

Bangor Diocese

# Ad Clerum



From the Bishop

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February 2010

Dear friends,

As we prepare to keep Lent and look forward to the events of Holy Week and beyond, I hope you will all find time to read, reflect, serve and pray in a way that allows you to experience the passion, the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These things are a mystery – not because they are uncertain but because they are more than concepts and ideas. In Christ we experience some of the depths of the God who became a human and died a violent death for us all. But like St Paul who are able to taste the power of his resurrection too even as we share in the fellowship of his sufferings. I truly hope Lent is a time of grace for you all.

## **Maundy Thursday Eucharist**

You will have received details through the Diocesan mailing by now of the arrangements for the Maundy Thursday Eucharist at the Cathedral. This is an opportunity for us to renew our ordination promises and I hope you will all make every effort to be present. At the conclusion of the service there will be an opportunity for us to thank Stella Schultz who will leave the diocese after more than a decade of exceptional service. May I remind you that a testimonial fund has been established and encourage you to give generously? All monies should be sent to the Diocesan Office and cheques made payable to the Diocesan Board of Finance. Following the service there will be food available in the Diocesan Office for serving clergy and readers.

## **Appointments**

The Reverend Prebendary John Nice, Area Dean of Arllechwedd (from 15th February)

The Reverend Lynne Perry, Honorary Chaplain in the Cathedral

The Reverend Emlyn Williams, Rural Life Adviser

## **Departures**

Mrs Stella Schultz from the position of Diocesan Secretary to the Diocese of Monmouth

Mrs Janice ap Thomas from the Diocesan Centre

### **Sickness and bereavements**

It still common for me to discover that clergy or their families have been ill for some time without my knowing. Please do inform the office as I try to contact families in sickness and/or bereavement and add them to my own prayers. The following have been unwell or have suffered loss of loved ones and we hold them before God in particular

Dean Alun Hawkins  
Reverend Canon Tegid Roberts  
Dr John and Mrs Liz Perkins  
Reverend Bob Hughes  
Reverend Canon J C Sladden  
Mrs Cicely Goddard (on the death of Reverend Sydney Goddard)  
Mrs Phillippa Mary Wynne (on the death of Reverend Trevor Wynne)  
Reverend Janice Gourdie  
Reverend Emlyn Williams

### **Congratulations**

A grandson to the Reverends Nigel and Celia Adams on the birth of Mathew Dylan.

### **Eucharistic licences**

Can I encourage those who have not yet sent licences for 2010 to Tŷ'r Esgob for renewal do so as soon as possible. Clerics need to confirm that they support the renewal of such a licence in writing.

### **Sabbaticals**

I have drawn new guidelines for sabbaticals which are available to clergy who have served in the ministry for 10 years or more. If you would like to consider taking a sabbatical I will gladly furnish you with the new guidelines.

### **Clergy review**

The province has agreed to create a single review form which will be available in the not too distant future. In the meantime, as Bangor is the only diocese without a proper review process, I have produced a temporary form so that review can begin after Easter. All of the arrangements will be dealt with from Tŷ'r Esgob and the reviews will be undertaken in the chosen language of the reviewee. The senior clergy will be responsible for reviews and I will write to you after Easter with more details. May I stress that this is not supervision but an opportunity to reflect on ministry in an open, prayerful and engaging manner.

### **Diocesan Conference**

Following last year's conference and the comments of many who wondered whether we might be able to produce something a little more creative, a team has been asked to look at the content, style and conference format.

## **Handbook**

The Diocesan handbook is currently at the printers and will be available soon. Thank you all for your forbearance here – it was not easy to progress matters with so few people available to assist the editor and to correct a lot of the information from the previous handbook which was incorrect.

## **Reception of Roman Catholics**

There is a service of Reception available to clerics should they be asked (which is being updated soon) and I am happy to receive Roman Catholics in the context of a confirmation if requested. Please contact Tŷ'r Esgob for more details.

## **Confirmations**

I am grateful to those who churches who quickly send the collection to Tŷ'r Esgob when there has been a service of confirmation. This allows me to support a number of diocesan ventures, projects and on occasion, people with very special needs. Cheques should be made payable to the 'Mission and General Fund'. It helps, if there is a change of time from the one agreed with the Bishop's Office, if the Bishop is notified about it!

## **Mission and printing**

If you have particular printing needs for mission projects, we have been made aware of a local company who are prepared to print materials (within reason) for free. Please contact me for more details.

Every blessing and thank you for your partnership in the gospel

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Bangor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

+Andrew