Renewable Energy" and on BBC Radio Wales "All Things Considered"
- Supported parishes undertaking major development projects in establishing vision and accessing funding
- Funding support to numerous small projects, both for buildings and 'people projects'
- Given support to parishes using Gift Aid
- Future projects planned with provincial colleagues
- Guest speaker at the "Transforming Communities and Congregations" conference

Board of Finance / Diocesan Administration Team

Revd Brian Harvey,

Diocesan Secretary

- Smooth transition to the new funding arrangements, with block grant of just over £1m from the Representative Body (RB); Diocese now responsible for paying a range of costs previously met by the RB
- Further reduction in subsidy by the RB for maintenance of ministry; ceases at end of 2008
- Stipendiary clergy numbers continue to reduce in line with agreed plans; target of 75 by 2013 should be met
- 96.7% of all required quota for 2007 has been paid; on-going discussion with a small number of parishes with significant arrears
- Agreed 4.7% increase for 2007 and a 4.8% increase for 2008 in what is required from parishes
- A new formula for calculation of the parish share agreed by Standing Committee, 'A Fair Share', effective from 2008
- Work began on the building of the new Diocesan Offices at the end of 2007, funded from the Diocese's financial reserves
- The Diocesan Administration Team consists of six full-time and eight part-time officers or assistants, with some posts part-funded by the Cathedral or Trust funds.