



No to Trident, yes to Government of Wales, freedom to debate paramount

Archbishop Barry's Presidential Address to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

In tackling some of the issues that face the world, Wales, the Anglican Communion and the Church in Wales, Archbishop Barry said he believed that it is the job of any church leader to, at the very least, make people think about matters of concern, even though that leader may be aware that there are diametrically opposed views to his own. He reminded GB members of St Augustine's words: 'In fundamentals of faith there must be unity. In disputable matters there must be freedom for debate. But in everything there must be love.' Archbishop Barry made it clear that in what he had to say, he was speaking personally and not presuming to express the views of the Church in Wales, since opinions may vary hugely within the same Church.



Trident

Expressing his concern about the Government's apparent commitment to a long-term replacement for the Trident weapons



system, Archbishop Barry said that this replacement is going to cost £25 billion. "With that kind of money, we could prevent 16,000 children dying every day from diseases caused by impure water and malnutrition." "We tolerate hunger, poverty and impure water, and are prepared to contemplate spending our resources on weapons of mass destruction. There are moral, financial and practical questions that we need to face when parliament and the whole country hopefully, will have their say on this issue."

Since the Cold War, there has been an escalation of nuclear weapons, way beyond the needs of deterrence

per se. "A replacement for Trident cannot be justified merely in the light of other countries' possession of nuclear weapons without a clear indication of their intention to use them."

A Trident replacement is not necessary in order to protect Britain against the possibility of a future nuclear strike from an unnamed and at present unknown country, which might acquire nuclear weapons. Given the 'special relationship' between the United States and the United Kingdom, Archbishop Barry could not conceive of a scenario whereby Britain alone would be attacked or threatened with nuclear weapons.

The replacement of Trident might encourage Britain to be drawn into first-strike pre-emptive thinking as an intrinsic part of its 'defence' culture. The continuing maintenance or replacement of Trident, provides a strong motivation for other countries to acquire nuclear weapons. "Britain

should take a leading role in giving new impetus to the non-proliferation treaty. Its rejection of Trident could inspire other countries to follow suit. I do not see how we can say to Iran that it ought not to have nuclear weapons whilst at the same time replacing ours." "Britain could set a moral international example in the name of establishing a global order with no or minimum dependence on nuclear weapons in the future."

Archbishop Barry called for a serious debate in Parliament and in the nation. "What any right thinking person wants is a just and peaceful world and in the building of such a world Britain could and should play a leading role, drawing upon moral, Christian and other faith beliefs to advocate an end to the possession of, as well as the threatened use of, nuclear weapons."

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*The Governing
Body met at the
University of
Wales, Lampeter,
on 20th and 21st
September 2006*

The Government of Wales Act

This Act, approved by Parliament in July, is in the view of Archbishop Barry "the most momentous



event that has happened to Wales since Devolution in 1997 and before that, in a different sense, the Act of Union of 1536." While the Assembly has not got the law-making powers of the Scottish Parliament, Wales can make its own laws in 19 fields of law under an Order in Council in Parliament, amending existing British laws, repealing them and making new laws in their place. The devolved areas for this include agriculture, food, ancient monuments, culture, economic development, education, environment, health services, highways, housing, local government, social services, sport, recreation, tourism, town and country planning and the Welsh language. The law in Wales in these areas could differ from English law. Country planning and the Welsh language.

Archbishop Barry explained that the Act also separates the Assembly from the Assembly Government and therefore enables the Assembly to function in the same way as the Scottish Parliament, scrutinising the decisions of the Assembly Government, how it spends its budget and the way it carries out its powers. However, to his mind, the whole process of law-making determined through the Government of Wales Act is very tortuous, and if relationships are fraught between Cardiff and Westminster, the governance of Wales could suffer as a result.

"Having said all that however a number of Orders are anticipated each year giving the Assembly powers to make laws which will not be subject to further Parliamentary consent. This means that there is an enormous opportunity for religious bodies and voluntary associations, to advise and assist the Assembly Government and the Assembly in formulating Orders in Council and the laws to be made under them. This, therefore, gives us as a Church and Nation the unique opportunity to

influence directly our own legislation. Here is a huge potential for change and a chance for the Church's voice to be heard. The Assembly Government and the Assembly will be looking for expertise and insights in helping it to formulate Orders in Council and equally importantly, the laws to be made under them."

The Anglican Communion



Archbishop Barry expressed his concern about the lack of tolerance for diverse opinions on the issue of homosexuality. Will the

Anglican Communion hold together or not? "If it fractures, it will not be a simple matter of just one province not recognising another, but parishes and dioceses within provinces allying themselves with like-minded parishes and dioceses in other provinces. In other words, the fault lines will run through provinces as well as between them. Is that what we really want? And what kind of a Church will we be, if we only associate with those who think or behave like us or conform to our view of things? No room then for difference or dissidence and what kind of witness to the Gospel is that?"

What happens in one part of the Church affects another. Archbishop Barry felt that the Anglican Communion needs a Covenant setting out our mutual inter-dependence, but not one that was prescriptive, detailed and intrusive. He commended what the Episcopal Church of the United States did at its convention in July, when:

- It re-affirmed its abiding commitment to the fellowship of churches that constitute the Anglican Communion and sought to live into the highest degree of communion possible.
- It reaffirmed that it was in communion with the See of Canterbury, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.
- It made a commitment to the vision of inter-dependent life in Christ, characterised by forbearance, trust, and respect, and commended the Windsor Report and process as a means of deepening understanding of that commitment.

The Governing Body passed a Bill to incorporate into the Church in Wales Book of Common Prayer additional Orders of Service for Christian Initiation, namely Baptism with Confirmation, and the Public Baptism of Infants.



Bishop David Thomas expressed his thanks to all who have been involved over many years on the revision of the services. They will be published by the end of this year in three forms: a complete book for those conducting the services, containing all the texts; a laminated card of the baptism service; and a 'water-proof font edition' with the words used at the font.

The Church in Wales



Archbishop Barry outlined two important issues facing the Church in Wales. The first is the

ordination of women to the episcopate. His view on this is very clear. "I have supported the ordination of women to the priesthood and the episcopate from the very beginning and that is where I stand. However, I again recognise that there are people who disagree profoundly with me. We cannot, however, avoid a decision on this for very much longer. We are the only Province in the British Isles not even to have discussed it." An edition of *Theology Wales* sets out all the arguments to initiate a period of discussion within the dioceses between now and next April. There will be a general discussion of the issues in the April 2007 Governing Body and the bishops will bring forward a Bill in 2008 for the Church to make up its mind.

The second issue is a permanent Archiepiscopal See. A Commission has been set up. Archbishop Barry asks that "we take seriously whatever options it recommends, and examine them in depth. The worst possible outcome would be to give general assent to the need for change and then vote for the status quo."

The full text of the Presidential Address can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/archbishop/b0020e.html



REPRESENTATIVE BODY REPORT

The Representative Body (RB) holds all property (church buildings, parsonages etc.) and investments vested in it in trust for the use and purposes of the Church in Wales. All such property is held in order to maximise the support which can be given to the mission of the Church in our parishes.

Investments

The Chairman of the Investments sub-committee, Mr **John**

Roberts, stated the objective in looking after investments: long-term income and capital growth with minimum risk.



The total return from the fund in 2005 was 19.2%, slightly underperforming compared with the benchmark return of 20.2%. This was because a defensive line has been taken on stocks such as oils and commodities. Now, the fund is back on top and doing better. Long-term the Fund has outperformed other funds quite substantially because of good stock selection and asset allocation.

The Fund was worth £414m in December 2005: £62m in property, £15m in cash, and £337m on the stock market. It is now higher at £426m., showing how well it is being looked after by its advisers. The income from the Fund for stipends and pensions in 2005 was £15.3m, an increase over the previous year

because of dividend growth. However there is still a deficit, but with parishes taking part of the burden, the deficit is decreasing.

Mr Roberts concluded: "It has been a pretty good year, and we now look forward to modest but good growth in future years."

Representative Body Structure

As a result of the Review, the RB has now been streamlined, with a membership of 25, reported Lord **David Rowe-Beddoe**, its chairman. He thanked all who had served the RB and its committees over the years, and welcomed new members.



The first two meetings had dealt with procedural matters and committee structures. The new RB is a third of its pre-2006 size, with all members involved in the work of all its committees.

From January 2007 there will be a new funding pattern for dioceses, through the block grant. A number of

items of expenditure will be transferred to the dioceses, with the dioceses able to set their own local priorities. To support the dioceses, the RB set a specific allocation for 2007 and 2008; it is now determining the grant for 2009-11, providing guaranteed funding for the dioceses and enabling each diocese to plan and budget.

Other recommendations from the RB review have now been implemented. The Human Resources Committee is looking at the clergy stipends augmentation levels and parochial fees. The Property Committee is looking at the use and sale of parsonages, and is meeting with government departments and funding bodies to find ways of helping parishes with maintaining their buildings and graveyards. "There is a need for the State to look after the heritage of our buildings," said Lord Rowe-Beddoe. A questionnaire is to be sent to parishes for factual information to help secure a fair deal with local authorities for the maintenance of grave yards.

RETIREMENTS

Dr **Enid Pierce-Roberts** has retired at the age of 90 as translator of Governing Body papers and documents.



The Venerable **Hywel Jones** has retired after 16 years as Archdeacon of Cardigan. He was also the chairman of the Provincial Readers' Committee, of the RB Churches sub-committee, of the Provincial Archdeacons' Group, and one of the chairmen of the GB.

Mr **Jim Alexis** has retired after 42 years working in the Church in Wales Offices, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, latterly as Office Administrator.

TRINITY COLLEGE, CARMARTHEN

Dr **Medwin Hughes**, Principal of Trinity College, Carmarthen, introduced the report of the only Church institute of higher education in Wales.



"This is a historic year for Trinity College for it has been accepted as a full member of the University of Wales," said Dr Hughes. The next two or three years will see a major period of change, as the National Theatre of Wales and the National Fitness Centre comes to Trinity. Issues such as bilingualism and social inclusion are taken seriously, as is Christian mission, crucial in future teachers. Major new courses are planned, linking with the mission of the Church.

The assets of the College are £14m. There are 1204 full-time undergraduate, 669 part-time



undergraduate, 150 full-time postgraduate, and 114 part-time postgraduate students.

The **Bishop of St Davids** said he is very encouraged by the growing partnership between St Michael's College, Llandaff, and Trinity College. Bishop Carl is also encouraged by the way Trinity College trains nurses, teachers, lawyers etc for bilingual and rural work. "These are exciting times for Trinity—it is a pleasure and a privilege to work for that College."



From the Returns sent in by parishes each year, comprehensive statistics are produced by the Information Office, summarised to give a snapshot of attendance and giving.

Introducing the Report, Mr **Nigel King** (Swansea & Brecon) started with the bad news:

"Average attendances have continued to fall for both Sunday and weekday services at a relatively small (3%) but steady rate. But once again the rate of decline among members under the age of 18 is considerably steeper."

"The decline in the number of baptisms and confirmations is of particular concern in the light of a similar decline in the number of young people coming to church generally."

However, Mr King pointed out, the decline of 3% in average attendance equates to the loss of 1000 worshippers each year. The decline averaged over 1000 parishes is one per parish. So it only needs one extra worshipper per parish to turn the figures around and halt the decline.

Once again the good news is in finance. Parishes have met the difficult challenge thrown at them. Over the last 10 years, parish income has increased by 63%; in 2005 70% of the Church in Wales income came from parishes. Direct giving increased in the last year by 8%. £2,375,000 was reclaimed via Gift Aid and GWADD (Give with a Direct Debit), tax reclaim schemes once again playing a key role in ensuring that parishes more than met their outgoing costs. However, Mr King emphasised, there is still room for increased giving—only 2.4% of people's gross income is given to the Church.

Bishop **David Yeoman** thanked Claire Ankin in the Church in Wales Offices for her considerable work in collating all the statistics and producing the report. He highlighted the significant increase in every category in finance against the backdrop of falling attendances—"less and less are giving more and more." He thanked those who are giving so generously.



Bishop David paid tribute to the work of Stewardship in dioceses, putting money in its biblical and theological framework. The Provincial Stewardship Group is looking at legacies in the context of stewardship of wealth.

More parishes are spending money on outreach, which speaks of the Church taking seriously the community in which it is set. "This is not only about money—25% of church goers are involved in their local community through community groups and councils. This aspect of mission is often overlooked."

While attendances do not present such a rosy picture, weddings, mid-week worship and communion before confirmation show an increase, providing the opportunity for the Church to turn around. "Outreach and new expressions of Church do not show immediately on balance sheets." Bishop David gave the example of the church on a desperately poor estate in Merthyr Tydfil, bringing hope to the marginalised, where it has rented two flats to provide a furniture depository and a drop in centre. Worship is in 'café-style'; priest and people are reaching out to the community. "This is not every church's story, but we must engage with God and with the community."

Speakers gave examples of positive work by the Church. Canon **Christopher Smith** (Llandaff) said "There is lots to celebrate—parishes are doing something to turn things around." Mr **Adrian Morgan** (co-opted under 30) called on the GB not to be disheartened by the statistics—"the Christian Faith is alive in Wales today". Miss **Carol Cobert** (Llandaff) asked parishes to lay foundations with young people through working in schools. Archbishop **Barry** said, "The seed is not falling on stony ground—we must think imaginatively and creatively how to scatter the seed."

Copies of the Membership and Financial Report will be sent to every parish; copies of the statistics can be obtained from Claire Ankin (029 2034 8200).

Revised Standing Orders for the Governing Body

New proposals to order the procedures of the Governing Body were commended; these revised Standing Orders modernise the language and group together Orders which deal with particular stages of business. The only substantive change is that the number of members who need to act together to seek an immediate vote is reduced from 30 to 20.

Deanery Conferences

One consequence of the amendments made in 2001 to Chapter V of the Constitution of the Church in Wales was that Deanery Conferences had no powers to seek contributions to their budgets from the PCCs of the parishes within the Deanery. A proposal was made to amend section 15 of that Chapter to allow a Deanery conference to manage *and raise* Deanery finances. This was accepted by the GB.

Anglican Consultative Council

The Governing Body was asked to approve changes in the constitution and procedures of the Anglican Consultative Council, *namely*

- to incorporate the Primates' Standing Committee as ex-officio members of the ACC;
- to incorporate all the Primates and Moderators of the Churches of the Provinces of the Anglican Communion as additional ex-officio members of the Council.

Protection of Vulnerable Adults

A small Working Group has been set up to develop guidelines for best practice concerning regulations for the protection of vulnerable adults. These will be considered in 2007.

Revision of the Constitution

The Review Group has met 18 times in the last year, primarily identifying those items which can be regarded as 'regulations' and therefore more easily changed.

Sunday Trading

The Standing Committee had sent a response to the Department for Trade and Industry opposing the possible further liberalisation of Sunday Trading hours. Was it because of this response that the DTI had subsequently decided to make no changes at present?

ELECTORAL COLLEGE REVIEW

The GB had before it a number of recommendations from the Bench of Bishops for procedures at the Electoral College to elect a bishop. These came as the result of extensive discussion with the electors of each diocese, and follow a similar review in 2001.

Introducing the recommendations, Archbishop Barry explained that underlying them was the desire to encourage the fullest possible level of participation by all electors during the meeting. There were three considerations:

1. The preparation for the meeting by groups of electors, and particularly by the diocesan electors for the vacant diocese. Dioceses now produce profiles, and discussions take place; it was felt that an external and objective facilitator should be appointed by the Archbishop to help electors determine the kind of person the diocese needs as bishop.
2. The provision of information on nominees to enable the Electoral College to make an informed decision. Discussion begins anew at the Electoral College; no nominations are made before, no shortlists, no hustings. To improve the quality of information provided on candidates, a pro-forma would be developed through which those proposing could provide the meeting with

Recommendations

- that the Archbishop appoint a facilitator for each election, whose role will be to assist the vacant diocese in its preparations. These preparations will include the production of a diocesan profile and convening the diocesan electors' group to consider the needs of the diocese and to talk about (and possibly meet with) potential candidates for nomination. The facilitator will have authority to begin his or her work during the period of notice of the retiring bishop.
- that the current system of nomination be retained.
- that a pro forma be developed through which members will be asked to bring to the meeting detailed information on those they intend to nominate.
- that the requirement that elections be held in the cathedral of the vacant see be amended to enable another 'appropriate place within the diocese' to be identified by the Archbishop as appropriate.

detailed information on those they intend to nominate.

3. The size of the College's membership, the location and the length of the meeting. The Bench suggested a reduction in size of the Electoral College and in the length of the meeting; these were rejected by the GB. However, the recommendation of the option of a venue other than the Cathedral which would provide 'prayerful conversation' was accepted.

QUESTION TIME



Q *The post of Provincial Children's Officer was discarded when the Provincial Council for Mission and Ministry (CMM) was broken up. In view of the vital importance of attracting as many young people to Church as possible, is it not perhaps the case that this particular decision was a cut too far, and should be reviewed?*

- Dr Peter Padley (Swansea & Brecon)

A We agree on the importance of the issue. It is a question of how best to deploy our resources to address it, whether at provincial or diocesan level. When the CMM was reviewed, for Parish Development, Children's work and Youth work it was felt that each of these areas is more suited to being a diocesan/parish responsibility.

- Archbishop Barry

Q *The Church Commissioners of the Church of England, in their 2005 Annual Report, give as their objective for the five years 2006-10 to make an asset return that exceeds 7.5%. In the light of this, is it time for the Representative Body of reconsider the projection of 5% used for the Representative Body Review?*

- Mr Nigel King (Swansea & Brecon)

A The Church Commissioners' stated objective is a short-term projection; for the purposes of assessing the long-term security of assets it is necessary to make much longer-term assumptions about potential annual returns. The RB planned on the basis of long-term actuarial forecasts, necessitating a more cautious set of assumptions. However, the new funding arrangements for dioceses are intended to be sufficiently flexible to enable adjustments to be made periodically as circumstances change. Consequently the level of the block grants can, over time, be adjusted to reflect actual returns.

- Lord Rowe-Beddoe

CHURCH IN WALES JUBILEE FUND

The Jubilee Fund was launched in April 2000 as a result of the challenge issued by the 1998 Lambeth Conference to all provinces of the Anglican Communion to commit themselves to funding international development programmes.

Since then, £194,309 has been given by the Fund to suitable projects overseas. These include: land rights and health care among



the Wichi people, Argentina; English teaching in China; assisting genocide widows and AIDS victims, Rwanda; water, education and health access, Burkina Faso; AIDS victims, Zimbabwe; rape



victims, Congo; tile making, Tanzania; training pastoral care teams, Lesotho; working for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Jerusalem; Rawdat el-Zuhur School, Jerusalem; and the mobile dental clinic, Gaza.

In presenting the Final Report, Bishop David Thomas, chair of the Steering Group, thanked the parishes and

individuals who have made this support possible; the amount given has exceeded the estimates by 39%.

The Church in Wales remains the only source of funding for the Gaza mobile dental clinic. The Jubilee Fund will change its name to the Gaza Dental Project, and it is hoped to raise £20,000p.a. for the next three years to continue supporting it.



DIOCESAN PRESENTATION: ST ASAPH



Get up—let's get going—that's the rallying call in St Asaph Diocese. Bishop John is calling the Diocese to move forward sacrificially in faith and courage.

The Diocese of St Asaph, covers a large area, and is situated in the north east corner of Wales, stretching as far as the borders of Chester in the east, to the Conwy Valley in the west. It is divided into the three archdeaconries of St Asaph, Wrexham and Montgomery, and further subdivided into eighteen deaneries and nearly two hundred parishes. The population is in excess of half a million people.



Out of Bishop John's Visitation, which was a process of prayer and discussion rather than an event, six priorities emerged for growth and development:

- Training—for all the baptised through life-long learning
- Vocations and discipleship—realising calling and gifts
- Building relationships—the ministry of presence within communities
- Young people
- Stewardship
- Collaborative ministry

The Revd **Brian Harvey**, Diocesan Secretary, outlined new patterns of ministry emerging in the diocese, including part-time evangelists, with training integrated with St Michael's College, Llandaff, but delivered locally. This year is a 'Year of Vocation', with strong signs of hope for candidates for the ordained ministry for the future. An Under 25s Officer has been appointed, developing initiatives such as Godly Play and Y services, but more importantly providing sustained support for parishes on the ground.

Six Diocesan Boards cover the work of Ministry, Renewal and Parish Development, Church and Society, Lifelong learning, Communications and Finance.

There has been a positive response to initiatives. 900 people attended



the first tranche of deanery training days, and 300 attended finance workshops.

Activ8 is a 'home-grown' project that has emerged from Bishop John's Visitation. It seeks to enable reflection on people's gifts and calling and to

join up activities for growth that are happening throughout the diocese. There are eight activities:

- Listening to God
- Getting involved
- Encouraging
- Sharing responsibility
- Offering gifts
- Reaching out
- Learning
- Celebrating.

Parishes and Deaneries are encouraged to have a critical friend to accompany in mission. Community development work continues among the marginalised in North Wales through TCC (Together Creating Communities).



Twelve men and women were ordained deacon this year in St Asaph, the most for many years. "I am delighted to ordain so many men and women at one time," said Bishop John. "I believe that this is a sign of the life that there is in our church today and gives us hope for the future."

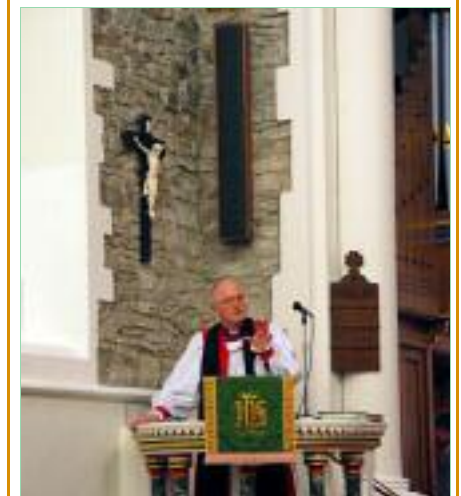
WORSHIP AT THE GB



It was the Diocese of Llandaff's turn to lead the worship at the GB.



The opening Prayers and Bible Reading were taken by the Revd **Jenny Wigley**, recently appointed secretary of the Provincial Selection Board, on the theme of 'Come and See'.



The preacher at Evensong at St Peter's Church was the Rt Revd **John Crook**, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness. His theme was 'commissioned for service'.

In presenting the report of St Michael's College, Llandaff, the Revd **Stephen Adams**, Dean of Ministry Development, outlined the work of the College in training people for ministry, and the vision held of theological learning in Wales.

St Michael's fourfold purpose is:

- training Welsh ordinands for full-time and part-time ministry;
- training Readers for ministry in Wales;
- developing in-service training for parish and chaplaincy clergy;
- theological reflection on the life of the Church and contemporary Welsh society.

It exists to serve the mission of the churches in Wales by offering high quality training in mission, leadership, practical theology, worship and liturgy. The training is delivered by a highly committed staff team, and through a university department with five star rating, with a large network of module tutors and placement clergy.

Training is done in community which has worship at its centre; it is a community which is committed to learning, which strives for generous, forgiving dealings amongst its members, and which seeks creative ways of working together. It welcomes and honours diversity, encourages members of differing traditions to learn from one another, and seeks to follow the Spirit in leading the Church in mission.

"We believe there is a real urgency and importance to this work because of the specific mission challenges the Church faces in the next decade and beyond."

Stephen outlined the challenge facing the Church in Wales. By 2013, taking into account retirements and the rate of ordinations, stipendiary clergy numbers will be close to 450, the number the RB sees as financially stable. However, by 2020 at the same rate of replacement, stipendiary clergy numbers will have dropped to between 345 and 375. To maintain numbers at 450, ordinations to stipendiary ministry need to grow from the present 6 to 8 a year to 18 to 20 a year from 2016 onwards. "We need men and women to respond to God's call and to lead the church in Wales in God's mission to the people of Wales." "In the challenging missionary context

of the next ten years and beyond, the churches in Wales will require ministers who are confident in faith, mature, creative, innovative, willing to take risks, inspired by the Gospel and committed to loving service after the example of Jesus."

St Michael's College is prepared for the challenge to train ministers well so that they can lead the Church, and promoting theological education for all disciples at all levels, helping all to respond to the gracious calling of our Lord.



Bishop Dominic

Proposing the Motion to receive the Report and to develop ministry, the **Bishop of Monmouth** said that while there are fewer stipendiary clergy, more people are exercising ministry than ever before. Some ministry requires task focussed local training, other requires residential, with time for study and placements.

The Revd Dr **Peter Sedgwick**, Principal of St Michael's, stressed that the best possible training is partnership, with the dioceses, other churches, and the University of Wales at Cardiff and Bangor. The **Bishop of Bangor** outlined the Bangor Ministry Course run jointly between the diocese and Bangor University, training Readers and Non-stipendiary ministers (NSMs).

Mr **William Legg-Bourke** (Swansea & Brecon) called for training for senior clerics; and Mr **James Bell** (co-opted under 30) asked for training for worship leaders. The Revd **Sue Brown** (Llandaff) asked about the future training plans for NSMs. The Revd **Mandy Williams-Potter** (St Davids) felt it would be helpful to see projections for NSM numbers, and called for partnership in the fostering of vocations in dioceses, looking at the age-profile of those considering ordination, the gender balance, and Welsh-speaking ordinands.

Speakers congratulated and complimented St Michael's College on its work; and the motion was passed *nem con*.

The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- encourage the Church in Wales to develop ministry as partnership as a response to the challenge of the Gospel;
- recognise the need for mission and leadership to be integral features of the training of those called to ordained and reader ministry within that partnership;
- receive the report of St Michael's College as a contribution to that training;
- welcome the integration of Reader, Non-Stipendiary and Stipendiary training at St Michael's College and at the Ministry Course at Bangor;
- call upon all training bodies and churches in Wales to develop a shared vision for the future of ministry in Wales.



The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- i. note the extent and nature of social and economic disadvantage across Wales and its implications for individuals, families, communities and organisations;
- ii. recognise the continuing achievements of Social Responsibility Work and Projects throughout the Province; and
- iii. commend the value of this ministry as a way of our parishes and deaneries responding to particular kinds of social disadvantage and need.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Diocesan Social Responsibility Officers (SROs) and Project Staff work with a wide range of organisations to contribute to the prevention of long-term social problems which have huge personal and financial cost in Welsh society. The **Bishop of Swansea & Brecon** introduced a presentation which demonstrated how the SROs and Project Staff are helping the Church respond to contemporary challenges and opportunities. But also, Bishop Anthony stressed, "Every parish church has a role to play and can contribute something out of its spirituality to local community needs. Any vision for the future of the church should include more local involvement of this kind. The renewal of the church is linked to the renewal of society."



Teenage pregnancy rates in the UK are higher than the European average with the highest rate being here in Wales. Research has shown that teenage parents are more likely to drop out of education, have problems finding employment and are, to some extent, socially excluded from society. The Church in Wales is responding and through its projects listens to young parents who experience first hand the impact parenthood has on their young lives. The projects offer support to increase self-esteem and raise aspirations without which these young people and their children will enter a cycle of deprivation.

Sue Giles (Swansea & Brecon) demonstrated the High/Scope approach to child development, one of the major tools for working with pre-school children by the Church in Wales. It helps prepare children to enter school 'primed to learn'. Each year the Bonymaen Family Centre, Swansea, trains around a dozen child and family workers from various unitary authorities to implement High/Scope within Diocesan Projects and elsewhere. Social Responsibility is addressing family support and other community needs "by applying our distinctive Christian ethos to partnership working", said Canon **Roger Hughes** (St Davids). "Through our ministry in family centres throughout the province, which is based on a clear sense of value, each soul being of value before God, each child precious before God and working holistically with all ages, we

are contributing to the growth of persons. Through our ethical action as a Church we can and do make a difference to individual life and collective community living in parishes, setting examples capable of replication, that can and should be followed."

The Church's Family Centres make a difference, providing a non-threatening, non-stigmatising and loving environment. They respond to the specific needs of the communities. They provide effective intervention, which results in long-term prevention of major social and community problems.

Projects working with young people aged between 11 and 16 provide a range of activities to stimulate interests, offer new opportunities, and give focus to lives. "The local reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour is just one positive by-product of the projects," said the **Revd Mark Lawson-Jones** (Monmouth). "In rural areas we provide activities in areas where there has previously been no service for young people. In some areas, on the spot facilities have helped demonstrate the need for permanent facilities, which are now being developed." Examples demonstrated are the network of Digilabs, opening up the world of information and communications technology in a creative and productive way, and art collectives, enabling young people to have a say in what their community looks like.

"The Church in Wales is taking seriously its responsibility to care for

people in this most vulnerable age group, whether they are in urban or rural areas. We are helping young people grow up into the people God intends them to be."

There are projects which address the social problems among 16 to 25 year olds, particularly alcohol and drug abuse, homelessness and single mothers. "It isn't always possible to change lives – but we are certainly trying hard, and in many cases succeeding," said Canon **Madalaine Brady** (Bangor). Work with the 25 plus age group includes social housing, community use of church buildings, parenting courses, carers groups and work with grandparents.

In conclusion, Bishop Anthony said, "You've heard about some significant achievements, but we dare not be complacent. We will have to adjust to new ways of working, as well as new funding opportunities, both strategically and operationally. We have set up 'Responsibility Wales' to help us at a national level across Wales. The success of these projects needs your support and prayers." The Wales Assembly Government is beginning to recognise the extent of our particular contribution, as do many partners in the statutory and voluntary sector. "We believe our church is called to be part of God's work in all sectors and communities, advocating supporting and incarnating God's justice and love in tangible and practical ways."

The GB warmly received this Good News about the work of the Church.

RURAL LIFE

The rural areas within Wales have faced some serious challenges over many years, and in the Wales Assembly Government there is recognition that there will be major changes in many aspects of rural life. The Church in Wales is totally involved in the process of helping and supporting people who live and work in rural areas through the difficult challenges which lie ahead.



The Venerable **Randolph Thomas** (Swansea & Brecon) introduced a presentation by the Diocesan Rural Life Advisors which indicated the role of the Church in the sustainable development of rural areas.

The Revd **Eileen Davies** (St Davids) indicated the pressures farmers have to bear—low income, increasing costs, long working hours, bureaucracy, rules and regulations. “Farmers are up to ten times more likely to die from suicide than from an accident on the farm. Suicide statistics represent one of the few measurable parameters of stress, and for every recorded suicide in a geographical area, there may be 500 other people suffering from stress. Recognising the symptoms and signs are difficult as no one wants to admit defeat.” Working with other organisations, the Rural Life Advisors can “walk alongside farmers”, being a listening ear. “To be able to minister effectively among those we are called to serve, we must have an understanding of the pressures our farmers have to bear.”

Eileen urged people to buy locally produced food. “As Christians we have a moral duty to seek and support FairTrade, a fair price for home grown produce as well as supporting our brothers and sisters in the developing countries.”

The Revd **Ian Charlesworth** (Swansea & Brecon) acknowledged the involvement of church people in the wide range of community groups, including the local school, village hall, drama groups, youth groups etc. The groups do not exist

in isolation but are supported by larger networks and partnerships. “The role of the Church in rural communities has always been valued and the challenge for the future is to respond in new ways to new partnerships, networks and organisations. The Church is frequently sought out as a partner by a broad spectrum of bodies across a wide range of issues. Organisations sense that we have something to offer at our best and certainly have a presence alongside people in communities across Wales. There are new opportunities for developing our involvement and contributing to the wellbeing and health of local communities by working more closely with other organisations and partners.”

Each local authority is forming a community strategy that allows the development of citizen centred decision-making—the Church must get involved in this process.

“The situation concerning housing in Wales is serious,” said the Revd **Ariadne van den Hof** (Bangor) Wales has the oldest housing stock in Western Europe, with a large proportion of homes in poor condition. 4% fewer houses are being built annually than are needed to meet the projected rise in the number of families. More than 200,000 people in Wales are living in sub-standard houses. “The effects on their health and their opportunities in life are enormous.”

The tremendous increase in house prices, and the fact that the average house costs more than five times the average wage means that the

The Motion

That the Governing Body recognise:

- i. the changing social and economic context of rurality in Wales and its implications for individuals, families, businesses, communities and organisations across Wales;
- ii. the continuing achievements of effective ministry in rural areas and the need for this to be developed by appropriate training and support.

majority of houses are too expensive for the majority of people. In rural areas it is very difficult for local people to gain access to the housing market. “Policies that keep people in poor houses, or prevent people from getting a safe, warm and comfortable home, will have to change. Low wages, a shortage of jobs and the number of second homes and holiday homes are part of the problem. The average wage needs to rise to enable more people to buy a home. There is a need to address poverty, and what it is that keeps people in poverty. There is a need for more jobs, and for better access to jobs.”

“We, as a church, as Christians, can help by challenging the policies, by getting in touch with the housing societies, by demanding more affordable local housing, by trying to change people’s attitudes to house-selling, by challenging them not to sell for the highest price to non-locals.”

The Church in Wales is actively involved in many areas which affect our rural communities. “But we cannot just sit back and rest on our laurels,” said Archdeacon Randolph. “That is why as a Church we have to seriously consider if we can do more and play a bigger part in the life of our communities.”

The Church and Society Officer, the Revd. Robin Morrison, and Archdeacon Randolph have been in discussions with senior civil servants. This will continue with the meetings of Heads of Departments in the next few months, which also involve the Rural Life Officers.

The presentation conveyed to GB members the importance of investing our resources as a church in rural areas, and how all can make a contribution to that ministry.

Environmental Stress

The Governing Body formally endorsed its concerns for environmental issues when it noted in 2004 the report of the Church Action on Sustaining the Environment Group *Treading on Holy Ground*. What is the perception of the Church in Wales on the environment? Do we really see ourselves as being responsible for its good stewardship? Should we not strive to be at the leading edge of environmental matters by being pro-active in our external concerns?

These were the questions behind the Private Members' Motion proposed by Dr **Peter Padley** and seconded by Dr **Graham Humphrys** (Swansea & Brecon).

Dr Padley saw the motion as indicating that the Church in Wales is moving with the times with the national debate on environmental issues. There has been a remarkable interest in these issues in recent

years; however the UK Government's pro-activeness in recent years has been lamentable. While in the 1970s the question of oil led to serious discussions on how we could manage energy, once natural gas was brought on line, the Government went back to sleep.

The energy consumption in any country arises from a combination of three factors—the average income of each person, the number of people, and a consideration of environmental damage. Technical improvement, social behaviour, and legislative means can reduce consumption and damage.

The motion as put recognises that in a world that increasing numbers of people are recognising is one of finite resources and which has an environment under ever greater stress, it is quite clear that we can no longer avoid looking at questions that revolve around the contributions that sheer population numbers might make or are already making to our global and national problems.

The Church, Dr Padley said, should strive to be at the leading edge of environmental concern. "We must make a pro-active contribution to the environmental debate."

Dr Humphrys, in seconding, stressed that our faith determines our environmental response. We are stewards of God's creation. As



Christians we must accept our moral responsibility for our own well-being and that of our neighbour, and also of those following us. We must act out this responsibility ourselves and encourage others to do the same.

Mr **Geraint Hopkins** (Llandaff), chairman of the Wales Environment Link, the umbrella body bringing together voluntary environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations with an all-Wales remit, proposed an amendment to the motion, calling on the Wales Assembly Government for action. The Revd **Nigel Cahill** (Llandaff) felt the original motion was too woolly, the amendment specific. Dr Padley argued that the Wales Assembly Government was irrelevant to the motion as put, for that would go to the United Kingdom political and spiritual leaders. It was non-specific, but concerned about consumption and population levels. However, the amendment when put was carried by a substantial majority; and the motion when put similarly was carried by a substantial majority.

Widows and Orphans Society

The Venerable **Bill Thomas** (Llandaff) in proposing acceptance of the Annual Report of WODS, thanked Louise Davies, the treasurer and secretary of the Provincial Committee, and also the diocesan committees for their work for the Society.

The Motion as put

That the Governing Body, because of its belief that humankind has been given by God special responsibility for good stewardship over the Earth, support measures designed to produce efficient, equitable and sustainable use of the planet's resources, and identifying two potentially unsustainable environmental stresses:

- a. consumption levels;
- b. population numbers;
- i. urge that United Kingdom political and spiritual leaders acknowledge both these problems, and;
- ii. ask that they ensure that both problems appear on every major agenda involving environmental issues relevant to the United Kingdom and the world.

The Motion as amended

That the Governing Body, because of its belief that humankind has been given by God special responsibility for good stewardship over the Earth:

- i. support measures designed to produce efficient, equitable and sustainable use of the planet's resources;
- ii. welcome the Wales Assembly Government's publication of a new environmental strategy for Wales;
- iii. urge the Wales Assembly Government to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to implement the Environmental Strategy Action Plan;
- iv. urge the Wales Assembly Government to continue to promote and integrate sustainable development in all the strategies and initiatives;
- v. urge the United Kingdom Government to take further measures to reduce the CO₂ emissions of the United Kingdom.

Collection

The collection of £1365 (before Gift Aid) at the GB Eucharists, is to be given to the International Anglican Families Network.

The Network draws on the resources of the worldwide Anglican Communion and sets issues affecting families in an international context. Its Newsletter publishes articles from all over the Communion, and provides an educational resource for both the developed and the developing world.

Trident nuclear weapons programme

Mr **Bernard Honeysett** (Llandaff)

proposed the motion as part of the public debate on the issue of

maintenance and renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons programme demanded by the House of Commons Defence Committee. He was prompted by a letter in the national press from several Anglican Bishops, which made his mind up to "do something".

There are three main objections to the use of nuclear weapons. These are practical, moral and economic.

Practical—because a deterrent is only effective if a potential enemy knows for certain it will be used. The use of nuclear weapons would result in the mass murder of thousands, if not tens of tens of thousands of innocent civilians. The resultant fall-out from a tactical or battlefield weapon could not be confined to a particular area.

Moral—because it is morally corrupting to threaten the use of weapons of mass destruction even when there is no real intention of using them.

Economic—because the use of limited resources of weapons of mass destruction diverts those resources from education, health and aid to those who are the poorest and most in need.

"Humanity has the power to make or mar this planet. Current concern over global warming and the environment, as well as poverty and debt among the world's most vulnerable people, demonstrates the need to re-engage with the task of caring for the world and its people. Human dignity and freedom are foundation values for all people. Humanity has a right to live in dignity and freedom without fear. Trident and other nuclear arsenals threaten long-term and fatal damage to the global environment and its peoples. As such their end is evil and both possession and use profoundly anti-God acts."

On the World Day of Peace, Mr Honeysett urged the Governing Body to support this private



members' motion.

In seconding, Miss **Sylvia Scarf** (Llandaff), asked "How can we go to the United Nations Security Council asking for sanctions against Iran for uranium enrichment when we are not prepared to run down our own nuclear weapons programme?"

Dr **Peter Padley** (Swansea & Brecon) said that we in this country UK can be justifiably proud of our record of contribution towards peace, but "we can't go round punching above our weight." We are part of Europe, therefore we don't need weapons anymore than Germany, for example.



Mr **Roger Waterfield** (St Asaph) saw those defending Trident as living in the past. Trident does not belong to the world we live in now; the nuclear bomb is not a deterrent against those bent on suicide. Every bomb manufactured is a theft from those not fed.

The Revd **Caroline Downs** (co-opted) deplored the government's position on Trident. "Remember Jesus' parting words, 'Peace is my parting gift'. The Christian manifesto of 'love God first, love your neighbour as yourself' is the underlying principle here. Working for peace is an essential part of Christian stewardship, campaign for non-violence is part of it. Weapons of mass destruction may have kept peace, but that doesn't make them right."

The Very Revd **Chris Potter** (St Asaph) said that while he is a strong advocate of non-violence, were he an ill-equipped soldier carrying out policing and peace-keeping duties in Iraq and Afghanistan, with boots which barely lasted days in desert conditions and forced to drive around in poorly armoured land-rovers, he would also feel aggrieved

That the Governing Body deplore the decision of Her Majesty's Government to consider the maintenance and renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons programme.

at the prospect of spending £25bn on replacing Trident.

Mr **Gilderooy Glossop** (Bangor) said that the use of nuclear weapons was not always a bad thing, for example Hiroshima. It was reasonable for the government to consider their use, so therefore he would abstain. The Revd Dr **William Strange** (St Davids) saw Trident as a UK defensive deterrent, a shield not a sword. It was not a threat to another country, but a last defence against attack. If Trident is obsolete, why are so many governments having it?

The motion was passed overwhelmingly, though with 41 abstentions and 2 voting against.

The way we think of GB

The Revd **Peter Brooks** and Mr **Nigel King** (Swansea & Brecon) proposed a motion requesting the Standing Committee to look at new and innovative ways in which the membership of the Governing Body be informed and discuss current issues facing the Church to enable them to encourage their parishes and deaneries in the development of Ministry and Mission.

They suggested speakers, followed by discussion through forums, to make communication two way. "What is the best use of the time available for the good of the Church?" "How can we get more people to share in the debates?" "How can the GB be enhanced, made better in the future?"

Mr **Geraint Hopkins** (co-opted under 30s) found the continual self-examination depressing. "We are here to do a duty, so there is bound to be administration and policy-making. We are here to govern, not to be a provincial conference." Speakers felt that this GB had been one of the best, with important outward-looking motions and good debate.

The GB saw the way it presently conducts its business as the best for its purpose, and when the motion was put, it was defeated overwhelmingly.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Revd **Joanna Penberthy** (St Davids) and Canon **Mary Stallard** (St Asaph) had the life-changing experience of going to the United Nations in New York for the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in March 2006. They were funded by a group from the Episcopal Church in America, and along with representatives from all the other Provinces of the Anglican Church became a significant voice among the myriad organisations that attended, contributed and lobbied at this UN session.

UNCSW was set up for two reasons: firstly because the participation of women has been found to be key to development; and secondly women are disproportionately represented amongst the poorest and most marginalised.

UNCSW collects data, engages governments in setting targets and monitoring developments, and encourages

accountability in areas such as health, education, economic development and political inclusion.

This year at the UNCSW there were 62 Anglican women representing all the Provinces of the Anglican Communion. Canon Stallard said, "We brought a wealth of experience to the UN and we made an impact."

"It was a precious gift to meet as women of Anglican Communion. We were a vibrant group, a mixture of ages and backgrounds lay and ordained. We had a glimpse of what is possible. We found renewed hope for our communion amongst this group of women. We talked about controversial issues but with a profound level of respect and a ready willingness to hear one another. We decided that the things that bind us together as Anglicans are far greater than those that divide."

"We need to consider how far we are a Church that promotes the equal participation of men and women in our own decision making structures. The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) through Resolution 13.31 has agreed to listen more to the voice of women by encouraging women's participation in their structures and in bodies to which they nominate or appoint."

"This is what Jo and I ask of the



Jo Penberthy and Mary Stallard at UNCSW

Church in Wales today—that we join in the voices of those who show a commitment to the inclusion of women."

"There are many women who are active and faithful in our churches, but we are poorly represented amongst our decision makers. We see this acutely at our formal meetings eg. the RB, our Diocesan Boards of Finance, even many PCC's and their sub-committees. This is motion is about asking men and women in all of our parishes in Wales to look at their decision making structures and to invite men to show grace in taking only half the seats at decision making tables and to encourage women to have courage to take the other half."

"The visit encouraged us to be hopeful that our Church might become a place where women and men flourish and all are empowered to discover their gifts."

Mrs **Rosamund Crawford** (St Asaph) supported the motion, recognising that in many countries women are not given voice. "We cannot help unless we first set an example." She was supported by Mrs **Wendy Williams** (co-opted) who felt Wales should set an example—"there is no excuse for the way women are sometimes treated." The Revd **Sue Brown** (Llandaff) said women need support and

The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- i. take note of the Report of the Provincial Delegates to the 50th UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW);
- ii. acknowledge the Millennium Development Goal of equal representation of women in decision making at all levels and the commitment of the ACC in Resolution 13.31 to strive towards this in all Anglican Provinces;
- iii. request:
 - a. that our Province gives consideration to this at every level of our work and in our structures;
 - b. that a group is commissioned to identify ways in which this can be taken forward; and,
 - c. that a report from Wales, detailing our progress, should be sent to ACC 14 (in 2008);
- iv. thank ECUSA for funding our participants at the 50th Session of UNCSW, and ask the Bench of Bishops to consider funding a delegate for the 51st Session in 2007 in solidarity with all women of the Anglican Communion.

encouragement in our own communities and families. The very least we can do is give the consideration and acknowledgement the motion asks."

Canon **Peter Russell-Jones** (Bangor) sounded a cautionary note. "Men are under-represented in our congregations; we mustn't do anything that makes men think the Church is not for them. The proportion of women has increased in decision-making bodies over the years; let this take its natural course without artificial intervention."

The motion was carried by a large majority.

The Governing Body next meets at the University of Wales, Swansea on 11 and 12 April 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

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