

# POBL DEWI

EVENTS SPECIAL ISSUE 2011

MENTRO MEWN CENHADAETH · VENTURING IN MISSION



[www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk](http://www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk)

## What is the Church for?

**A**t your workplace, what is the main activity of your employer or business?

You may recognise these words as Question 37 in the Census Return we all filled in recently. Easy for some to complete – not so easy for the clergy among us. What is the main activity of the church, after all?

It certainly had me staring blankly at the computer screen for a while. My answer was, in the end, rather lame. There's so little you can say with two words – but there's so much you *could* say, given the space.

How about 'making followers of Christ'? That was Jesus' last instruction to his friends 'Go, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them

*Pe basai pob eglwys yn diflannu yfory, a fyddai hyn yn gwneud unrhyw wahaniaeth? Mae tasg gan yr eglwys, sef gwasanaethu Duw a gwasanaethu ei fyd gan rhannu newyddion da yr efengyl. Heb ein heglwysi, fyddai neb arall i barhau yn y tasg hwn. Fel y dywedodd John Roberts yn ei emyn: 'Cofiw'n am gomisiwn Iesu, cyn ei fyned at y Tad "Ewch, pregethwch yr Efengyl, gwnewch ddisgyblion ymhob gwlad".'*



to observe all that I have commanded you'. Disciples, followers of Jesus, do not crop

up by a process of nature. They have to be made. There is enough work doing that to keep the church permanently occupied.

Or what about 'offering worship to God'? Human beings will always worship something, even if they do not want to admit it. And most of the things people choose to worship are not worth it: money, celebrity, sport. These are all things that come and go – and mostly they go. The one worthy object of worship is, in the end, the God who made us. Worship, in music, in prayer, in silence, is certainly a main activity of the church.

Or what about 'serving others'? Jesus said that the second greatest commandment (second only to loving God) was to love our neighbour as ourselves. The scope for activity there is huge. Because he also told us that our neighbour is anyone in need who it is in our power to help. And that's a lot of people. So it has to be part of the main activity of the church to find opportunities to express that love of neighbour practically. We're never going to run short of those opportunities.

So, what was my lame answer to Question 37? 'Church Work'. If only the Census Form had been as generous as *Pobl Dewi* and given me four hundred words, instead of two!

*Will Strange,  
Archdeacon of Cardigan*

### Golygydd

Tessa Briggs

Papur esgobaethol Tyddewi yw Pobl Dewi ac fe'i cyhoeddir tair gwaith y flwyddyn.

Mae copiau ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim, o eglwysi led-led yr esgobaeth. Mae'r golygyddion yn croesawu erthyglau o ddidordeb – dylai'r rhain fod yn ddim hwy na 400 gair a dylid eu hanfon at Tessa Briggs, y Rheolwr Olygydd, ([tessa@ygilan.net](mailto:tessa@ygilan.net)) i'w hystyried.



**'Ymddiried yn Llwy'r yn yr Arglwydd'**

**'Trust in the Lord with all your heart' (Prov 3:5)**

***Am ddim Free***

# The Church and the rural scene



Have you taken the time to look around your local rural village, and note what has closed, opened, and changed? In many of our rural areas it is a shifting scene, with local Post Offices, shops and local pubs having to close, and, yes, many of our rural schools also have closed. So what's left?

In many respects the church with its large tower standing in the middle of our village, might just be the only establishment still there. Is the church just a building? Or is it a group of people who are prepared to come together as a family to worship, with these same people then reaching out into the community, offering God's love, support and fellowship?

Yes, we do have a changing rural scene, as gone are the



*Mae cefn gwlad yn brysur newid, ac wrth newidiadau, rhaid gwynebu sialsau newydd, a dyna sydd yn ofynnol o'r eglwys, ac wrth edrych o'n cwmpas gwelwn yr angen i gefnogi ein gilydd fel un teulu yng nghariad Crist.*

days when farm labourers worked on every farm, where many farm hands came together at the busiest time of the year, shearing, hay making, combining, potato picking. Technology has advanced to the stage where one man can now do everything from his tractor cab, on his own, with no one to talk to. Furthermore, in the old days the farmer's wife was tied to the kitchen but nowadays there is often no-one at home during the day as the partner often has to work beyond the farm to earn an income, just to ensure ends meet. Rules and regulations have to be adhered to, which use up valuable time and finances, neither of which a farmer has much of. The young don't see a future, so move to our cities for a salary and sociable working hours, and young families are a rarity, so the village school has no children. What we do have is the picturesque retirement

home for city dwellers who have had enough of the rat race and noise, and who are looking for the good life.

Is it really a good life? Public transport may only be once a week into town,

local shops are closed, and the peaceful evenings are disturbed by the ever groaning tractor; the cow which just won't stop bellowing for her calf, and, yes, there is often that early morning call from the cockerel.

What are we, as a church, doing to address this ever changing rural scene? We have the resources to provide a listening ear to the isolated, a welcoming family within which we socialise, and a building to use as a resource, such as a Post Office or local shop. We also need to educate newcomers about what the area has to offer by increasing understanding of what rural life is truly all about, such as supporting local producers, buying food in season, and the ability to trace our own carbon footprint at the same time. There is a network of people to help when rules and regulations take over one's life.

We are there to help everyone, as we are open seven days a week. God so loved the world He gave His only Son, and that's the love that the church is prepared to surround you with.

Welcome to Rural Wales.

*Eileen Davies,  
St Davids Rural Life Adviser*



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# What shall we do today? ... Well why not visit a church!

The Diocese of St Davids includes the counties of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire, and offers both visitors and locals the opportunity to explore churches that have been an enduring and significant part of the landscape for many generations. For these buildings sit in an area that is rich in Christian heritage and some have been a focus of pilgrimage since the sixth century, as people sought

*Mae croesawi ymwelwyr i'n heglwysi yn rhan bwysig o'n gweinidogaeth. Dros y canrifoedd bu llawer ohonynt yn bererinion. Heddiw, daw eraill yn eu plith, gan geisio darganfod o fewn adeilad eglwys, hanes y gymuned, a'r Ffydd sydd wedi cynnal ac ysbrydoli pobl o'r dyddiau cynnar hynny hyd at yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.*

be urban or rural, maritime or industrial and clues to that variety are sometimes reflected in the material of the buildings and the inscriptions on monuments, as well the economic fortunes that built, furnished and maintained these places of worship.

Today many churches are open outside times of worship, and keen to welcome YOU! They offer a great deal of choice. They range from tiny buildings such as the Celtic church at Llys-y-fran to the single cell medieval church of Mwnt, to the large parish church of St Elli in Llanelli, and the great Cathedral at St Davids. They lie along signposted trails such as that of Saints and Stones in north Pembrokeshire, or, like St Teilo at Llandeilo, contain the treasure of an illuminated Gospel Book.

We hope this glimpse will inspire you to explore further – you will find full details of all open churches on the Diocesan website [www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk](http://www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk) at Church Tourism Network Wales [www.ctnw.co.uk/home](http://www.ctnw.co.uk/home) or by consulting church noticeboards in the parishes.

Sarah Geach



Stained glass window, St Madoc of Ferns, Haroldston



St Michael & All Angels, Bosherton, Pembrokeshire

spiritual nurture and wisdom in these sacred places.

Interest in churches and all that they have to offer has greatly increased in recent times, as people, be they visitors or pilgrims, have rediscovered the riches that these places of worship contain within them.

For each church is unique and has borne witness to the worship of its community over many centuries. Today they continue that tradition of

worship and offer hospitality to all who visit them, providing places of prayer, peace and tranquillity.

As signposts of our heritage, you will find within the buildings, and the churchyards that often surrounds them, the story of the community in which they are set, as well as the faith that has inspired and sustained them in good times and bad.

These communities may

© Carl Ryan, photographer

## Editor

Tessa Briggs

Pobl Dewi is the diocesan paper of St Davids and is published three times a year. Copies are available, free of charge, from churches throughout the diocese. The editor welcomes articles of interest – these should be no more than 400 words and sent to the Managing Editor, Tessa Briggs ([tessa@ygilan.net](mailto:tessa@ygilan.net))

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St Cathen, Llangathen, Carmarthenshire



# Wildlife abounds in Welsh churchyards

The green spaces of Welsh churchyards have been free of fertilizers, weed killers, and disturbance for much longer than the land around them. As a result wildlife, both flora and fauna, abound. Green space starts with the wild flowers, seeds and berries. Insects, small animals and birds follow. It is the butterflies, dragonflies, and the birds that are the top attractions.

Tourism Tidings, Issue 35, March 2011



# St Davids welcomes all!

Since the 6th century there has been a church on the present day site. For the past 1500 years prayer and worship have been offered to God on a daily basis which continues to this day.

St David taught his followers to 'be joyful, to keep the faith and to do the little things'. In the Cathedral we strive to keep the faith which

Christ and his apostles taught and to be joyful in expressing the gospel message to the hundreds of thousands of visitors and pilgrims who visit the Cathedral every year.

The Cathedral is open daily, with services held throughout the day to which all are welcome.

Full details can be found at [www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk](http://www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk)

Mae eglwys wedi sefyll ar y safle presennol ers y 6ed ganrif. Dros y 1500 mlynedd diwethaf, mae pobl wedi gweddio i Dduw a'i addoli bob dydd, ac mae hynny'n parhau hyd heddiw. Y wers a ddysgodd Dewi Sant i'w ddilynwyr oedd hyn: 'byddwch lawen, cadwch y ffydd a gwnewch y pethau bychain'. Yn yr Eglwys Gadeiriol, ymdrechwn i gadw'r ffydd a

ddysgwyd i ni gan Grist a'i apostolion, ac i lawenhau wrth ledaenu'r efengyl i'r cannoedd ar filoedd o ymwelwyr a phererinion sy'n dod i'r Eglwys Gadeiriol bob blwyddyn.

Mae'r Eglwys Gadeiriol ar agor yn feunyddiol, a chynhelir gwasanaethau gydol y dydd, gyda chroeso i bawb. I gael manylion llawn, ewch i [www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk](http://www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk)