



The Future of the Anglican Communion

Archbishop warns proposed Anglican Covenant will lead to exclusion

An attempt to unite Anglicans is in danger of becoming a contract designed to cut off those who don't conform, warned Archbishop Barry as he introduced a debate on the future of the Anglican Communion. "Things have got bitter in the Communion. Primates (archbishops) have briefed against one another; primates have refused to receive communion from one another or indeed from the same communion table; primates have intervened in one another's provinces and at least three primates have appointed bishops in provinces, other than their own, to offer pastoral care to those who feel dissatisfied with their own bishops or primates."

Disregard



Gene Robinson's consecration

The impasse within the Anglican Church has arisen out of the consecration in 2004 of Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire, USA, a divorced man living with his male partner, and the blessing of some same sex unions in

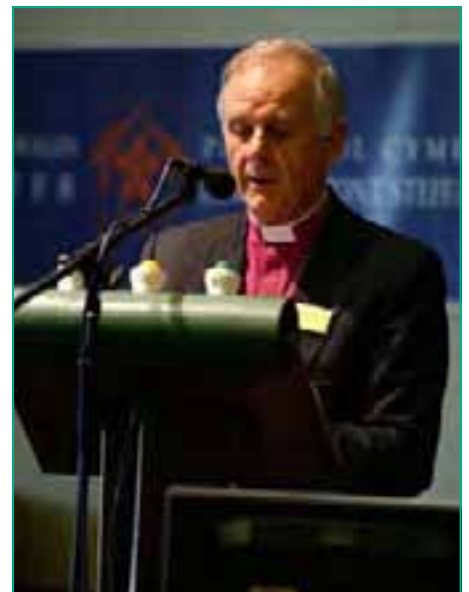
the Diocese of New Westminster, Canada. Archbishop Barry said that these actions were seen as being contrary to scripture and a total disregard of a scriptural prohibition on homosexuality, as well as the Lambeth resolution of 1998 rejecting "homosexual practice as incompatible with scripture" and "not advising the legitimising or the blessing of same sex unions nor ordaining those involved in same gender unions". So the 'mind of the Communion' was being disregarded as well as the strictures of scripture. Scripture, tradition and the voice of the wider church were seen as being ignored.

Differences of view

As a result of the actions in the provinces of North America, there is now an impasse between various groups in the Communion on the question of sexuality, the interpretation of scripture and the role of Lambeth Conference resolutions, said Archbishop Barry. It is not just a simple struggle of the 'liberal' West versus the global South; "in fact there are differences of view within provinces, dioceses and parishes and different groups have allied themselves with those of like minds across the world."

Forgiveness

While the General Convention of the Episcopal Church of America has expressed its regret "for straining the bonds of affection", has apologised to those in the Communion offended by its failure to accord sufficient importance to the impact of its actions on other parts of the Communion, and has asked for forgiveness, the Anglican primates have felt there is a lack of clarity about the stance of the Episcopal Church on the authorisation of same sex blessings, and a mismatch



between the statements at General Convention and what was happening in dioceses.

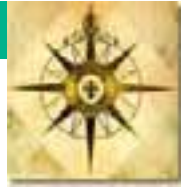
Covenant

As a result of this impasse, the Windsor Report of 2004 advocated the establishment of a Covenant for the Communion in order to re-establish the interdependent life of that Communion and to ensure that each province might realise that any action it might take might impinge on the life of the wider church.

Archbishop Barry spoke about his personal position in regard to the proposed Covenant. While he supports the principle of an Anglican Covenant, he could not endorse the draft version proposed.



The Governing Body met at the University of Wales, Lampeter, on 18th and 19th September 2007



Contract

“The original intention of a Covenant to affirm the bonds of affection was good. The indications now are that many see it as a contract, a means of ensuring a uniform view on human sexuality enforceable by the threat of exclusion from the Communion if one does not conform. I certainly do not want to sign up to that kind of Covenant.”

Devalues

Archbishop Barry criticised the draft Covenant for seeming to put sexual morality interpreted in one particular way at the heart of what might cause exclusion from the Communion.

It would seem that “the Lambeth quadrilateral of scripture, creeds, sacraments and historic episcopate are no longer sufficient credentials for being an Anglican. A particular view of human sexuality is also required. That devalues scripture by restricting its moral values simply to what it might be saying about sexual relationships and turns the Bible into a kind of rule book where texts can be wrestled out of context.”

Constitutional

Archbishop Barry warned that the draft Covenant would interfere with the autonomy of the Anglican provinces, such as the Church in Wales.

“There will be obvious constitutional implications for us as a Church because we may be asked to subject decisions to primates and this will alter the nature of the Church in Wales and its provincial autonomy. Our Constitution allows the Governing Body the authority to change our doctrine. If we pass a doctrine which the primates think breaches the Covenant, we may face censure.”

Boycott

Archbishop Barry also criticised Anglican primates threatening to boycott the Lambeth Conference next year. “They are not willing to come to talk and deliberate with those who differ from them. That seems to me to deny the very nature of Anglicanism. The way some of the primates have behaved does not give me great hope of entrusting the interpretation and the implementation of the terms of the Covenant to them.”

Innovation

He warned that the draft Covenant

might prevent theological change and innovation in the Anglican church.

“The history of both Christianity and Anglicanism shows that what tends to happen is, that one part of the church innovates and the rest of the church eventually catches up. It happened in Anglicanism over the ordination of women. Some provinces did it and whilst keeping in dialogue and in communion with other provinces, nevertheless did not seek permission from them.”

Response

The Church of England has said it is willing to “engage positively” with the recommendations “for a process designed to produce a Covenant”. But Archbishop Barry fears a similar response from the Church in Wales will be seen as an acceptance not just of the concept of the Covenant, but also the draft version. He asked the Governing Body just to *note* the process taking place to produce a Covenant and invite the Welsh bishops to finalise a response.

The full text of the Archbishop Barry's speech can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/bishops/sermons/b25.html

The Motion was seconded by Miss **Sylvia Scarf** (Llandaff), who, as a member of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) for a number of years, feels strongly about the Anglican Communion. “The Church in Wales would be a lot poorer without our partner provinces—but that does not entail us or them in giving up our autonomy as a province.”



Sylvia Scarf

“The sad thing is that people who have participated together in Bible Study, in discussion, and in worshipping together on many and varied occasions suddenly cannot even be together in the same room.”

Miss Scarf had expressed her fears at ACC-13 about the Primates taking

The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- (a) note the process taking place designed to produce a covenant for the Anglican Communion and that such a process will only be concluded when any definitive text has been duly considered through the synodical processes of the provinces of the Communion; and
- (b) invite the Bench of Bishops to finalise a response to the draft from the Covenant Design Group for submission to the Anglican Communion Office by the end of the year.

over, and these fears are more solid now. “I am in entire agreement with the Archbishop about our being very cautious on how we move forward in this process of hopefully finding ways in which we can live with our differences. We may find we are overtaken by groups who have made it clear that listening is not part of the deal, and that continued intervention in other provinces will escalate as time goes on.”

Canon **Peter Russell Jones** (Bangor) wished the motion was more enthusiastic, and that the Church in Wales was more positive towards the Covenant. He could not accept that provincial autonomy was the unequivocal good professed by the Archbishop. “It has been forgotten that when the United States Church did what it did, there were repercussions in other parts of the world—others suffered.” “Anglican provinces must be responsible for one another—the Covenant is an attempt to ensure that they are.” Canon Jones felt that while the Covenant speaks about biblical values, and the Church in Wales Catechism says Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Bible is now being used as a resource being dipped into according to taste. The Revd. **Robert Capper** (Llandaff) saw the Church in the West as departing from Scriptural norm; he expected the Archbishop and the Bench of Bishops to be defenders of biblical principles. He wanted the GB to welcome the Covenant, not simply note it.

The Revd. Dr. **Jason Bray** (Monmouth) was worried about biblically derived morality. We do not know always what the Bible means.

When the motion was put to note the process in producing a Covenant, there were no votes against and three abstentions.



REPRESENTATIVE BODY REPORT

A new format has been adopted for the printed form of the Annual Report, in part to ensure compliance with charity accounting regulations, but also to give greater clarity and provide for Church members a clear link between the work of the Representative Body (RB) and the work of the Church at a local level. Copies will be available in parishes, and from the Church in Wales Office.

Introducing the Report, the Chairman of the Representative Body, Lord **David Rowe-Beddoe**, said that as a result of the measures put in place by the RB Review, the Church in Wales is now emerging from a seven-year deficit. Eliminating the annual deficit means that the Church is now on a firm financial basis. The RB can consider what levels of expenditure can be made.



Lord Rowe-Beddoe

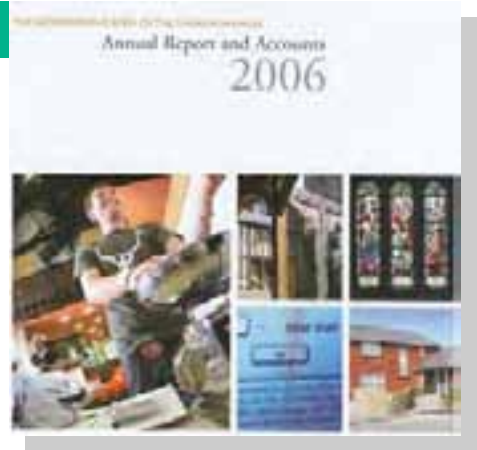
The RB's long-term commitment is to ensure the security of the RB's assets and the funding of the Clergy Pension Scheme. A new formula for funding the Block Grant to dioceses to 2011 has been determined; the approach is to ensure that any surplus in RB funds is used to support the work of the Church in Wales without compromising the Pension Fund.

Clergy stipends will be increased by 4.9% with effect from 1st January 2008. The RB has reduced the rates of interest on housing loans for retired clergy to half the base rate. This makes the scheme more attractive.

The principal role of the Representative Body is to hold and manage the assets of the Church in Wales to provide support for the work of the Church as carried out through its Archbishop, Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

Mr **John Roberts**, chairman of the Investment Committee, gave an analysis on how the RB has performed in terms of its investment policy, which is to optimise total returns without taking undue risk. In 2006, the RB's General Fund outperformed the WM Charity Index of 13.4% by 0.3%, indicating a strong return from investments, and ahead of inflation. In the ten-year period, it outperformed the index of 8.1% by 0.9%. At the end of December 2006, the Fund stood at £465m, and at the end of June 2007 at £485m. £16.5m was earned in dividends in 2006; the estimate for 2007 is £17m. Investment in property has shown a 12% per annum return over the last ten years; however it is unlikely that over the next few years there will be the same return. 10-12% of the Fund is in property.

The outcome for the future is modest growth. The income the large well-funded stocks provide should hold up. "The Fund is in good shape," said Mr Roberts, "and we can look to the future with considerable confidence."



The Motions

That the Report of the Representative Body be approved.

That Chapter X of the Constitution be amended to provide for net rental income from parsonages in a diocese to be credited to the Diocesan Parsonage Board Account of that Diocese.

Parsonage Board Funds

The RB has considered the use of diocesan Parsonage Board Funds, and the long-term use of potentially 'surplus' parsonages. Dioceses are being asked to estimate the likely number of parsonages required over the next 10 years; and the RB's Property and Legal departments are considering House for Duty arrangements.



Each Diocese has a Parsonage Improvement Fund, held by the RB to fund capital investment in the clergy housing stock for improvement work to existing parsonages, or to build new parsonages; and a Parsonage Board Account for general maintenance. At the present, rental income from parsonages not occupied by clerics goes into the Improvement Fund. The motion agreed by the GB now allows that rental income to be used for maintenance, which would help free up other diocesan resources for mission and ministry. The RB has agreed in principle that interest from a Diocesan Parsonage Improvement Fund be credited to the Parsonage Board Account.



The GB stood in memory of Alwyn Rice Jones (left), who died on 12th August 2007. He had been Bishop of St Asaph from 1982-1999 and Archbishop of Wales from 1991-1999.

This was the last GB for Anthony Pearce (right), Bishop of Swansea and Brecon for the last 8 years, retiring next January. Archbishop Barry paid tribute to "a devoted servant of the Church in Wales."



RE-ORDERING THE CONSTITUTION

Members of the Governing Body had received a ring-binder containing a new model draft Constitution for the Church in Wales, produced by a Working Group. This was the result of the widespread feeling that the Constitution of the Church in Wales was ready for a general overhaul. The original Constitution, drawn up at the time of Disestablishment in 1920, has been so heavily amended piecemeal over the years that a number of inconsistencies have crept in. The Group has not re-drafted the Constitution, but it has formulated a procedure for the making and amendment of Regulations, re-ordered existing provisions into a more logical sequence, and eliminated inconsistencies where they have been identified.

Mr **Nigel Williams** (co-opted), in proposing the motion, presented the work of three years, with over fifty meetings, of the Working Group, which had set out to make the Constitution easier to understand. The chapters have been put into what is hoped is a more logical order:

Chapter 1: *General; Definitions; Interpretations*. This sets out the basis of the Constitution.

Chapter 2: *Governing Body Regulations*. This is how the Constitution is administered by the GB.

Chapter 3: *The Representative Body*.

Chapter 4: *The Diocese*
A: *The Diocesan Conference*
B: *The Deanery Conference*
C: *Parochial Administration*
D: *Territorial Arrangements*. These deal with administrative matters.

Chapter 5: *The Archbishop and the*

The Motion

That the Governing Body welcome the Report from the Constitution Working Group and accept:

1. The principle of the division of most Chapters into principal text and regulations and the general format of the model draft, in particular:
 - (a) the inclusion of the regulations immediately after the text of each chapter and
 - (b) the difference in numbering between the provisions of the principal text and those of the regulations.
2. The procedure for making and amending Regulations.
3. The grouping of subject matter.
4. The proposal that the Bill producing the amended Constitution should contain proposals limiting the requirement for bill procedure in the future.

Diocesan Bishops

Chapter 6: *Appointments and Nominations*

Chapter 7: *Parsonages*

Chapter 8: *Retirement*

Chapter 9: *The Tribunal and Courts of the Church in Wales*.

Everything to do with procedure is grouped into 'Regulations' after each chapter, with a different numbering to make the distinction from the Constitution. It is proposed that regulations may be made or amended by the Standing Committee; in some cases the Standing Committee will make the judgement that the regulation be brought to the GB.

In due course the whole of the amendment of the Constitution will be brought to the GB through a Bill, with matters of detail and principle being dealt with by Select Committee.

The motion, when put, was passed *nem.con*.

STANDING COMMITTEE

His Honour Judge Philip Price QC presented the report of the Standing Committee:



- The Archbishop's See Working Group reported to the Standing Committee. The Bench of Bishops had welcomed many aspects of the Report, and particularly the conclusion that the peripatetic model no longer meets contemporary demands. Further work is needed on theological issues.
- The Clergy Terms of Service Working Group will bring a final package of measures to the GB in 2008.
- GB agreed to amend Chapter VII of the Constitution to enable the process to fill a vacant cure to be initiated by a bishop either when the cleric actually leaves office, or on the bishop receiving a notice of resignation.

WODS

The Annual Report of the Widows, Orphans and Dependents Society of the Church in Wales



was presented by the Venerable **Robert Williams** (Swansea and Brecon). £88,557 had been distributed in grants during 2006; the recipients had been very grateful as in many cases the grant had made a significant difference to their finances. Archdeacon Robert thanked the Diocesan WODS committees for their pastoral work. Visits to widows were much appreciated, especially by those living alone. "The important work of WODS helps us remember what it means to be a Christian family. Through its continuing work, WODS supports those who have given their life to the service of the Church."



IT at the GB:

David Abbott, Church in Wales ICT Analyst/Programmer, and Matt Knight, Church in Wales Creative Resources Advisor and Webmaster, present the on-screen displays and record the debates at the GB.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND



GB members had before them a booklet containing Orders for the Celebration of the Holy

Eucharist and the Administration of the Reserved Sacrament for use with the sick and housebound, forms of Confession and Absolution, the Laying on of hands and the anointing of the sick, prayers as death approaches, and collects and readings for use with the sick and housebound. "Holy Communion and the Anointing of the Sick are vital forms of grace that the Lord has given us," said the Provincial Assistant Bishop, **David Thomas**, in presenting these experimental Orders.

In revising the 1984 provision, the Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission has tried to make the lay-out clearer, and to have everything



together for use in what sometimes can be fraught situations, explained Bishop David. Various passages in the Orders are indicated by a line to show what is absolutely essential.

Collects for the great festivals and a much wider selection of Biblical readings than in the previous book are included. The Prayers as Death Approaches have taken into

Motion

That pursuant to Section 1 of the Canon for experimental use of proposed revisions of the Book of Common Prayer provisionally approved by the Bench of Bishops promulgated on 29 September 1955, the Governing Body hereby assent to the experimental use for a period not exceeding ten years of the form of Order for the Ministry to the Sick and Housebound dated July 2007.

account the family and friends gathered at the bedside. What is needed for Healing Services is indicated; forms of Healing Services will be published and authorised separately.

Bishop **Dominic** (Monmouth) said that the Church, while being faithful to Jesus' command 'Preach the Gospel' has done very little of another command 'Heal the sick'. He hopes that these rites will encourage healing ministry throughout the Church. In the past the healing ministry has been seen as the preserve of the clergy; now it is a normal part of the ministry of all God's people in the parish. Bishop Dominic hoped that this book would be used for that whole ministry.

The Revd **John Leach** (Monmouth) praised this excellent provision and hoped it would increase the prevalence of the ministry of healing. Dr **Jill Evans** (Llandaff) stressed that the last sense to go before people die is hearing, and prayers should reflect this.

The motion, when put, was passed *nem.con*.

QUESTION TIME



Q Could those who are just beginning a period of service with GB be welcomed individually at the beginning of the meeting; and also, at the same time those representatives who have come to the end of their period of service be thanked individually?

- Dr Peter Padley (Swansea & Brecon)

A We welcome new members to the Governing Body through the President's reception on the first evening of the April meeting, and we do thank those who have played a prominent role on the Governing Body or the Church as a whole at their last Governing Body meeting. To welcome and thank people on the basis Dr Padley is suggesting would take up too great a length of time.

- Archbishop Barry

Q Does the Governing Body of the Church in Wales have the authority to delete from, add to, or otherwise vary the Canon of the New Testament for use in the Church in Wales? If not, why not?

- Canon Graham Francis (Llandaff)

A Professor Norman Doe, in his book *The Law of the Church in Wales*, notes that Anglican churches are not confessional denominations with formal statements of their beliefs and he describes three broad approaches used by churches in defining doctrine. The model which he cites as applying to the Church in Wales is that doctrine is located in three documents of the post-Reformation Church of England, that is the Thirty-Nine Articles of 1571, the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and the Ordinal.

The Constitution of the Church in Wales supports this by stating that the formal sources of the church's approved doctrine are 'the faith revealed in the holy scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds; and the historic formularies (which bear witness to scripture and the Creeds), that is, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal of 1662.'

The Constitution says the Governing Body has 'power to make new articles, doctrinal statements ... and formularies, and to alter those from time to time existing.'

Professor Doe states, 'The exercise of the Governing Body's power seems to be limited legally by the fundamental principle (contained in Article 20) that 'it is not lawful for the Church to ordain anything that is contrary to God's Word written'. In addition, any change in doctrine would require a bill backed and introduced by a majority of the Order of Bishops.

- Bishop Dominic (Monmouth)

WORSHIP AT THE GOVERNING BODY



It was St Davids Diocese's turn to lead worship. The Revd. **Mandy Williams-Potter** gave the Bible Study, and Mrs **Sally Denman** led Evening Prayer in the College Chapel.



St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham

Wales' first joint Roman Catholic-Church of England comprehensive, St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, Wrexham, was officially opened last year by Jane Davidson AM, then Welsh Education Minister. The Head Teacher, Mr **John Kenworthy**, the chaplain, the head of Religious Education, and a group of pupils from the school spoke to the GB.



Jane Davidson AM, with Bishops John Davies (St Asaph) and Edwin Reagan (Wrexham).

St Joseph's is a 11-16 age mixed comprehensive school with 600 pupils, established as the result of a local partnership between the Anglican Diocese of St Asaph and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham. After five years of discussion and developing the existing St Joseph's RC School, the new joint school was opened last

September, with 60% Catholic admissions and 40% Anglican. There is a similar balance on its governing body.

Mr Kenworthy said the journey to its opening took a long time, because the school wanted to get it right. It was a journey of Christian generosity, fellowship and understanding, guided by the Holy Spirit. This is the first and only shared faith school in Wales, but it will not be the last. It is hugely over-subscribed, because it has a huge impact on the church-going community in Wrexham, who can see that this is a school where faith, prayer and worship come first.

Every day starts with prayer, a form or year assembly, with themes for each week, and much participation by the pupils. Every classroom has a prayer focus such as a candle.

GB members had the opportunity to ask the pupils and teachers questions:

What do you like best about your school?

- "As a Muslim pupil, I am treated with respect around the school".
- "The teachers treat us as

equals".

- "We are encouraged to be involved in everything".
- "All the teachers know us by name".
- "The drive of the teachers. They work hard and do the right thing to get the best out of us".

What makes a good assembly?

- "When the person taking it shows that it means something to him or her".
- "When the pupils are involved".
- "When there is relevance and humour".

What do you, as a teacher, see as good in the school?

- "There is a real sense of belonging and community".
- "The children are valued for who they are".
- "Christ is at the heart of it all".



Mission Statement

Our mission as a shared faith school is to guide the whole school community to achieve their full potential, grow in their journey with God, and live a Christian life.

This we will do in Christ's love by the example of St Joseph.



Bishop **Michael Lewis** (Church of England observer) hailed the school as a bright spot in Anglican/Roman Catholic relationships.

It was suggested that when the GB meets in North Wales in 2009 the school leads some of the worship. An open invitation was given by **Amy Cronin**, senior pupil, for GB members to visit the school.

Trinity College, Carmarthen



The Bishop of St Davids, **Carl Cooper**, as President and Chair of Governors of Trinity College, commended the Annual Report. "As I always remind the GB, we as the Church in Wales have an institution in Carmarthen that is unique. We must regard and use Trinity as our College more and more."

Trinity College is in good heart, said Bishop Carl, with a full confident report from the Quality Assurance Inspection and a Grade A financial rating, but there is no room for complacency. The College has to respond to the vagrancy of different political agendas, with the slash in teacher training. "We are indebted to Dr Medwyn Hughes, the Principal, the staff and students, for the way in which Trinity has been steered to maximise values as a Christian institution. This gives hope and confidence for the future."



Dr **Medwyn Hughes** outlined some of the developments and plans at Trinity. A new Sports Centre and Health Suite has been opened, and funding has been secured for the development of a Cultural Enterprise and Innovation Centre. Future developments will see a Centre of Inclusive Learning and a Centre for Early years Learning, along with a Centre for Autism. The strategic plan for growth, working in partnership with the University of Swansea, will take the College further, but with no diminution of its core values. It serves the needs of the Church throughout Wales, as well as being of social and economic benefit to the local area.

St Michael's College, Llandaff

GB approves £650K funding

The GB agreed to fund a Development Plan for St Michael's Theological College, Llandaff, placing the College on a more sustainable financial footing within five years. The plan aims at achieving maximum potential from the College's training expertise and other facilities, developing new sources of income and increasing existing income streams. The buildings would be upgraded to meet modern expectations, and the College will diversify to become a first-class conference centre.

The Development Plan is the result of 18 months discussion between the trustees and staff of St Michael's and the RB. Lord **Rowe-Beddoe**, as chairman of the RB, assured the GB that the RB could make the financial resources available to take St Michael's forward.

Bishop **Dominic** (Monmouth), proposing the motion to retain and develop St Michael's, presented the GB with the challenge—close it or invest in it. "While we have reached a crisis point with St Michael's, the need to prepare clergy and laity for mission and ministry remains." "We recognise the need to train clergy and laity together to engage God's word with God's world." To close St Michael's would be a false economy, and detrimental to the spiritual life of the Church in Wales. The alternative would be to send all candidates for ordination to England to be trained, and for dioceses to train non-stipendiary priests and readers themselves. "We must make St Michael's a first class training institution for Wales, focussed on training new leaders." Once facilities are improved at the College, it will be enabled to improve its income.

Archbishop **Barry** stressed that this was not a request to save St Michael's for nostalgic reasons—but to fulfil the needs for training in the future. The Development Plan is objective, reasonable, practical and well thought through, and will place the College on a sound financial footing. "If the College is closed, we will lose something that cannot be replaced. The question is stark—do we want to retain and maintain a training institution in Wales, with the financial implications entailed?"

The Revd **Stephen Adams**, Dean of Ministry Studies, gave a presentation on the life and work of St Michael's, showing its strengths 'in depth' through its vision and core values, and 'in breadth' through the range and variety of its work. The College has 22 residential students training for the ordained ministry, and 58 non-residential students training for self-supporting ordained ministry and as readers. It is also responsible for in-

service training for the clergy of the Church in Wales at all levels, and providing training for chaplaincy in the armed forces, hospitals and prisons. Courses are also run to prepare chaplains for counselling prisoners and soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While some members of GB questioned whether such an investment was good stewardship of the Church's resources, most speakers applauded the proposal. "St Michael's is one of the good news stories of the Church in Wales," said the Venerable **John Holdsworth** (St Davids). "It is a world college of excellence in ministerial training." The Revd **Nigel Cahill** (Llandaff) spoke of the positive change he had observed in St Michael's over the last three years, with the diversity that is taking place. "St Michael's is helping form people to lead the Church in the 21st century. We can always find the money to do what we want to do. Do we want residential training for ministry in Wales? If so, we must put our money where our mouth is."

Canon Dr **Peter Sedgwick**, Principal of St Michael's, said after the motion was overwhelmingly passed:

"I am delighted with the decision of the Church in Wales to invest substantially in the college. We have an excellent staff team, that will in a few years make this place both a national leader in chaplaincy studies and create a first class conference centre. We already train clergy and readers to a very high standard for the Methodist Church and the Church in Wales. Now we can build on our success and make St Michael's College a place that Wales can be really proud of. The future is very bright, and I am full of confidence."



Peter Sedgwick, Principal of St Michael's



The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- (a) endorse the recommendation of the Bench of Bishops to retain and develop St Michael's College as a training institution for the Church in Wales;
- (b) recognise that St Michael's College has a role in training those from other Anglican Provinces, and in working with our ecumenical partners;
- (c) invite the Representative Body to provide financial support for the College based on the proposals contained within the Bench of Bishops report to the Governing Body for the duration of the implementation of the Development Plan and to work with the College to find the most effective way of so doing.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE REPORT

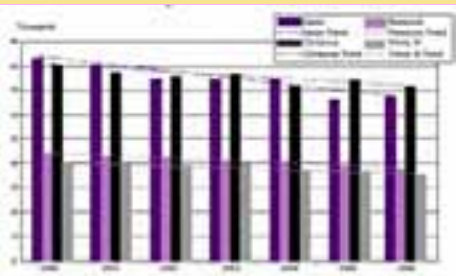
Each year, parishes complete a questionnaire to provide information on key trends in attendance, income and expenditure across the Church in Wales. The proportion of parishes responding to this annual survey is extremely high—98.3% this year—and as a result it is possible for the Church to rely on this data for its planning both at provincial and diocesan level.



Membership

The figures for 2006 show:

- A small but continuing decline in attendance in most categories, with the Easter communicants figures for 2006 and 2007 providing a 'correction' to the unexpectedly large drop in 2005.



- As in previous years, attendance figures for young people, and figures for baptisms and confirmations have continued to decline.

Finance

- Overall parish income is down slightly in 2006 from 2005. However, decline is concentrated in less dependable categories of income, whilst direct planned giving continues to increase.
- Direct giving per Sunday attendee increased by 7.4%, with additional giving by members compensating for the smaller membership base and RPI inflation.



- The 2006 figure for the average weekly direct giving per Sunday attendee is £6.86, representing 2.4% of the average Welsh gross income of £286.14.
- Parishes now provide two-thirds of the total income of the Church in Wales. The year-on-year growth in giving by committed Church members represents an important factor in helping to provide a sustainable financial future for the Church.

The Report was introduced by Mr **Nigel King** (Swansea and Brecon). "Over the last 15 years we have been told that fewer worshippers are giving more—and this year it is the same. While giving is going up steadily ahead of inflation, attendance is going down."



"However," asserted Mr King, "the Church is growing—but not growing everywhere, hence the indication of decline." He identified 166 parishes in Wales that have shown a 10% or more increase in attendance in the last year - "166 success stories in the Church in Wales." "We do have the answers to growth, but we don't use them. Growth is possible. Problems can be solved—but we are not doing it yet."

"Money for the parish share and maintenance of ministry can be found through extra people—and extra people will be found through personal relationships, energy and enthusiasm. Parishes that are making things work are turning the corner."

"The investment of time, money effort and courage is vital for growth," said Mr King. He thanked the 166 parishes in Wales with significant growth for their energy and courage. "The land is bright."

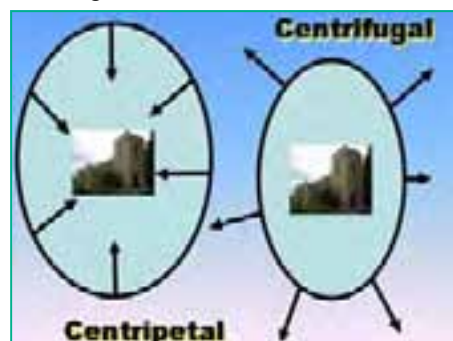
The Revd. **John Leach** (Monmouth) hoped parishes would do more than take note of the Report. "We need to learn some of the lessons from the success of the 166 parishes."



He identified five principles for growth:

- Young at heart leaders
- Big Vision
- Doing new things
- Taking risks
- Sharing ministry

"We need to capture people's imagination – that will call forth sacrifice. Its easier to raise money through big schemes—survival is not exciting."



Mr Leach produced statistics showing that 46% of 'de-churched' people in Wales were not likely to return, as compared with 28% in the whole of Britain. "We have made a better job of putting people off in Wales than in the rest of Britain." "We need new ideas and initiatives, moving out of paralysis mode where we will not try anything. We must be a 'centrifugal' Church, looking outwards to minister in the community, rather than an in-ward looking 'centripetal' Church. The future is in our hands—the 166 parishes were not just lucky."

The total collection at the GB Eucharist for Shelter Cymru was £643.76

The Governing Body next meets on 2nd and 3rd April 2008 at the University of Wales, Lampeter

HIGHLIGHTS

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