



South-west Tanganyika: a link is forged

This summer, seven ambassadors from the Diocese of St Asaph travelled to our new companion link diocese on our first official visit. Here (and inside) is their account of that journey.

Do we travel twelve hours by road, or fly in a seven seater and take two hours? After an overnight flight to Dar-es Salaam, the latter seemed more sensible. As we landed on the airstrip at Njombe, avoiding a cyclist and cattle, we could see a crowd gathered and, in the middle, the unmistakable Episcopal purple of our attentive host, Bishop John Simalenga. We were welcomed with singing and dancing, given flowers and dressed in blue kangas printed by the local Mothers' Union. Commissioned by Bishop Gregory in distant St Asaph, we had finally arrived to start the process of linking our diocese with that of South West Tanganyika, a poor rural area in Tanzania, bordering Lake Nyasa. 90,000 Anglicans here are spread over the area of Wales.

The Miriam Hotel was our base for the first three nights and conveniently only a short distance from St Andrew's Cathedral. The town is developing as a regional centre.



Dyrchefwch eich calonau!
Lift up your hearts!

There are new buildings in progress, a number of the local shops are owned by the Diocese and the trunk roads through the town are good.

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DIRNADAETH INSIGHT



'Bydd Ysbyty H M Stanley, Llanelwyr yn cau cyn bo hir, ond hefyd mae trafodaethau ynghylch a ddylid creu cofeb arall i'r chwilotwr dewr - ar ffurf cerflun i gydnabod ei enwogrwydd. Mae nifer fawr yn credu dylai hyn

ddigwydd; ond mae llawer o ddadlau wedi digwydd hefyd yn dilyn ymchwilio i hanes Henry Morton Stanley. Nid yw'r hanes yn fêl i gyd. Roedd Stanley yn enwog am ei gamp yn chwilio am Dr Livingstone ond roedd hefyd yn saethwr heb ei ail wrth saethu'r brodorion, yn warthus hyd yn oed yn llygaid pobl y dyddiau hynny oherwydd yr ychydig o werth a roddodd ar fywydau'r Affricanwyr. Honnir iddo'n enwog sefyll yn ôl wrth i gydweithiwr ddot â merch 13 oed a'i rhoi i'r canibaliaid fel bod y chwilotwyr yn gallu gwyllo'r broses ohoni'n cael ei choginio a'i bwyta. Boed hyn yn wir neu beidio, mae'n bendant fod Stanley wedi bod â rhan fawr yn sefydlu cyfundrefn unbenaethol a gormesol y Brenin Leopold y Belgiaid yn y Congo a redodd y wlad fel maenoriaeth personol, gan gaethiwo'r boblogaeth ac ymelwa ar ei hadnoddau.

Sut dylem benderfynu pwy rydym yn dymuno eu dathlu? Beth mae dewis y boblogaeth o'i harwyr yn ei ddweud amdani? Mae'n bosibl fod pobl ag atgofion melys o storïau eu plentynod o daith Stanley yn chwilio am Livingstone ac roedd Livingstone yn genhadwr Cristnogol, felly mae hyn yn iawn, ydy?

O'r dechrau un, galwyd ar Gristnogion i gofio fod calon hanes eu hiachawdwriaeth yn fethiant llwyr - un a gafodd ei i adael gan ei gyfeillion a dilynwyr, ei gondemnio i farw marwolaeth bradwr, ei ddirfrio gan awdurdodau crefyddol a gwleidyddol ei ddydd. Dylai'n harwyr fod y rhai sy'n byw i batrwm ffydd a chariad, haelioni a gosgeiddrwydd, a ddangoswyd gyntaf drwy weithred Duw yn Iesu Grist. Er gwaethaf y ffaith ein bod yn caniatáu i'n Heglwys gael eu llenwi gyda chofebau i filwyr, cadfridogion a chwilwyr - efallai bod llawer i'w dathlu - onid y bobl sy'n dwyn cariad Duw i weithred ddylai fod yn arwyr pennaf i ni.

Fel teulu Cristnogol yn yr esgobaeth, gobeithiaf byddwn bob amser yn dathlu'r rhai sy'n darganfod eu nerth mewn gwendid, dangos cariad a chydymdeimlad, sy'n dangos ffyddlondeb i Dduw drwy adlewyrchiad eu parodrwydd i ddiodef yn hytrach na pheri loes. Mae'r awdurdod iechyd sy'n gwasanaethu yng Ngogledd Cymru sy'n cau Ysbyty H M Stanley, nawr wedi'i enwi ar ôl Betsi Cadwaladr, dynes a roddodd ei bywyd i wasanaethu'r milwyr a anafwyd ac yn marw yn Rhyfel y Crimea. Efallai bod y ddwy weithred yn cario dwy neges bwysig iawn ond nid yn fwriadol.

+ gregoryflanelwyr:

The HM Stanley Hospital in St Asaph is to close, and there has been discussion whether this intrepid explorer ought to have another memorial – a statue - to acknowledge his fame. Many have been certain that this should be so; but there has also been controversy, as the record of Henry Morton Stanley has been examined. For not all in the garden is lovely. Stanley, besides his famous exploits hunting for Dr Livingstone, was also a crack hand at shooting down the natives, infamous even in his own day for the little value that he put on African lives. It is alleged that he famously stood by as a colleague bought a 13 year old girl and gave her to cannibals so that the explorers could observe the process by which she would be cooked and eaten. Whether or not this is true, it is certain that Stanley had a major part in establishing the despotic and oppressive regime of King Leopold of the Belgians in the Congo, who ran the country as a personal fiefdom, enslaving the population and exploiting its resources.

How do we decide whom we wish to celebrate? What does its choice of heroes say about a society? People probably have fond memories of the childhood story of Stanley's trek to find Livingstone, and Livingstone was a Christian missionary, so that must be alright, mustn't it?

From the first, Christians are called to remember that the heart of their Salvation

story is a complete failure – one who was abandoned by his friends and followers, condemned to die a traitor's death, reviled by the religious and political authorities of his day. Our heroes should be those who live into the pattern of faith and love, of generosity and of grace, which was first revealed by the action of God in Jesus Christ. Despite the fact that we might allow our Churches to be filled with memorials to soldiers, generals and explorers – and there may be much to celebrate – our chief heroines and heroes must surely be those who quietly live the love of God into action.

As a Christian family in the diocese I trust that we will always celebrate those who find their strength in weakness, in showing love and compassion, who demonstrate a faithfulness to God reflected in their readiness to suffer rather than to inflict suffering. The North Wales Health Authority, who are closing HM Stanley Hospital, are now named after Betsi Cadwaladr, a lady who gave her life to the service of the sick and the dying amongst the soldiers of the Crimean War. Perhaps these two actions carry important, even if unintended, messages.

+gregoryflancery:

Bishop Gregory and all the church wardens from the Mold Deanery, on the steps of St Mary's, Mold, on the occasion of his Episcopal Visitation, Sunday 25 July.





O Amgylch yr Esgobaeth

Around the Diocese

The Umeed Partnership presents **Open Every Door**: a multimedia, multinational production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat; in parishes across north Wales. For details contact Revd Stuart Elliott 01745 888797 or Canon Clive Southerton 01745 853176 or www.umeedpartnership.org.uk/oed/

Being the Parish Treasurer

– a Training Together event – see page 8
– **Tuesday 5 October**

Maelgwn Male Voice Choir concert in St Paul's, Craig y Don, Llandudno
– **Friday 8 October** at 7.30 p.m.
Admission £8/£6 in aid of church funds and the organ appeal

Diocesan Offering Service

in St Asaph Cathedral
– **Monday 11 October** at 7 p.m.

Grave Concerns – a Training Together event – see page 8
– **Tuesday 12 October**

Burne-Jones Day at St Deiniol's Church, Hawarden

– **Thursday 14 October** from 10 a.m.
Welcome and coffee/tea in the Tithe Barn. Tickets £15 (including tea or coffee but not lunch) from Church Office 01244 534912 or on the door.

Retired Clergy Association in St Asaph Cathedral

– **Thursday 21 October** at 11.30 a.m.

Induction of the Revd Carole Poolman in St Michael's Llanfynydd
– **Thursday 21 October** at 7 p.m.

Elaine Storkey on 'Global Gender Issues' in St Giles Church, Wrexham
– **Thursday 21 October** at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets £6, available on the night or from www.cicconline.org.uk/events

Gram Seed, founder of Sowing Seeds Ministries, at St John's, Rhosnesni
– **Thursday 28 October** at 7 p.m.
Tickets £3, from Frances 01978 264691 or Afranwilliams@aol.com

All Saints' Praise, in St Asaph Cathedral
– **Friday 29 October** from 7.30 p.m.
Speaker, Arnold Muwonge (*Nations Discipleship Enterprise Network and Kampala Children's Centre*); Worship Leader, Greg Leavers. An offering will be taken

All One in Christ Gathering for disabled people and those who support them in the church, at Holy Trinity, Greenfield
– **Saturday 6 November** from 2 p.m.

Messy Church Fiesta – a Training Together event – see page 8
– **Saturday 20 November**

Mark Greene, Executive Director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, 'Of Logic, Logos and Me - Plc. What's shaping Britain?' at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wrexham
– **Wednesday 1 December** at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets £6, available on the night or from www.cicconline.org.uk/events

Christmas tree festival at St Bridget's Church, Dyserth.
– **Friday 3 to Sunday 5 December** from 11.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sirenian Singers in concert at Christmas at All Saints' Church, Gresford
– **Saturday 18 December** at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets on the door



On Sunday 25 June, St Peter's Collegiate Church in **Ruthin** celebrated its 700 year history of Christian witness in the town. The service began with a formal procession from the site of the old garrison chapel of Ruthin Castle led by the Ruthin Town Band and St Peter's Choir; it was called to order by the chiming of St Peter's bells. The procession featured both church and civil dignitaries, townsfolk and even the odd medieval (a few people dressed in costume). Bishop Gregory presided and preached at the Eucharist. Music included pieces from the period of the church's foundation. After the



On June 28, Bishop Gregory licensed the Revd Tony Dilworth (pictured, centre, with the Revd Michael Balkwill, Area Dean, and the Bishop) as priest in charge of **Llangedwyn, Llansilin, Llangadwaladr & Rhiwlas**. Tony has served in South Wales and Liverpool before retirement. He now joins Llanfyllin Deanery as a 'house for duty' priest as he wished to have another challenge in ministry.



service, the Warden of Ruthin, the Revd Stuart Evans invited everyone into the church grounds for a celebration with a glass of bubbly and a piece of 'birthday cake' (donated by the local bakery). Three of the parish's junior choristers, Sarah Wallace-Jones (Head Chorister), Gemma Wallace-Jones and Rhian Hawkins have also taken part in this year's Moreland Choristers Camp (the 40th), which included singing choral evensong in Carlisle Cathedral.

The fund raising committee at St Thomas, **Rhyl**, were really delighted when the Archbishop of Wales Dr Barry Jones agreed to paint and sign a tile for 'Tiles for St Thomas'. This project represents part of a programme of fund raising activities which aims to collect enough money to restore the church's celebrated Hill organ. It is a community project with over 1,000 tiles already painted by Schools, Nurseries, Residential homes, Rainbows, Guides,



Enabling and Encouraging the whole people of God



Mike Peters and Carol Rees Field, St Thomas' organist, holding the tile painted by the Archbishop.

Supermarkets etc, with still more to come!

The town's own Rock Star Mike Peters officially opened the project and said he hoped that the tiles (at present on display in the church grounds) would eventually find a permanent home in the town.

During the week 2 - 6 August, thirty-seven children enjoyed a week of fun, as they learnt Michael Hurd's 'Jonah Man Jazz' for a performance in St Paul's, **Colwyn Bay**. Six to twelve-year-olds from several local primary and secondary schools made new friends as they sang and danced their way through the week in St Paul's with Director of Music,



Mr Bryn Heywood, and Choreographer Nicky Jones (assisted by her daughter, Chloe). Junior Youth Club leader, Lucy Farrar, together with Andrew McDonald and Livvi Hastie, helped the youngsters make wonderful scenery for the performance and various people from the church's children and young people's ministry teams, and

other members of the congregations, came along to 'muck in' during the week, including making around 200 rounds of toast!

Great fun was had by all, and the resulting performance was terrific - a great credit to everyone's hard work and enthusiasm, which is now being channelled into a new club, SPYCE, which will be starting on 10 September, 3.30 - 6 p.m. in St. Paul's. Young people will have the opportunity to enjoy musical theatre and to take part in the RSCM Voice for Life award scheme, as well as arts and crafts, games and outings. Full details from the Revd Ginny Burton on 01492 512160

or ginnyburton@hotmail.co.uk
or vicar.colwynbay@btinternet.com

Children from the benefice of **Hawarden** and from the parish of **Bistre** enjoyed meeting new friends at their annual holiday club.

The theme of this year's club was 'Pyramid Rock', where the children explored the story of Joseph and



his brothers and then his time in Egypt. The children travelled up the Nile, listened to Yummy Mummy's News, opened the scrolls in a Pyramid Group and encountered Joseph, who trusted God despite everything. Through gripping and imaginative storytelling, creative Bible engagement, craft and games, the children got to know one another better and they were helped to get to know God as a part of their everyday lives.

Enabling and Encouraging the Whole People of God

The holiday club ended with a sausage and chips tea and then a short performance of 'Joseph and his coloured coat' for parents and friends.

The week's activities were organised by team vicar, the Revd Paulette Gower.

Mary Sumner, founder of the **Mothers' Union**, was celebrated at three events on Monday 9 August, one in each Archdeaconry. The Fun Day events were organised by members of the M.U. in each of the different areas.

In Ruthin, within the **Archdeaconry of St Asaph**, some fifty members and friends joined together for a day that encouraged all to take part, whatever their level of expertise, beginning with a 'Big Sing' organised by Ruth Evans, who soon had everyone singing, clapping and moving to the rhythm of gospel tunes, accompanied by



David Smart on the piano. The Revd Stuart Evans followed on in a dramatic vein with individual and group activity, ending with everyone acting out their 'plots' to music. John Rogers, classical guitarist, played a programme of classical music and led group singing to his accompaniment. David Hubbard, from Bodelwyddan, brought a set of hand bells and demonstrated the art of ringing with a group of volunteers. The day finished on a high note, ending in a resounding Alleluia, from 'I'm gonna sing'.

Dodging light rain in Cilcain, members of the M.U. within the **Archdeaconry of Wrexham** staffed stalls and ran activities for children in the church and village hall. There was an air of concentration around the craft activities, and teddies were seen abseiling from the church tower. Mrs Carol Chamberlain, MU Diocesan President said: "This proved to be a lovely way to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Through the three Archidiaconal events, Mothers' Union was able to offer something



to the community as a whole throughout the Diocese and everyone enjoyed a very happy and successful day."

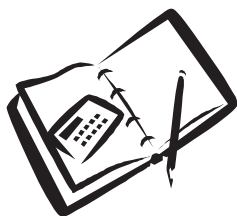
The Mothers' Union of **Montgomery Archdeaconry** hosted their afternoon of activities, competitions and games in the community centre at Berriew, complemented by a delicious afternoon tea. Commenting on the afternoon, the archidiaconal President, Mrs Meryl Thelwell said, "I am pleased that everyone had such a lovely afternoon to celebrate Mary Sumner's day and to promote the work of the Mothers' Union. We are grateful to all the M.U. members who have been involved and worked so hard to make this event such a success".



Training Together

Developing knowledge and skills for your parish

Training Together is a programme of training open to anyone who attends church in the Diocese of St Asaph, whether they are lay or clergy, a member of the PCC or not. It is not necessary for you to hold any particular office, so long as you have an interest in the subject. Places are limited so please ensure you book your place at least a week before the event.



Being The Parish Treasurer – *A session for new treasurers or those wanting a refresher, which will cover keeping the books; communicating with the PCC; planning for the future and meeting the requirements of the charity commission.*

Tuesday 5th October (7 – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE



Grave Concerns – *A session for anyone concerned with the management and maintenance of the churchyard. Topics include the legal framework; the management plan; health and safety; monuments and gravestones and encouraging wildlife.*

Tuesday 12th October (7 – 9pm) – St Margaret's Church Hall, Garden Village, Wrexham. Cost: FREE



Messy Church Fiesta – *An all day event (lunch included), with Lucy Moore, founder of messy church and author of the messy church books.*

Saturday 20th November (all day) – Llangollen Pavilion. Cost: FREE

To Book Your Place: contact Siân Connelly, giving your name, address, phone number and parish either by email

sianconnelly@churchinwales.org.uk

or by phone on **01745 532582**

Full details and directions will then be sent to you

the course is due to be run again shortly, together with a course for Worship Leaders. To keep everyone informed and up-to-date we have a Deanery website (www.deaneryofstasaph.org.uk) which links to separate websites for each of our parishes. We are confident that the Deanery will continue to flourish under the leadership of the new Area Dean, The Revd D Quentin Bellamy, Vicar of Prestatyn.

Around the Parishes

The Parishes of **Dyserth**, **Cwm** and **Trelawnyd** have been grouped together for the past 35 years, and work well together, whilst maintaining their own identities and traditions. Dyserth is blessed with a beautiful ancient parish church containing a magnificent Jesse Window dating from the 16th century. Many people come to admire its wonderful workmanship and artistry. Over the years the parish church has been altered and embellished by succeeding generations and in recent years the church has undergone restoration and renewal. It has been re-roofed, re-carpeted and, in the year 2000, the congregation raised enough money to provide pew runners and kneelers for the entire building. The transept has recently been made a more user-friendly area with the provision of storage units and the building should have been rewired and lit by the end of this year.

Cwm Parish Church is hidden in a quiet valley, with wonderful views over the north Wales coast over to Snowdonia. The church is in good repair, and the small congregation is in good heart and organise many events during the year. A Family Service on the fifth Sunday of the month has encouraged some new families and young people to become involved with the parish.

The Parish of **Trelawnyd** has one of the two church schools in the Deanery, Trelawnyd VA School, which has not only celebrated a highly successful Estyn Inspection this year, but also its 150th Anniversary. There are several famous past pupils of the school, including the author Emyr Humphrys, musician and broadcaster Rhys Jones, and the new Archdeacon of Wrexham, the Ven Shirley Griffiths, who was present with Bishop Gregory and the Director of Education at the celebrations last June. The parish is rightly proud of its school and maintains a close relationship with it.



The parishes of **Meliden** and **Gwaenysgor** can both trace their origins back a thousand years, being mentioned in the Domesday Book; but the attention of these two churches is very much on the present. September this year saw them participating in events designed to reach out into their communities. St Melyd's, Meliden, had a festival, 'Caring for Creation; Sharing in Creation'. This included a themed flower festival in church, while at a neighbouring hall workshops were on offer for people to try their hand at skills which church members were keen to share. Meanwhile St Mary Magdalene's, Gwaenysgor, participates in the village arts events, opening its doors with a warm welcome to the visitors who come to this pretty village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

St Asaph parish church held a celebration service on Sunday 4 July when six children were admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation. The preparation course began the week after Easter and each week they looked at a different part of the Eucharist service. The children took part in each session with enthusiasm and commitment and often completed the 'things to do at home' well ahead of the expected timescale. They helped with the planning of the special service and took an active part through readings, drama, prayers and songs. The children are all faithful members of the congregation and the Church family has been supportive and encouraging as the children have taken this next step in their journey of faith.



Occupying a central position on **Prestatyn** High Street, the Vicarage garden is much in demand as a venue for all kinds of events organised by various groups and organisations within the town (including the strange activity pictured). The highlights of the year, however, are the Classic Car Show, which takes place on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, and the Prestatyn Flower Show, which happens during the last week of July. Much careful preparation goes into these events, which seem to be growing ever more popular.

This year's Classic Car Show (the tenth) was a record breaker, thanks to glorious weather over the whole weekend, and over 300 vehicles came under the scrutiny of thousands of enthusiastic spectators. The parish church is, of course, always open for the benefit of visitors, and the Friends of the



Parish are often called upon to provide refreshments and to ensure that there is a well-stocked tombola stall! Following on from the success of these events, the parish has established an annual Festival of Christmas Trees which takes place in the parish church in the last week of November. Some twenty-five trees are displayed, which, combined with the warmest of hospitality, and prizes and trophies for the lucky winners, ensure that visitors to this part of North Wales return again and again.

A major programme of restoration has been carried out at St Mary's Church, **Rhuddlan**, including the complete re-pointing of exterior stonework of the early 14th Century church and tower, the renewal and redecoration of the interior plasterwork, and the creation of a new hospitality area; all that, together with major works on the ancient drainage system! As with all schemes of this magnitude it was certainly not without its headaches.

However, the work is now complete, the church has been given a new lease of life, and members of the congregation are taking great delight in the many complimentary remarks which have been received from members of the community. Throughout the whole process the focus has not been on preserving the past but rather on continuing to offer the services of a parish church to future generations in Rhuddlan.

By far the largest of all our parishes is **Rhyl**, where there is always something happening. Formally known as the 'Consolidated Chapelry of St Ann', and historically referred to as 'The Railwayman's Church', the good people of St Ann's offer a warm and friendly welcome to their informal Y Wednesday Service, and their Thursday Luncheon Club, which takes place in the adjoining hall. There is a real sense of outreach to the local community at the heart of both of these weekly events which have taken place over many years and so it is not surprising that there is much happy fun and fellowship. Following some re-ordering a number of years ago, the parish church of the Holy Trinity with St John the Baptist now incorporates a Parish Lounge where a number of local organisations, including Cytûn and the Mothers' Union, meet regularly. St Thomas' must be one of the largest church buildings in the diocese, comfortably seating around 1000 people. Just recently the congregation have been at work raising funds for the restoration of their William Hill pipe organ (see page 6). The Church of St Mary, **Towyn**, is soon to be a part of the new Rectorial Benefice of Rhyl. During the summer, 'The Pilgrims' Rest' offers hospitality and refreshment to visitors calling into this fine G.E. Street church.

Possibly the best known church in our deanery is St Margaret's, **Bodelwyddan**, 'The Marble Church', which this year celebrates its 150th Anniversary. The celebrations began on Friday 27 August with a Flower Festival in the church and an exhibition of 'Local Memories' in the Old School. On Sunday 30 August a Festal Eucharist was celebrated in the presence of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Mr Trevor Jones, attended by Lord and Lady Willoughby de Broke and Sir Lawrence and Lady Williams, descendants of the church's benefactress, the late Lady Margaret Willoughby de Broke. After the service 100 people enjoyed a delicious hog roast, which was served in the marquee on the church lawn. The day concluded with a special 'Songs of Praise' service. During the anniversary celebrations the St Margaret's bell ringers, with other visiting bell ringers, regularly rang the magnificent peal of eight bells. Those who were brave enough were also able to ascend to the ringing chamber in the church tower and see how it was done!



On the evening of the Day of Pentecost, Bishop Gregory licensed the Revd Peter T. Allsworth as priest-in-charge of the parish of Bodelwyddan. They are pictured here with Mr David Hubbard, Vicar's Warden and Mr Michael Knight, People's Warden

We remain full of enthusiasm as we continue in our work, witness, and worship in Christ's Name at the heart of our diocese.

Enlivening and Enriching our Worship

The annual service in St Collen's, **Llangollen**, at the end of the International Eisteddfod week is always a highlight but this year it seemed even more special than usual, writes Ann V. Lamb. Bishop Gregory was the preacher, the lessons were read by Terry Waite C.B.E. and the parish's new curate, the Revd Neil Kelly. The visiting choirs were the mixed choir, the University of Santo Tomas Singers from Manila in the Philippines who, the night before, had won the Pavarotti Trophy in the Choir of the World competition; and Graduale Nobili from Reykjavik in Iceland who won third place in the competition for Female Choirs. The Gospel was the story of the Good Samaritan and Bishop Gregory talked about the vision of the International Eisteddfod (first held in 1947) as being an example of loving one's neighbour, bringing the world together through song and dance and trying to understand each other's cultures. The



Bishop Gregory with members of the University of Santo Tomas Singers

hymns, accompanied by organist Owen Roberts, reflected each of the four countries of the United Kingdom, with 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' sung to an English melody; 'Wele'r dydd yn gwawrio draw' sung to 'Llanfair'; 'I cannot tell why He whom angels worship' sung to 'Londonderry Air'; and Michael Baughen's 'We worship God in Harmony' sung to Auld Lang Syne.

Frank and Ivy Jones celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at a special service at





Bywiogi a Chyfoethogi ein Haddoliad

St Mark's, Caia Park, **Wrexham** in July. The service was led by Reader, Philip Carey, with former vicars the Revd Gerald Griffiths preaching and the Revd Mike Harrison offering special prayers and a blessing. Frank and Ivy were supported by daughters, Carol and Barbara.

Wrexham born Frank met Ivy, a native of Burslem, on a holiday in Rhyl in August 1939. Three weeks later he was called up for wartime service in the Royal Artillery, based at Shoeburyness, Essex. Courting was restricted to a rare weekend's leave, sometimes three months apart. Somehow Frank managed to fit in wartime football appearances for Port Vale alongside his courting and military service, whilst Ivy was a munitions worker. Frank and Ivy were married on 28 July 1940.

After the war, Frank was a leather worker and Ivy worked in the school meals service. The couple remember enjoying dancing and the growing family's five year wait for a council house before settling in Ernest Parry Road, Caia Park.

Frank says that the success of a long marriage is acknowledging that his wife is right most of the time!

On 12 August, fifteen people from Mynydd Isa Local Ecumenical Partnership (in the parish of **Bistre**) were led in a Quiet Day at Pennant Melangell by the Revd Linda Mary Edwards. They explored pilgrimage; the partnership sees itself very much as pilgrim companions on a journey led by God to pray, worship and witness to Him in their community.

"The day was especially poignant," said the Revd Sally Baird, "as we were the last group



The Revd Linda Mary Edwards

that Linda Mary would lead at Pennant before she retires. We wish her well as she continues on her own personal pilgrimage."

The Rector and officers of **Corwen** Parish Church are delighted to announce

that a grant of £45,200 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable essential repair work to be carried out to the fabric of St Mael and St Sulien's church building. The grant is a significant contribution towards the overall cost of £73,128 required for the repair of the nave and tower roofs, plus the renewal of the rainwater goods.

The work commenced in July and is due to be completed in early Autumn. This project is part of an overall rolling programme of repair and renovation already begun within the church, which will continue into the future. Projects already completed include the fitting of protective grilles to all the church windows, the renewal and updating of the entire electrical



system within the church, the improving and modifying of the vestry kitchen area and the removal of pews from the west end of the nave in order to create an open social area.

The Revd Bethan Scotford, Rector of Corwen said, "The HLF grant is wonderful news. The church is a listed building and is an essential focal point within the town and, as custodians for future generations, the Parochial Church Council has a duty to ensure that it is preserved for everyone's benefit."

*Summer months see many Christians gathering at one of the season's many Festivals. Diane Copping, from the Bro Famau group of parishes, reflects on this year's **Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival***

It is hard to describe the wonderful event at Cheltenham Racecourse for four days each August Bank Holiday. There is so much going on!

I love the stimulating talks and seminars. John Bell, from Iona, is a favourite speaker and this year Richard Rohr, a Franciscan

priest from New Mexico, impressed me. He talked about this year's festival theme - 'looking sideways at God'. Meeting the writer and cast members from the BBC TV comedy 'Rev', including Tom Hollander, was also great. There is always good music - everything from classical to heavy rock! Then there is painting, drama, and comedy. It's a great place to catch up with friends and find new ones, and to spend time finding a quiet spot just to reflect. There is a huge age-range of people with babies, senior citizens, and lots of teenagers.

Worship at Greenbelt is very important, with everything from Anglican daily prayer to a 'Goth Eucharist'! On Sunday morning everyone comes together for the Festival Service. This year it was so uplifting, with nearly twenty thousand worshippers sharing communion together outdoors.

The thing that makes Greenbelt unique is its strong emphasis on social justice. As a long standing member it's good to see the Mothers' Union there. Parenting and pressures on children were being highlighted. This year I went to talks about

the situation in Palestine too. 'Green' issues are becoming important for many Christians. The festival funds some projects in this country and further away.

It is always both stimulating and great fun - and it has great food, especially the Goan Fish Curry stall! Next year's festival is already in the diary!



Image by Jonathon Watkins - www.photoglow.co.uk

Praying Outside the Box

One of the greatest privileges of being a Christian is being able to come into the very presence of God and ask him for what will build up his kingdom. Sometimes people say, 'I don't need to go to church - I can say my prayers at any time!'. However, we might wonder what the scope is of those prayers and suspect that they will be limited to that person's own needs. An advantage of sharing in the prayers offered during public worship is that the horizons of our prayers are broadened, especially if the person leading them can make connections between God's grace and the challenges and opportunities facing the Church. The Diocesan Calendar of Intercessions is produced every month to encourage informed prayer during services in church and during personal devotions. Each day it may include requests for the dioceses and bishops of the world-wide Anglican Communion, often with helpful comments by Bishop Gregory if he has first-hand experience of them; events which our Bishop is attending; items for prayer from throughout the diocese; and the needs of the churches and parishes of the deanery featured that month. Its use is an expression of our belonging to the family of the diocese and a means by which we may support one another, whether we are able to attend church or not. As editor I have recently become aware that few of the people responsible for intercessions in church, other than the clergy, are aware that the Calendar exists. Not everyone has access to the internet, but most people know someone who does. The Calendar may be downloaded from the bottom right-hand corner of the home page of the Diocesan website under the heading Pray For Us.

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A Word about Liturgy – Style v Substance



by the Revd Kate Johnson, Liturgical Development Officer

Once a person hears of the momentous event and fantastic promise of God through Jesus

Christ, and does not reject it - once God's Spirit gives that person the faith to trust in it and rely upon it - that person can respond in a variety of ways. Some shout HALLELUJAH! or exclaim a resounding "AMEN!" Some join with others who have also heard this promise in singing majestic chorales and chant ancient liturgies. Some give glowing testimonies to what has happened to them. Others go quietly about their work. There are many, many varieties of worship styles.

Again, whether cathedral or meeting hall; immersion or sprinkling in Baptism; common cup or individual glass in Communion; pipe organ or piano; standing, sitting, genuflecting; folding hands, raising hands; observing diets, fasting; forms of worship or spontaneous praise; it is a matter of style.

There is no single appropriate style of faith for all Christians - but there is only one substance of our faith - what has been accomplished by God through Jesus Christ. The array of worship styles is testimony that the work of the Holy Spirit is as varied as the work of God the Creator. We should welcome and revel in this variety as another God-given opportunity to celebrate!



A link is forged

... continued from the front page

At the convent in **Njombe**, we were welcomed by the sisters of St Mary, taken to the kindergarten, and heard of their plans for an English medium Primary School. Nuns are also engaged in farming, making candles, communion wafers and vestments. Some nuns worked at the Anglican Health Centre. This small hospital was trying its best to serve a large area with very few medicines, retired staff and outdated equipment.

Our first excursion "off tarmac" was to **Lunyanywi**, a short distance up a deeply rutted track. Here, the lives of ten farming families were being transformed by good training, co-operative organisation, and the gift of a heifer.

A family receives a cow and the first female calf is passed on to another family, and so on, with training and support. Milk is sold to a dairy project, manure boosts the crops of vegetables in neat raised beds, plus field crops like maize and wheat, and biogas installations provide fuel for lighting and cooking. Hamid, the scheme coordinator (a Muslim), impressed us as knowledgeable and organised. We weren't sure, though, that we wanted to join in hand mixing of a slurry for the biogas converter!

We then visited the impressive Cefa Njombe Milk Factory, a joint Roman Catholic / Anglican project, using

machinery and expertise from Italy, to which their milk is sold. Because there is no traditional market for dairy products, it has proved a challenge to make it profitable. The hope is that sales to hotels and a growing local market, will in time achieve this.

"I know nuns like remote places, but even so..." we said as we bounced up and down on the road to **Sayuni**. It is actually at the heart of several small communities. With a health centre open to all, it covers basic needs. But it lacks resources and staff. There is no trained lab assistant and no money to train one. Anything complex has to go to Njombe, three hours by foot. The sisters also hold small dispensaries in nearby villages but often have to walk.

We were struck by the enthusiasm, love and sheer joy shown by the sisters. From the moment we were greeted and fed cake and tea, to the moment we left, we felt cherished. The sisters can take up to ten years before making their life vows; there's no rush and it has to be right. Bishop John sounded them out on the possibility of women priests. They literally jumped up



The team members have breakfast with Bishop John



and down for joy at the prospect, complete with ululations and singing. It brought home to us how wonderful it is when God suddenly says 'you can do it!'.

Our journey to Manda took us via **Ludewa**, the second town of the diocese where we were given a courteous welcome by the District Commissioner, herself one of the few women at this level in local government. We were given lunch and welcomed warmly by the congregation and enthusiastic singers of Ludewa's impressive parish church. We left with gifts of colourful shirts, well-crafted baskets and a live chicken, which eventually found a suitable home in Dar-es-Salaam after laying an egg in the car on the way back!

The next morning we awoke to a magnificent landscape. The veranda of our cottage looked onto the shoreline of Lake Nyasa and we could see canoes, bird life, and people bathing in the water. The astounding scenery contrasted sharply with the difficult living conditions of the people living in **Manda**. Malaria was rife. HIV had taken its toll, as had diarrhoea.

The infrastructure around Manda was almost nonexistent. You could see the potential for tourism - so far, just a dream. Fishing had become increasingly difficult. The edges of the lake were over fished and no one had the right boats to reach the middle.

For the clergy, life was tough too. Travelling to outstations meant miles

and hours of walking. Often stipends were unpaid. They worried for their children and asked for help with school fees. Yet the comment from one cleric that he would still minister despite the hardships because his people needed him was truly inspiring. During our stay we experienced services of baptism and confirmation for around 80 people and the faithfulness and joy and hope expressed in the worship touched all of our hearts.

After another jolting drive it was great to arrive at 7000 feet above sea level, at **Milo**. What a view! Patiently waiting for us was a crowd singing, dancing and waving branches, reminiscent of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

The following morning we visited the hospital. It has one elderly doctor, an administrator, untrained x-ray technician, nurses, cleaners and driver. As elsewhere, the scarcity of drugs, equipment, and trained staff meant that what is being achieved did not relate to the requirements of the area, where malaria, enteritis and respiratory diseases, mostly as a result of



HIV/Aids, are endemic. The supply of clean water in good quantity is also a major issue.

The Bible School here has the potential to supply future clergy and training facilities for the Diocese. Poverty, the lack of English tutors and study materials, did not allow that potential to be achieved. Despite this, the students asked us excellent questions and showed enthusiasm and faith in their studies.

On our last full day we were to celebrate the ordination of 4 priests and 1 new deacon at **Mlangali**. The place was heaving with about 800 people, who had walked or ridden for several hours to get there.

It was a celebration in every sense of the word, combining a sacramental service of ordination and then communion with a very African music style, complete with ululations and dance. At about 3 hours long, it was a test of stamina too! After the service we were presented, and then the newly ordained were honoured with gifts, money and many speeches. It was fantastic to see the work they were doing recognised this way.

As elsewhere, we met groups of clergy, laity and Mothers' Union. The primary need was for transport for clergy and other members of the diocese - catechists and evangelists - and then more medical support, education and training, especially in combating HIV and malaria. Community projects were discussed, such as bee-keeping, the heifer scheme and the need for grinding machines, as well as community support for the orphans of HIV victims. We were hugely impressed with their vision, dedication and commitment.

Back home in **St Asaph** we reflect on an experience which has overwhelmed us with impressions, enriched us with the

friendship and faith of our Christian brothers and sisters in Tanzania and left us determined to make a reality of the link forged during our visit, so that it becomes part of the life of our Diocese. We'll be reporting through the formal processes of the Diocese on how best to do this. Watch this space!

Jonathan Abbatt, Ros Crawford, Vittoria Hancock, David Lewis, Stephen Lowe, Pam Powell, Bill Rowell

It's Harvest time now; but what of our future?

Kieran Harper, Ecclesiastical's dedicated Independent financial Advisor (IFA) for the Diocese of St Asaph, reflects on ethical investment and its link to Harvest.



In my research I came across this website -

www.globalharvestinitiative.org. It notes the world's population is rapidly expanding, with the United Nations identifying a serious Global productivity gap. They estimate we need to double agricultural output by 2050 to feed our growing world. They feel the only solution, is to double the agricultural production of existing land, instead of doubling the amount of land used for agriculture. Proposing to achieve this by investment into research and developments, leading to better stewardship of land, new technologies to increase productivity, reduce waste and effective distribution/storage of food.

Many fund managers are realising old fashioned 'negative screening' processes, which avoid companies involved for example in the production of tobacco - is

Hurio'r Byd

Engaging the World

the tip of the iceberg for how this can change our world for the better. More are adopting 'positive screening' processes, whereby they invest in companies because of their involvement in social, environmental or ethical activities. Alongside this, many use 'engagement' processes, using their clout to influence companies to change their own practices for the better.

Realistically, businesses want to maximise profits and this search is the cause of many of our global problems. Some forego a good idea if it will not increase profits, even if this would benefit all of humanity. Some exploit poorer areas of the world with unfair labour practices or resource stripping for their own ends. Place a fund manager with £10,000,000 in front of a company and change begins to sound more attractive.

Back to the GAP and where we invest to increase our returns and make a difference. Assuming an agricultural stance, where to

find suitable investments? Short answer is nowhere. Aside from the odd company in a generic ethical fund, only a handful of funds have an Agricultural focus. None are ethical due to involvement in GM food or the deforestation and human rights practices of some companies they invest in.

However Investing in these funds would provide resources to grow businesses in this sector and ultimately new technologies to bridge the GAP for the benefit of humanity. Isaac Asimov said, "Never let your sense of Morals prevent you from doing what is right!" Can my conscience cope with this current conflict of Ethics, could yours?

Any thoughts or discussion in relation to this article email

Kieran.harper@ecclesiastical.com ; alternatively, if you require any financial advice please call me directly **01452 875763** or **07584 236676**

New address for the North Wales Christian Aid office: **106 Stryd Fawr/ High St, Bangor LL57 1NS**
Tel **01248 353574 / 0790 154 5114**

Interested in a pilgrimage to Istanbul and the Seven Churches of Asia, with the Parish of Connah's Quay? **From 5 – 12 April 2011**. Price £869.
Contact Susan Varah a.s.a.p. on 01244 830224 or susanclarkevarah@aol.com

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

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

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