



Christians on the Street

by Dennis Wight

THE 100th Street Pastors group in the UK was launched recently for Haverfordwest. Street Pastors is set up as a voluntary Christian initiative aimed at giving practical help and support to the thousands of young people who are out 'clubbing' on a Friday or Saturday night in towns and cities all over the UK.

Although all volunteers are Christians, recruited through local churches, the aim is not to preach or be openly evangelistic, but to be a helpful and calming presence at a time when tempers are often fraught and when many people are suffering from the effects of drink. The Street Pastors work alongside local government services such as the police

and ambulance, and are trained to a high standard so that their behaviour, and the help they offer, is appropriate at all times.

The launch of the Haverfordwest group on 31st January was well attended, with guest speaker Adrian Prior Sankey from Taunton Street Pastors, and endorsements from Chief Inspector Mark Bleasdale, MP Stephen Crabb, Rev Louise Hearn and High Sheriff of Dyfed Claire Mansel Lewis.

Local Church in Wales congregations have given their support to this new Venture in Mission through prayerful support, volunteering and writing letters of support so that funding can be received from agencies.

Chairman Oliver Harries said: "So far we have 24 people signed up as volunteers, a prayer team, a management committee and great support from Churches, local Police and NHS alike. Training started in January and so far we have completed modules that cover drugs and alcohol awareness, sociology and knowing our community, roles and responsibilities, and we have lots more lined up, like mentoring, counselling, violence and aggression handling, mental health, first aid, spreading the good news etc."

The newly commissioned Street Pastors will be patrolling the streets from 22nd March.

For more information, visit www.streetpastors.co.uk



Just what are Archdeacons for?

IT'S got to be more than gutters and gaiters (I hope). That word 'deacon' in the name ought to give a clue. A deacon is of course a servant. So an arch-deacon ought to be a kind of chief servant (if that's not a contradiction in terms). The archdeacons serve the Bishop, extending his ministry and being, in the old phrase, 'the eyes of the Bishop'. They have duties relating to church buildings and property.

But archdeacons should surely also serve the church in their archdeaconry. Especially by being of service to the clergy in the parishes where the actual work of ministry goes on.

And what are my hopes and what is my vision for this ministry? First of all it is a privilege to be



returning to Cardigan archdeaconry, where Fen and I spent four happy years while we were in Aberystwyth. I am aware, too, that I am following some remarkably gifted predecessors

who each have set a high standard to live up to.

Then, the outstanding Christian heritage of this archdeaconry strikes me. Almost every period of Christian history has seen the area play a vital role, from St David and the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi, to the Cistercian monks of Strata Florida, and on to the visionary foundation of Bishop Burgess' college at Lampeter. It has witnessed some striking examples of ministry. To take just a few examples:

Daniel Rowland at Llangeitho in the 18th century, the Tractarians of Llangorwen in the nineteenth, and in the twentieth the remarkable ministry of my former Rector and predecessor as Archdeacon, Bertie Lewis.

What God *has* done in Cardigan, God *can* do here again. That's the thing I hope we can keep in mind above and beyond the problems we face of finance, buildings, numbers and the rest. Are our resources meagre and stretched? They certainly appear to be. But I often find myself coming back to some words

of the great missionary Hudson Taylor: "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supplies."

In these coming years, if we apply ourselves to God's work, and determine to do it in God's way, we'll see whether Hudson Taylor was right!

Chapter & Verse

On 8th March Bishop Wyn and Canon Librarian Patrick Thomas welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury and Brother David Hodges OCSO from Caldey, who were reading some of their poetry in aid of the Cathedral Library Fund. The Archbishop was also the guest speaker at choral evening



Contributions to Pobl Dewi

We welcome articles of interest from readers and, in particular, we would like to encourage submission of articles in Welsh.

Tessa Briggs tessa@ygilan.net

is the lead editor of the next issue and will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to submit an article.

The other regional editor can be contacted as follows:

Revd Nicholas Cale nickthevic@parishofwiston.co.uk,

or articles can be posted to:

Pobl Dewi, The Diocesan Office, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JG, marked for the attention of 'The Editor'.

New Dean Chosen

THE announcement in February that the Revd Canon Jonathan Lean had been appointed the Dean of St Davids brought much delight across the diocese and within the Cathedral.

Canon Lean was appointed Canon Residentiary of St Davids Cathedral in 2000 and, in 2001, Team Vicar of the newly created Rectorial Benefice of Dewisland, with responsibility for St Davids parish. Most recently he has been Acting Dean during the brief interregnum.

He is a native of Pembrokeshire, having grown up in Fishguard and Goodwick and his preparation for ministry at Lampeter and then at Mirfield prepared him well for the challenges of parochial ministry. He has spent the whole of his ministry within the Archdeaconry of St Davids, having served in Tenby, Llanrhian & Llanhywel and then St Martin's Haverfordwest before taking up his appointment at the Cathedral.

Canon Lean's firm partnership and friendship with the former Dean enabled the liturgical and musical life of the Cathedral to be developed enormously. The introduction of numerous new services such as the Candlemass Vespers and Procession has focused the Cathedral on its role as the worshipping heart of the diocese. Canon Lean also sings in the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Singers and the Festival Chorus and has been Chairman of the now highly successful St Davids Cathedral Festival for over 20 years, presiding over numerous artistic directors and administrators. He was, for many years, Chairman of the Pembrokeshire



Canon Jonathan Lean (left) with Canon Geoffrey Gwyther who made the announcement of the appointment of the new Dean in the Cathedral

shire Blind Society and now serves as its Vice-President.

Of his appointment as Dean, he said 'I am deeply honoured to have been chosen by Bishop Wyn, and see the role as a challenging and exciting one. I consider myself very fortunate to have been involved in the life of the Cathedral for the past 8 years, and hope to continue my predecessor's

work by focusing on worship and encouraging people to visit and worship at the shrine. I am also looking forward to the completion of the Cloisters Project.'

Canon Jonathan Lean is to be Installed and Collated as Dean and Inducted as the Rector of the Rectorial Benefice of Dewisland on Saturday the 25 April at 2.30pm.

Recession and food prices

by Eileen Davies, Rural life Advisor

FOOD price inflation in the UK is predicted to fall below zero per cent by the end of the 2009, according to new retail forecasts. What does this mean for food producers and consumers in the Diocese of St David's?

There are two underlying facts. First, prices will still be vulnerable to supply disruptions or demand surges. Second, the value of agricultural commodities will plateau at a level higher than historic averages. The downward pressure on food prices and upward pressure on raw agricultural commodity prices could result in a vicious cost/price squeeze for food chain businesses. There is a need for more effective collaboration between food companies and their raw material suppliers, building

closer integrated relationships between farm businesses and their food chain customers. The advantage to food businesses looking to secure the raw materials they require will also help farming businesses regain the market share lost to food imports over the last decade through greater import substitution. The clear message is that we need to source our food locally, as the cost of locally produced food is truly good value for money.

"Diwedd y gan yw'r geiniog", medd yr hen dyweddiad, ac ystyried cyflwr ariannol presennol ein gwlad, mae hynny'n gywirach nag erioed o'r blaen. Felly, sicrhewch farchnad deg i'n cynhyrchwyr drwy fynnu gwerth am eich arian, a hynny drwy brynu cynnyrch lleol bob tro.

'God loves a cheerful giver'

(2 Cor 9:7)

Stuart Bell explains how a fund-raising scheme for Nepal exceeded expectations

WE had asked the congregation in St Michael's Aberystwyth for £11,000 to help pay for the building of two churches; one in Butwal, Nepal, and the other some 25km to the west. The land had already been bought, but it would have taken decades for the local people to fund the building.

So, on Harvest Sunday 2007, instead of using a collection plate we passed a separate large cardboard box along each row and then took the boxes to the front where they were used to build a large cardboard church to represent what we were trying to do. Inside the boxes, and along with Gift Aid, the offering amounted to £26,000.

We now had enough money to make one of the churches into a double storey facility and some additional funds to pay for an

evangelist or two. In November 2008 we travelled to Butwal for the dedication of two brand new church buildings. Dr Jonathan Cox, an engineer who had been working in Butwal, and his wife, Dr Heather Cox, a medical doctor, were with us to share in this exciting moment.

On a previous visit we had been shown the rice fields where the churches would one day stand. Now we were standing in the new buildings on those fields. The vision had been fulfilled. The church amongst these Tharu people, animists but with some Hindu beliefs, is thriving and it was exciting to see the conversions which are taking place.

We went to visit a new church which meets in a small rented room in the village. It can hold about 20 people at the most, but the church has a congregation of 50+ and it spills out onto the street with people looking in through open windows. That was where I met my first converted witch doctor, a shaman from the local Tharu community who had been converted to Christ, burnt all his paraphernalia, and was now being offered large financial incentives to turn from Christ back to his previous life because the community 'needed' him.

The additional funds which were donated by St Michael's are being channelled through the Mission Council of Nepal and currently we are supporting an evangelist in the far east of the country.

Saturday night and Sunday morning

Rachel Maynard celebrates the success of the 'NightLight' scheme in Aberystwyth

A NEW voluntary scheme called NightLight has recently been launched in Aberystwyth. Fifty volunteers from across the town's churches are involved in going out on the streets from 11pm – 3am every Saturday to care for those who may have got themselves into difficulties while out drinking.

Every week a team of eight volunteers work on a rotation system, walking the streets, chatting to people, giving out tea, helping people to get home and even giving out flip-flops to girls who can no longer walk in their high heels!

While out on the streets volunteers wear obvious blue reflective jackets and hats with the NightLight logo. They also carry a police radio so that they are aware of incidents going on around the town and are linked with CCTV.

The scheme has now been run-

ning for three months and has been incredibly well received. The blue jackets are already recognised weekly and volunteers have been formally thanked by the police and members of Aberystwyth council. One of the major highlights for the project came a month or so ago when the team came across a drunk male who had collapsed in a side street. The team quickly called an ambulance and administered first aid. They later heard that if he had been left for 5 or 10 more minutes he would have died. Even the streets of sleepy Aberystwyth have serious problems!

This is only one of many highlights, and volunteers are encouraged every week to see how God is moving in Aberystwyth.

For more information email abernightlight@googlemail.com



Final Copy date for the next issue of **Pobl Dewi** is June 19th

THIS is the year of the Ox. That is one fact which could escape no visitor to Hong Kong these last few weeks. The celebrations were lavish. This is the longest public holiday of the year. Gifts are exchanged and the whole ambience reflects a kind of mixture of Christmas and New Year in the UK, when a time of peace and goodwill is looked forward to and, in a sense, valued and celebrated.

I have learned that I was in fact born in the year of the Ox. That is supposed to make me dependable and faithful. The picture it brings to my mind is of a lumbering harnessed beast doing endless repetitive work. Quite a lot of archdeacons were born in that year I think.

Once the celebrations were over, work began. I heard a man on the TV last week say that the Protestant work ethic is a pale reflection of the Confucian work ethic, and though I have no way of knowing if that is true, the evidence of long hours and dedication to work is all around. My own work is connected to the mission of the Theological College in the province, and particularly its outreach, and the work of the cathedral. Hong Kong, like Wales, is a small bi-lingual province that punches above its weight. It is growing in numbers. The cathedral services are packed with a huge variety of nationalities – several hundred at each of several services on Sundays, and with a substantial



Hong Kong viewed from Victoria Peak

weekday programme. The archbishop meets with all his clergy for eucharist and breakfast each week, followed by Bible study and some other form of input, and that helps build communal ministerial identity.

Listening to sermons at the cathedral I am struck by the number of times I hear the word 'Anglican.'

Belonging to the Communion is very important for this province, and they welcome any opportunity to feel connected to its other parts. (They have certainly been welcoming and hospitable to us). The other striking thing about sermons here is that all seem to begin with a description of the financial crisis

which has hit Hong Kong hard. A lot is at stake here, not just in terms of jobs and lifestyle, though that is very important, but in terms of the whole basis of the meaning of life for many people which has been undermined by what is here described as the financial tsunami.

One notable feature of church

life and witness is the church's involvement in social programmes in partnership with the government (ironically enough). The church runs a large number of schools and social centres, and is now to be involved in a huge programme of food distribution to the poor and unemployed that will effectively aim to provide enough food for such families for six weeks.

We are looking forward to St David's Day. There is a Welsh expat community and society here and we have been invited to some of its events. (Though I have to say that travelling to some bar two miles away at half past one in the morning even to see Wales beat England is too big an ask.) In the event I shall be preaching at the cathedral, Dydd Gwyl Dewi being on a Sunday, and taking part in a memorial service at the Cenotaph for Welsh people of another age. The hundred pound a head dinner and ball makes even the St Davids Cathedral Chapter dinner look cheap, and we shall give that a miss.

The Rev Peter Ellis is chaplain to the St Davids Society, a former Curate of Milford and native of Tenby. He is Mission to Seafarers Chaplain here, and he it is who has given us a copy of the Tenby Observer showing pictures of the great snow. Obviously we have chosen a good time for a sabbatical, and that reminds me, work calls. This is after all the year of the Ox.

Local Monuments Restored

Roger Haggard relates the history behind a restoration project in Llandre

ADILAPIDATED mausoleum, standing in the churchyard of St Michael's, Llandre, near Aberystwyth has recently been renovated by Treftadaeth Llandre Heritage, a local, community-based trust.

The mausoleum commemorates the death of Elizabeth Annie Norris, a ballerina, who died of tuberculosis in 1906, aged 34. Her mother who, after the death of her first husband, had married respected local General Practitioner Dr John Harden Jones, was so distraught that she was reluctant to part with Elizabeth's body for burial. Indeed, Randall Enoch, Chairman of Treftadaeth Llandre Heritage, tells how his own mother, who had called to pay her respects and who was 14 at the time, recalled seeing the embalmed ballerina lying in her coffin, dressed in her ballet clothes.

Elizabeth was buried on 31 March 1906. Her stepfather arranged for a mausoleum to be built in memory of Elizabeth, and two builders from Aberdeen stayed in the village to carry out the work. The imposing building clearly reflected the family's grief and social position.

Although Polly Oliver, a neighbour, tended the mausoleum for many years, rainwater caused decay and frost damaged the walls, windows and door.

In 2008 a grant of £49,900 from



the Heritage Lottery Fund enabled the local trust to employ a specialist builder, who, working with a conservation architect, painstakingly restored the building. Volunteers then completed crucial repairs to the copper roof and drains, landscaped the site and constructed an access path.

The balance of the grant was used to repair the old churchyard boundary wall, sections of which were threatening to collapse on to the road. This historic wall, which retains

a unique, steeply wooded graveyard, has always been a drain on the church's meagre resources, with substantial repairs carried out to this section in 1794, further major works completed between 1808 and 1861 and piecemeal repairs undertaken when required thereafter. John Evans, a skilled craftsman from Tal-y-bont, is currently using re-cycled stones to create a fascia for the wall, and the recent repairs have been designed to last well into the next century.

Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru

SEFYDLWYD Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru (PDC) fel elusen gofrestrdig tua 6 mlynedd yn nol, gyda'r bwriad o allu rhoi gwybodaeth a chefnogaeth i rieni, unigolion dyslecsig o unrhyw oed, cyflogwyr, a pobl oedd yn credu y gallant fod yn ddyslecsig.

Wrth i'r Prosiect ddatblygu, ac yn ymateb I ymholiadau o bob rhan o Gymru, penderfynnodd y Bwrdd Ymddiriedolwyr, o dan gadeiryddiaeth Parchedig Tad Paul Mackness. (Ficer Eglwys Grwp Maenordeifi, a Deon Gwlad) bod rhaid sefydlu Canolfan weinyddol a chynghori, gyda staff parhaol.

Felly, gyda Michael Davies (sy'n Athro Anghenion addysg Arbennig ym Mrynawr, Blaenau Gwent, ond sydd a'i gartref yn Llechryd, ger Aberteifi) ac hefyd yn Warden y Bobl yn Eglwys Santes Tydfil, Llechryd, fel Prif Weithredwr (swydd wirfoddol), aethpwyd ati i wneud ceisiadau am grantiau tuag at gostiau refeniw.

Yn Ionawr 2008, derbyniwyd cadarnhad o gais grant llwyddianus o'r Gronfa Loteri Fawr, (£92,000) sydd yn galluogi'r Elusen i gyflogi dau o Staff dros dro, yn Aberteifi, ac hefyd llofnododd cynnal gweithdai a chynadledau ar hyd a lled Cymru i godi ymwybyddiaeth o dyslecsia, I rhieni, athrawon ayb.

Ond nid yw PDC yn sefyll yn yr unfan! Ers rhai misoedd mae

yna drafodaethau wedi bod yn mynd ymlaen gyda Staff Coleg y Drindod, Caerfyrddin, yn enwedig gyda Gwilym Dyfri Jones (Pennaeth y Gyfadran Addysg) i ddatblygu partneriaeth rhyngddom, lle byddai Swyddfa gan PDC ar gampws y Coleg.

Ers dechrau Hydref, gwirioneddwyd y freuddwyd, ac yn nawr, bydd PDC yn gallu cynnig gwybodaeth, cefnogaeth, cynnal profion sgrinio, ddatblygu adnoddau papur a chyfrifiadurol, cynnal ymchwil i ddyslecsia a'r Gymraeg/dwy-ieithrwydd, o'r Swyddfa newydd hon.

Bydd y Ganolfan ar agor i unrhyw un sydd angen gwybodaeth am ddyslecsia—boed yn fyfyrwr, rhiant, neu athro.

Gobeithir hefyd, gydweithio gyda rhai o fyfyrwyr y Coleg i ddatblygu adnoddau ar gyfer ysgolion cyfrwng Gymraeg.

Mae Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru yn ddiolchgar iawn i Brifathro'r Coleg, Dr Medwyn Hughes, am yr holl gefnogaeth a gafwyd ganddo.

Sefydlwyd llinell gymorth ffon rhad gan PDC yn ddiweddar, ac os ydych am gysylltu a ni, gallwch wneud hyn drwy ffonio 0808 1800 110.

Erthygl gan: Michael Davies. Ymddiriedolwr/ Prif Weithredwr—swydd wirfoddol. Llysteifi, Llechryd, Aberteifi SA43 2NX.



Dennis Wight, Diocesan Warden of Ordinands and acting Lay Development Officer.

Dennis is also Rural Dean of Roose and Parish Priest for Dale, St Brides and Marloes.



Canon Aled Williams of Lampeter, Rector of the Benefice of Bro Teifi Sarn Helen, Ceredigion, was recently appointed Canon Treasurer of St Davids Cathedral.

A member of the Cathedral Chapter since 1997, he previously occupied the stall of Caerfai.

Ganwyd Aled yn Sir Forgannwg, a'i addysgu yn Aberystwyth a Chaerdydd. Gwasanaethodd yn Esgobaeth Tyddewi ers ei ordeinio ym 1971.



Patrick Thomas, the new Canon Chancellor of St Davids Cathedral, has been Vicar of Christ Church (Carmarthen St David) for the past eight years.

He has written several books on a variety of religious and literary subjects. A collection of his articles from Cambria magazine will be published later this year.

A former member of the Welsh Language Board, he is a regular religious broadcaster in English and Welsh.

Darwin, Genesis and Creation

DARWIN has been much in the news already this year. Much of the media presentation has unfortunately had the effect, deliberately or not, of driving a wedge between accepting evolution and believing in a creator God. Comments of humanist scientists like Richard Dawkins and the timing of the "Probably No God" poster campaign have helped polarize the debate further. It is surely important that we know the facts and articulate an intelligent response which both engages with scientific thought and remains faithful to the Lord and the Scriptures. So Roose Deanery is arranging a number of events for the second half of the year. The first is a public lecture at 7 pm on Monday

22nd June, to be given by The Revd Dr Ernest Lucas. After a PhD in Chemistry and post-doctoral research in biochemistry in Oxford, he went on to study theology there and was ordained a Baptist Minister. His PhD in Oriental Studies gives him particular insight into our understanding of Genesis and at Bristol Baptist College, where he is Vice-Principal, his course on Science and Christianity has received a Templeton Award. He writes and lectures extensively on this issue, making Monday 22nd June a wonderful opportunity for us: one not to be missed.

For further details, contact Revd Alan Chadwick on 01646 692251 or alan.chadwick@hubberston.org.uk



Another Flipping Success

The 2009 Carmarthen Support Group's Coffee and Pancake morning held in aid of Plant Dewi proved a cracking success. Bishop Wyn showed a hidden skill for pancake tossing but could not beat Doug Whitt of Llanllawddog who won the competition with 94 pancakes in 60 seconds. The morning included a mini fashion show and a variety of successful stalls with a record-breaking amount in excess of £3,000 being raised.

Mamau Llanddarog yn cyrraedd y cant

Yn y flwyddyn 1908 fe gychwynnwyd cangen Undeb y Mamau yn eglwys Sant Twrog, Llanddarog gan Mrs Catherine Lavallin Puxley o Llether Llestri. Ni wyddom llawer am ddechreuadau'r gangen, ond fe glywais innau sawl hanesyn oddi wrth fy mam-gu a fu'n aelod rhwng y dauddegau a'r saithdegau, ac mae'n biti na feddyliais i am eu hysgrifennu i lawr. Mae ein dathliadau canmlwyddiant newydd ddod i ben ac ymfalchiwn yn eu llwyddiant. Cawsom ŵyl flodau arbennig iawn ym Mis Medi a'i thema oedd hanes y degawdau rhwng 1908 a 2008. Roedd yr arddangosfa wych yn addysgiadol y tu hwnt a phan ymwelodd disgyblion Ysgol Eglwysig Llanddarog â'r Eglwys, cawsant wers hanes o'r safon orau gan bod pob degawd wedi ei gynllunio'n effeithiol. Roedd yn wledd i'r llygaid ac yn falm i'r enaid.

Daeth torf luosog i ymweld â ni yn ystod y pedwar diwrnod gyda phawb yn canmol yr holl waith a oedd wedi digwydd er mwyn gwneud yr ŵyl yn bosibl. Fe fu gwragedd yr eglwys yn brysur am wythnosau yn cynllunio a pharatoi ar gyfer yr ŵyl, a mawr yw ein dyled iddynt. Daethpwyd â'r ŵyl i ben gydag oedfa ddathlu a ddiolchodd i Duw am holl waith y gangen yn ystod y ganrif a aeth heibio. Bu'n ffrainc croesawu dwy o'n cyn-aelodau i'r oedfa honno, sef Mrs Jean Rees, gwraig y diweddar Barchedig Harold Rees (ficer y plwyf rhwng 1966 a 1983), a Mrs Mari Thomas, a fu'n Lywydd Esgobaethol tra'n byw yn y plwyf ac a ddaeth i'r oedfa gyda'i gŵr y Parchedig Hugh Thomas a fu'n ficer y plwyf rhwng 1992 a 2003. Y pregethwr gwadd oedd y



Parchedig Brian Witt, Caplan Esgobaethol Undeb y Mamau. Cawsom gyfle i gymdeithasu dros baned, brechdan a chacen yn Neuadd y Pentref ar ddiwedd y gwasanaeth.

Penderfynwyd cynllunio cwpan i gofio am dathliadau'r canmlwyddiant, a gofynnwyd i Grochendy Felingwm ei gynhyrchu, Ym mis Tachwedd cawsom ginio i ddathlu'r canmlwyddiant yng ngwesty Pantyrathro, Llansteffan. Daeth ein Llywydd Esgobaethol, Mrs Anne Gill, i â ymuno ni a thraddododd araith bwrsasol iawn er mwyn ein llongyfarch ar ein carreg filltir hanesyddol. Torrwyd y gacen, a wnaed gan Mrs Meryl Parry, gan Mrs Anne Gill a chan ein hysgrifenyddes, Mrs Doreen Northwood. Bu'n noson gofiadwy iawn i bawb a fu yno.

Er i gan mlynedd wibio heibio, rydym yn ddiolchgar i Mrs Puxley am ei gweledigaeth ac am osod sylfaen gadarn i'r gangen fel bod eraill wedi medru adeiladu ami. Pinacl y dathlu oedd derbyn naw aelod newydd yn 2008. Yn awr, mae'n rhaid parhau i ddenu mamau ifanc er mwyn sicrhau bod y gangen yn mynd o nerth i nerth yn y dyfodol. Mae'n dyfodol yn ein dwylo ni – awn ymlaen, felly, i'r ganrif nesaf yn hyderus!

Easter Reflection

"MUM, do you believe that Christianity is the only way to God?"

I was cooking supper and the question came from my 16 year old daughter who was struggling with an 'A' Level Religious Studies essay. We've always encouraged and enjoyed open discussions about spirituality and 'big issues' with our children, so in a way this was nothing new. As I stood at the cooker, tossing a stir-fry, I thought carefully. There was a time when I would have said 'yes' – when I was a newly converted Christian, full of evangelical fervour. But what would I say now, 27 years on? I looked over at my daughter, seated at the kitchen table, chin in hand and pen poised over a blank sheet of A4 paper. I knew my response counted – not just as a mother who is passionate about my children's relationship to the Divine, but also to myself. How has my own spiritual journey developed over the years and how would I respond to this vitally important question? "Well", I said, "you tell me your thoughts and I'll tell you mine"! A dialogue ensued and very interesting it was too.

As we reflected and talked about the central issues of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection, I began to realise again just what a vital and powerful symbol the cross is – not just for Christians, but for all humankind. What is it about Jesus Christ that enables me to know in my depths that Christ is my beginning and my end and everything in between? Somehow, the divine mystery we call 'God', incarnated in time and space in an amazing man called Jesus, and the symbol of the cross is an archetype for all humanity to live by. Indeed it seems to me to be written into the very core of our beings, if we can begin to rediscover this liberating truth.

We live in a world in which we need to share if we are going to survive – and that includes our ideas, our traditions and also our beliefs. Sharing does not mean losing. By being open to other faith traditions, my own Christian faith has been vastly enriched and not diminished. Before moving to Pembrokeshire almost five years ago we lived, worked and played, in Leicester, Nottingham and Birmingham alongside people of different faith traditions. We all begin the spiritual path somewhere. But it seems to me the secret is to realise that we are all on a journey back to God and that God, as the source of Love and Being, draws us to Himself in a variety of ways. All genuine spirituality reflects some aspect of the Divine and I believe we can learn much from our brothers and sisters of other faiths and, dare I say it, none. Let us not be so defensive that we miss the voice of love and truth when it could be speaking to us from a surprising place.

Easter calls me to reflect on the central aspects of the Christian faith which ultimately seem to revolve around the mystery and magnitude of the cross and the wonder of the resurrection. It's about getting back to the Christ message of Jesus the Christ, the anointed One and to what he taught, lived and accomplished for humanity in his very being. The cross, with its horizontal and vertical planes, seems to me to speak into the heart of reality and offer the way, the truth and the life. His total self-emptying (horizontal) and letting go into the loving presence he knew as his Father God (vertical) is a blueprint for us all. That's not quite what I said to my daughter, but it was something along those lines!

– Jayne MacGregor

Cursillo St Davids – Update

by Judy Webb, General Secretary

PREPARATIONS are now underway for the next 3-day residential weekend of the local Cursillo group, which is to take place from 28th May to 1st June. The event, which is to be held at Ffald-y-Brenin in the Gwaun Valley will be an opportunity for up to eight pilgrims to join the group for one of their weekends, which are a truly life-changing experience for pilgrims and team alike; full of joy, laughter, love, learning, surprises – and a few tears.

Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action, and enabled to share God's love with everyone. Cursillo originated in Spain; the word itself means "short course". It is now a world wide movement involving many thousands of Anglicans, and there are around 35 dioceses in the UK with Cursillo groups running weekends and local fellowship support meetings.

The local group's January gathering (or *Ultreya* as it is known in Cursillo circles) took place in Kidwelly church hall on 21st January, and was preceded by a Eucharist in St Mary's church, celebrated by our Spiritual Director, Rev. Hugh James, the Vicar of Kidwelly.

Together with our usual format for an *Ultreya*, (worship, witness, talk, small group discussions and a shared lunch and fellowship) we took the opportunity to express our love and heartfelt thanks to Haydn Davies, a resident of Llanbadarn



Fawr, who has just retired after eight years as our Treasurer. He was presented with a Celtic Cross, a CD player and CD's. We also presented his wife Wendy with flowers as a small token of our gratitude for her involvement. We would very much like to take this opportunity to welcome Bishop Wyn as he takes on his role in our diocese, and to assure him of our love and support.

If you would like to know more about Cursillo, or if you are interested in joining the residential weekend in May, you can find that information about the local group in the Diocesan Yearbook or on the Diocesan Website; alternatively please feel free to contact one of the

people listed below. You would be very welcome to attend a local gathering (*Ultreya*) before you commit yourself to the weekend – the next will take place on 31st March from 10.30 am to 3.00 p.m. approximately at Bettws Ifan, near Cardigan.

Contacts: Spiritual Director:
Rev. Hugh James
Tel. 01554 890295

Lay Director: Rodney J. Webb
Tel. 01559 370143

Weekend Booking Secretary:
Mrs Wendy Kidd.
Tel. 01559 362294

General Secretary: Judy Webb
Tel. 01239 698405

have the port, employing 160 people. There is a promise (or is it a threat) of a new Tesco store. A new marina with more berths for ferries or cruise ships is on the cards.

The church congregation recently carried out its own survey of members' involvement in community life, and was surprised to learn that 25 members are office holders in 31 local organisations. The church wants to build on this strength and encourage and support the valuable contribution, which was not previously recognised, that its members make to the well-being of the wider community. Prayer, support and public recognition are a beginning. Such recognition and support for local business life is a key factor in rejuvenating local economies.

The Christian faith's key words of reconciliation, resurrection and redemption can all be worked out in the economic and political life of the town. All imply a new start, a re-doing in life that has become worn and tired. If our faith is serious then it applies to every aspect of people's lives – economic, political, leisure as well as domestic. It is too good to be contained to the inner life of the church.

better economic future for the town and its hinterland had led to a range of bodies conducting surveys and holding meetings with little or no strategic plan or agreed aim. The Chamber of Trade, the Town Council and the three county councillors, together with school and Civic Society, are now all pulling in the same direction.

As with much of the rural part of the diocese, tourism plays a greater part in the local economy than agriculture. Open churches can make a significant contribution to visitor enjoyment of an area. Fishguard does

The Interview

After interviewing the Bishop in the last edition, we thought one of the laity ought to go under the spotlight. Simon Thane, Director of Tricordant and member of St Teilo's PCC was interviewed by Don MacGregor

Simon, you won't be known to many readers of Pobl Dewi, so who are you and what do you do?

I live in Trap near Llandeilo, just near to Carreg Cennen castle, and have been living there for about 12 years with my wife and 2 teenage daughters. We go to St. Teilo's parish church in the centre of Llandeilo, where I am also a member of the PCC.

What do you see as the difficulties with local churches in this day and age?

I think a challenge is to equip the church to serve people in the modern world; things are changing all around us so quickly. I'm particularly interested in the church being more supportive of people in their Monday to Friday world, in their jobs and home life, rather than just being there for people on a Sunday.

You have a full working life – how does that relate to your faith?

My background was originally in manufacturing as a factory manager, but for the last 12 years I've been a management consultant. It's enabled me to integrate my faith with my work. I am now one of the directors of Tricordant, an organisational development consultancy with a Christian foundation. Our job is to help large organisations structure work so it is more meaningful and fulfilling for people. We work with the NHS, government departments and complex organisations. Dysfunctional work in a call centre or frustration in a hospital due to de-motivating structures and unhelpful targets is the sort of thing we tackle to help people's work to be more fulfilling and healthy.

Some people enjoy work, some people try to avoid work, some people retire as early as they can. As a Christian what is your viewpoint, why is work important?

I think God made us to work in His image. God Himself is working all the time. If we think of the Holy Trinity, God the Father is creating and designing, the Son is saving, healing and transforming, and the Holy Spirit is inspiring, coaching and teaching. These are all things people can do on a human level every day in their work. We are built to work – God has made us to co-work with Him as His body to improve this world and to bring in His kingdom. However work can only be healthy for us if it is meaningful, constructive and not dehumanising.

How would you see the relationship between coming to church on a Sunday and working during the week?

From Monday to Friday the church isn't together in the building, but it is out there busy at work, whether paid or unpaid. We have to recognise



that we are called to be Christian all the time, serving God and serving each other. Work isn't a separate, secular thing. We are not only church when we are together in that building on a Sunday.

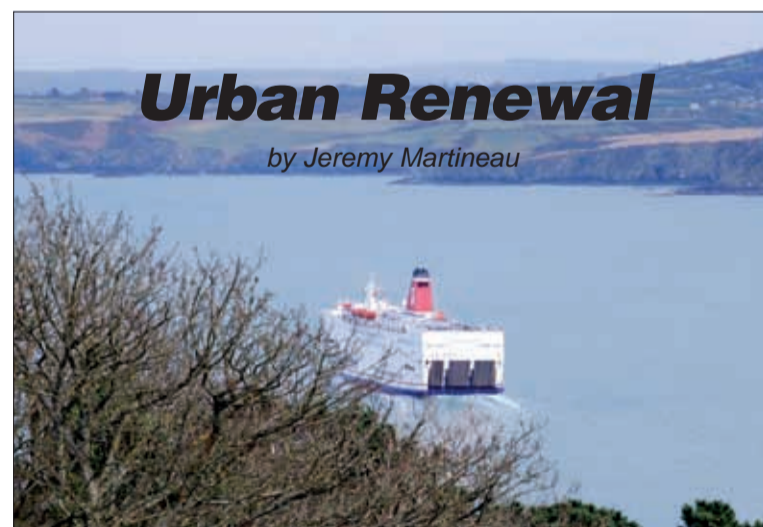
You have recently been asked to go onto the diocesan lay ministry development group. What is your interest in this and what do they do?

The group is looking to coordinate and encourage formal lay ministry roles, like worship leader, eucharistic assistant, parish assistant and parish eucharistic assistant. It also looks at other roles like lesson readers, music leaders, seeing how they work, what training needs there are, and what support there is. It is hoped to develop a community of lay people in ministry, aware of what each other is doing, to share best practice and to think about what other roles are right for the church. My interest is also to ensure that our church recognises that lay ministry roles are not confined to church-based roles. We need to equip the laity to see their regular work as an opportunity for ministry and co-working with God.

In your management consultancy role, what principles would you try to put into practice encouraging people to take up more lay ministry in the church?

We need to be learning, planning and thinking of new ways of being church, and put them into practice, then step back to learn and see what works. Then go back round that loop again, and try something else. It's not a static thing –there's not a list of correct roles in lay ministry; it's what works for that church community. In business language, it's the old "plan, do, evaluate" cycle.

We are being church all week through a huge variety of vocations in the community, but we rarely celebrate that or help people find what God has for them in their life. There is a process to help people who may be called to the priesthood but not for someone who's thinking "I shouldn't be in this office, I should be setting up a restaurant, because that will enable me to minister to the people who come through the door of that restaurant". God has a vocation for us all and the church needs to recognise that and help people discover it.



Urban Renewal

by Jeremy Martineau

IS the tide going out or coming in at Fishguard? Literally at the end of the line, but in the midst of beautiful countryside and the Pembrokeshire National Park, Fishguard has been designated as a core development focus by the County Council in their long term planning. At the centre of this intriguing little place is St Mary's parish church, only 150 years old. The church council has approved one of its members representing their interests on the rejuvenated Chamber of Trade. Recognition of the importance of trying to secure a

What's your response to the Financial Crisis?

Malcolm Dye explains the services Credit Action Cymru has to offer, both for those struggling with their finances and for those who are interested in helping others

LAST year saw major upheavals in the financial markets that have left each of us wondering how we will be affected in 2009. The problems may be global, but as Christians we need to think about the underlying causes and how we should respond personally and as Church.

Many of us are now struggling with our finances and as a result some people are anxious and uncertain. Yet the principles of good money management have been known for generations and used to be passed on from parents to children. Up until the 1970's if you wanted something you saved up until you could pay for it. But society has changed, and there is now a 'buy



now pay later' attitude which has been enabled and encouraged by the easy availability of credit. Getting into debt is often seen as normal! In 2009 there are going to be people who will lose their livelihoods, homes and savings; some through no fault of their own.

There's not much you or I can do as individuals to turn around national economies, yet there's an

opportunity here for us to sort out our finances and balance our family budgets, to reflect on and readjust our own priorities in line with Christian values. This may lead to greater fruitfulness and peace of mind in future.

The key to healthy finances is to make our spending match our income. To help people with this, Credit Action Cymru, which was set up by a group of Christians in Aberystwyth, makes financial guidance freely and widely available in the community. We ensure anyone in our project areas can pick up a free booklet called 'Thinking about money' (there are also booklets aimed at single parents and those in debt) which gives guidance on managing money. At our drop-in centre there is a team of trained volunteers offering a free listening ear to your money worries. They can guide you through the process of putting together a realistic budget and help you avoid getting into debt. We also visit people in their homes by appointment.

If you would like more information about the services we offer, or are interested in helping others and reaching out to your community, call us on 0800 242 5844, email cymru@creditaction.org.uk or visit www.creditaction.org.uk/cymru.



Biwrocratiaeth a ffermwyr – Beth allwn ni fel eglwys ei wneud?

Tackling red tape and improving communications with the farming industry was the focus of training recently delivered to over 500 frontline staff from the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Affairs Department. Working with Farm Crisis network we were able to engage in these days and further develop the partnerships between WAG/FCN/NFU/FUW and, most importantly, the farming community.

YNOD oedd cyflwyno amcanion allweddol cynllun gweithredu'r adolygiad ar fiwrocratiaeth, sy'n canolbwyntio ar waith staff rheng flaen Adran Materion Gwledig Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, wrth fynd i'r afael a biwrocratiaeth, cyfathrebu'n well gyda ffermwyr a helpu i leihau straen cefn gwlad. Mae llawer o fiwrocratiaeth yn hanfodol er mwyn ateb gofynion archwilio'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd sydd yng nghlwm wrth y £300 miliwn o blynnoedd sy'n cael eu talu i ffermwyr Cymru bob blwyddyn trwy Gynllun y Taliad Sengl a thaliadau eraill fel Tir Mynydd a Tir Gofal.

Roedd y cyrsiau hyfforddi yn ystyried sut y gellid gwella dulliau cyfathrebu cyfredol yr Adran

Materion Gwledig, a sut y gallai'r adran gysylltu â ffermwyr nad ydynt yn defnyddio'r we, nac yn darllen "Gwlad", nac yn mynychu cyfarfodydd rheolaidd y Gwasanaeth Cysylltu'r Ffermydd.

Dyna lle, fel eglwys, y gallwn fod yn allwedd i gyrraedd y ffermwyr hynny sy'n anodd i'w cyrraedd. Mae strwythur yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn sicrhau bod gofal bugeiliol yn cael ei gynnig ym mhob plwyf. Mae offeiriad yn adnabod eu praid, ac felly drwy weithio gyda'n gilydd mewn partneriaeth, medrwn leihau ofn yr amaethwyr sy'n wynebu her holl ofynion y Cynulliad, fod yn ddolen gyswllt rhwng y ffermwyr a swyddogion Materion Gwledig y Llywodraeth, a sicrhau ffynhonnell

o gyfathrebu gwell. Mae gan bawb ran i'w chware i leihau straen y biwrocratiaeth.

Y Barchedig Eileen Davies
Ymgynghorydd Materion
Gwledig

Saints and Stones 4th Annual Competition

The 2009 theme,
for all ages, is

'Pilgrims and Pilgrimage'

Entries may be in one of
many mediums

Entry deadline 5th June

Full details from
01348 873316

e-mail grizelc@aol.com

Diocesan schools celebrate success at recent Inspections

THE Model Church in Wales VA School in Carmarthen and St Aidan's Church in Wales VA School in Wiston, Haverfordwest have received glowing results in their recent Religious Education Section 50 Inspections. The Model was inspected by Canon Alan Meats and Rev Peter Jones inspected St Aidan's.

Both school's were awarded Grade 1's for the three Key Questions of the Inspection which included the impact and effectiveness of Collective Worship, Religious Education teaching and their distinctiveness as Church Schools. The schools were also inspected as to how well they serve the school community. Many outstanding features were noted in all areas.

Leadership and management of both schools was judged to be of an outstandingly high standard under the direction of Rev M Thorley, Headteacher of The Model Church in Wales VA School and Mrs D Rainer, Headteacher of St Aidan's Church in Wales VA School.

Both schools have a distinctive Christian Ethos in the Anglican tradition. Christ and His Gospel are at the heart of the life of both schools and their plans for development. The

schools are highly effective in encouraging and developing pupils as whole persons. Members of the school communities value each other and care for each other and there is a strong sense of inclusiveness evident at both schools. Pupils' curiosity is enlivened by the opportunities provided by the schools.

Collective Worship and Religious Education are central to and permeate all school experiences. The RE teaching in both schools is very strong and emanates from the expertise of the sterling classroom teachers.

Behaviour and attitudes in both schools were deemed to be exemplary and the children's mature and confident attitudes towards visitors were exceptional features. The inspectors were particularly impressed by the attitudes demonstrated by the pupils which show that both schools have a strong Christian ethos.

The Governing Bodies of both schools are highly supportive and carry out their duties and responsibilities to the highest order.

Both schools are proud to be members of the family of Church Schools within the Diocese of St David's.



Help us keep in touch

by Tessa Briggs

POBL DEWI has an ever-increasing number of contributors. This is good news as it broadens the appeal of the paper and encourages us all to read about the efforts and achievements of individuals and parishes around the diocese.

We are always pleased to receive offers of articles and, in an effort to encourage contributions from as many people as possible, I would like to invite anyone who may be interested in being a link between the Communications Team and their parish, to provide me with their e-mail address.

By providing these details you do not commit to anything other than your willingness to receive occasional mailings which include, for example, invitations to contribute to *Pobl Dewi* and information from the Communications Team and its sub-committees.

Several articles in recent issues of the paper have arisen out of these mailings and, as we strive to bring items of interest to our readership, I would encourage you all to be part of our efforts to improve communications around the diocese by getting in touch. My e-mail address is tessa@ygilan.net

Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic safe

THE day (12 January) Archbishop Barry launched an appeal for money to help the Near East Council of Churches (NECC) give frontline medical service in Gaza through its three Family Health Clinics, Archdeacon Philip Morris, co-ordinator of the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund, received news that one of the clinics had been destroyed by Israeli missile fire.

The Shija'ia Family Health Centre provided essential free primary health care to 70,000 people in one of the poorest areas of Gaza City, including mother and child clinics, ante and post-natal care, family planning and a pharmacy. It was at this clinic that the mobile dental clinic, completely funded by the Church in Wales, was garaged and based, and it was feared that it might also have been destroyed.

Philip was in constant touch with the NECC and Christian Aid for news and developments, and offered financial support through the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund to help in the rebuilding and restocking of the Family Health Centre.

Thankfully, there were no injuries in the attack, for which no reason was given. Philip discovered that as it was a weekend, the dental clinic had been moved to the NECC's compound in the centre of Gaza City for maintenance. However, this compound is next to the UNRWA (United

Nations) building hit by phosphorous shells. But assurance was given that the dental clinic was safe, and would resume work as soon as possible. The two remaining NECC Family Health Clinics at Daraj in Gaza City and at Rafah in the south soon reopened, and reported a large number of patients coming with injuries, many to see a doctor for the first time since they received them. 'There was a heap of rubble and some papers from files blowing about in the wind. That was all, nothing survived.'

Constantine Dabbagh, executive director for the Near East Council of Churches, had prepared himself for the worst when he visited the ruins of the Shija'ia Family Health Centre. Nonetheless, the scale of devastation shocked him. 'We thought there might have been something we could keep as a memento of 40 years work serving the community,' said Mr Dabbagh. 'But everything had been obliterated.' The attack destroyed thousands of dollars worth of equipment and medicine.

'So much has to be replaced. We had a laboratory fully equipped for blood tests and ultrasound, and we had only just put in computers with a management information system. There was a six-week stock of medicine and water purification equipment, as well as milk and

nutritional biscuits for the malnutrition programme.'

After visiting the ruins, Mr Dabbagh said a clinic operating out of borrowed premises would be up and running within days. 'The community is very anxious that we continue, so we will be replacing what we can and starting from scratch,' he said.

Parishes and individuals throughout Wales have responded generously to Archbishop Barry's appeal. Money will be transferred directly to the NECC's Health Clinic account as soon as it is possible to do so, though in the meantime Christian Aid has been able to get medical supplies into Gaza. The Church in Wales Jubilee Fund will be working with Christian Aid, ACT (Action for Churches Together) and the EU Humanitarian Aid to rebuild the Shija'ia Clinic.

Parishes are invited to take part in "Wales biggest coffee morning" on the first weekend on May to raise money for the Dental and Family Health Clinic. Make it a three-day event – choose Friday 1st for your office/work/school coffee morning, Saturday 2nd May for a parish coffee morning in your church hall, and Sunday 3rd May for a special church collection.

Contact details: The Venerable Philip Morris, 01656 8801088. archdeacon.margam@churchinwales.org.uk



Galar a gobeithion

In this article the Vicar of Llanboidy, the Reverend Jeffrey Gainer, tells us a little about the background of Goscombe John's statue of Grief in St Brynach's churchyard and also recounts the efforts to restore the statue and place it within the parish church so that future generations may continue to admire the work. Currently over £20,000 is needed to implement the scheme

YN nhawelwch cefn gwlad Sir Gaerfyrddin saif cerflun a ystyrir bellach yn gampwaith William Goscombe John, tywysog ymhlith cerflunwyr rhan gyntaf yr ugeinfed ganrif yng Nghymru. Mae'r cofadail yn sefyll ym mynwent Eglwys Sant Brynach yn Llanboidy. Bydd rhai pentrefwyr yn adrodd o hyd am yr achlysuron hynny pryd cawsant gip ar y cerflun yng nghwmni Mr Goodwin, prifathro yr ysgol leol a dyn a ymhyfrydai mewn hanes lleol a gorchestion celfyddyd. Mynnodd i'w ddisgyblion gael cyfle i ryfeddu at waith caboledig Goscombe John.

Ond pam gosodwyd Galar yno yn y lie cyntaf?

Er mwyn ateb y cwestiwn hwn rhaid gwerthfawrogi dylanwad teulu y sgweiar lleol ar y gyuned yn y cyfnod hwnnw. Roedd Walter Rice Howell Powell neu 'Powell bach' fel y'i gelwid yn aelod seneddol ac yn hael ei gymwynas i'r pentref. Roedd yn berchen ar stad o dros dair mil o erwau ac yn byw mewn plasty o'r

enw Masgwynne wrth ymyl y pentref. (Erbyn heddiw mae'r ty hwnnw wedi dadfeilio bron yn llwyr). Adeiladodd y bonheddwr hwn ysgol i blant y cyloch yn ogystal a thai i'w weithwyr. Talodd am waith atgyweirio Eglwys Sant Brynach tra'n cydnabod bod trwch y boblogaeth yn Llanboidy a thrwy Gymru gyfan yn ymneilltuwyr. Yn wir credai fod datgysylltiad yr Eglwys yn anochel. Pan fu farw yn Mehefin 1891 ar ol oes o wasanaeth cyhoeddus penderfynodd ei berthnasau y dymument godi cofadail teilwng er cof amdano. Roedd teulu Maesgwynne yn lied gyfeillgar a dyn cefnog arall, sef yr ardalydd Bute a ddigwyddodd fod yn gyflogwr tad Goscombe John. Felly trwy'r fath rwydwaith o berthnasedd a chyfeillgarwch penderfynwyd comisymu y dyn ifanc i greu cerflun teilwng a fyddai'n sefyll maes o law uwchben bedd 'Powell bach'. Ar y pryd roedd Goscombe John yn bwrw ei brentisiaeth ym Mharis



dan oruchwyliaeth Rodin. Canlyniad y fath nawdd a chydweithrediad yw'r cerflun cywain sydd yn sefyll hyd heddiw ym mynwent Eglwys Llanboidy.

Gwaetha'r modd mae'r cerflun wedi erydu yn ddifrifol dros y degawdau diwethaf. O'i herwydd mae gwir angen

gweithredu yn fuan i'w adfer. Barn Ann Wright, swyddog yr amgueddfa leol yng Nghyfaeryddin, yw y dylid mynd ati ar frys i drwsio Galar ac awgrymodd hithau y gellid symud y cerflun o'i safle gwreiddiol a'i ailosod tu fewn i eglwys Sant Brynach gerllaw. Trwy wneud hyn

bydd eraill y y dyfodol yn cael cyfle i edmygu camp a chreffftwaith y cerflunydd o Gaerdydd. Rai blynyddoedd yn ol cytunodd y Cyngor Plywyf Eglwysig y byddai'n cefnogi pob ymdrech ymarferol i wireddu y gobaith hwn ar yr amod y cesglid yr arian angenrheidiol o wahanol ffynonhellau priodol. I'r perwyl hwnnw agorodd y Cyngor gyfrif arbennig a elwir "Grief Restoration Project" dan ofal Mrs Maureen Higginson, Clarebrook, San Cler. Erbyn hyn mae swm o ry w bedair mil ar hugain o bunnoedd wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer y gwaith hwn. Er enghraifft mae CADW wedi addo rhoi hyd at bymtheg mil ac mae disgyntion teulu Maesgwynne wedi ymrwmo i gyfrannu saith mil o bunnoedd. Yn sicr nid tasg hawdd yw codi'r arian anghenrheidiol yn enwedig yn y sefyllfa economaidd sydd ohoni. Amcangyfrifir y byd yr holl brosiect yn costio £45,000 a gobeithir y ceir afael ar yr arian angenrheidiol trwy bwysu ar wahanol gyrff cyhoeddus a mudiadau diwylliadol yn ogyst. Yn wiral ar unigolion sydd yn ymwybodol o werth y darn arbennig hwn o dreftadaeth Cymru. Yn y pen draw y gobaith yw y bydd y fenyw farmer hon yn denu llawer un i Lanboidy heb iddi orfod wynebu yr holl law a'r gwynt sydd wedo achosi cymaint o drafferth iddi yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf hyn!

Website Wonders at www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk

by Don MacGregor

If you have access to the internet, our diocesan website is worth a look. Apart from all sorts of information about the diocese itself, it also has a page with links to many other helpful Christian websites, under the Resources/Sharing heading. You can find all manner of websites, categorised under these headings:

- Liturgical/ Prayer/Spirituality
- Mission/Theology/Evangelism
- Trusts Financial/Stewardship/Fundraising
- Building
- Ministry and Church resources
- Rural Ministry
- Anglican UK/Worldwide:
- Youth and Children
- Publishers/Bookshops
- World Mission Agencies
- Tourism
- Community/Wider Charity Resources Lottery, etc
- Family History

In this treasure trove there is advice for every situation a church can face, and many offer free resources for use. For example, the Arthur Rank Centre has all sorts of free worship resources available for different times and seasons in the farming year, plus the environment and creation.

If you are involved in church finance, the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers give some excellent advice. If you are stuck for an idea for a school assembly, assemblies.org.uk can provide you with a host of relevant, lively ideas.

It is very helpful to have a large number of Christian websites listed in one place, and although there were some obvious ones missing (like Tearfund), it is an excellent place to start if you are looking for some help and ideas.

Advertisement

THE ST DAVIDS DIOCESAN BOARD OF FINANCE DIOCESAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER Salary £10,000

Applications are invited for this key part-time position. Working closely with the Bishop, Diocesan Secretary and senior people within the Diocese of St Davids you will act as the Public Relations Officer in relation to the press and the media. You will already be working in the field of press and media relations and have the necessary skills that go along with working in this fast moving world. You will also have first class communication skills both written and oral through the medium of Welsh and English and a good understanding of the issues and current concerns facing the Diocese of St Davids and the Church in Wales in general.

You will be expected to present and interpret the affairs of the Diocese of St Davids to the media in such a way that they can be understood by those who have little knowledge of the Diocese and its structures. You will also be responsible for advising the Bishop and the St Davids Diocesan Board of Finance on its communication strategy, policies and procedures including the development of supporting media and resources as well as organising training and development of media skills.

If you are seeking a unique opportunity in the field of media and press relations and an opportunity that will present you with a new challenge each day then please contact us. For further information please contact Mrs Val Hockey at The Diocesan Office, Abergwili, Carmarthen SA31 2JG or telephone 01267 236145.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Easter Monday.

Raising the Roof at St Jerome's in Llangwm

How do you solve a problem; not of Maria, but of bringing a church building with archaic central heating and electrics into the 21st century? Every time St Jerome's Church in Llangwm fires up its ancient boiler, electric meters the length and breadth of the nation start to twitch with an uncanny anxiety as it starts to swallow up 36 kilowatts of electricity every single hour. That is the same as switching on 18 electric kettles all at the same time. The boiler, which looks as though it was installed at the birth of electricity, burns so much power that a three-phase supply is needed to feed it. Something had to be done, not just to modernise the heating, but also to improve the electrics and to install a PA system for the hard of hearing.

But among St. Jerome's many assets, is a wonderfully intimate and warm acoustic. This is something that our Norman forebears unknowingly gave us when they built the church and in spite of its rather limited seating capacity, St Jerome's has become a perfect venue for a wide range of musical concerts. Not only do the concerts bring top quality musical performances to the people of Llangwm, they have also placed St. Jerome's firmly at the heart of village life once again. All this and the church has started to raise the money needed to upgrade the wiring and heating.

The first concert took place during the 2007 Llangwm Festival with a concert of music from the reign of good Queen Bess, and the

church has now hosted two seasons of concerts with performances ranging from choirs and brass bands to a medieval orchestra, spiritual jazz, opera and even the Didgeridoo. The concerts take place at about six week intervals and juxtapose high quality local performers with performances provided through the Night Out scheme of the Arts Council of Wales.

For the 2008 Christmas concert, St Jerome's welcomed brothers Mark and Wynn Evans, Principal Baritone and Tenor respectively of the Welsh National Opera. It's not often that people from a rural Welsh village are able to enjoy such high quality performances for just £7.50. The concerts will continue, and it looks as though slowly and surely,



the church will be able to provide its much needed upgraded facilities.

So is there any museum out there, which might like to acquire a

central heating boiler from the dawn of time? It looks as though St Jerome's might have one to spare quite soon. – Pamela Hunt



New Port Chaplain for Milford Haven

STEVE TRAYNAR is the newly appointed Port Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers in Milford Haven.

He is a lay minister who has worked in a variety of jobs, mainly in the IT business, in Essex and London. Having followed the Reader training course in the Diocese of Chelmsford, during which time he did a placement with the Mission to Seafarers at the Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk, he later took up the post of second chaplain to Dubai and the Northern United Arab Emirates, a post he held for 18 months from December 2006. There his work included working on board the world's first and only floating seafarers' centre in the big offshore anchorage off Fujairah on the east coast.

Following changes in the way the Mission wanted to work in the UAE, Steve was offered the post of Port Chaplain at Milford Haven where he has been since the summer last year.

Describing his work, Steve says, "The work of a Mission Chaplain is very varied, no two days are the same, but it can be summed up by saying we cater for the spiritual and practical welfare of seafarers on the ships that come into our ports. Primarily my work involves visiting the ships at the various oil jetties in Milford Haven. The crews like to have someone different to talk to. The ship they are on is not only their place of work it's their home too. Sometimes they like to pray, but unfortunately that doesn't happen often. I also have an office and chapel

at the Milford Haven International Seafarers' centre and, when possible, seafarers are brought to the centre by mini-bus and can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and are able to make cheap phone calls home, use the Internet and have a quiet drink with friends."

Steve also explains how the Mission offer help to seafarers through troubled times as well. "If there is a problem back home on the other side of the world and they can't get home or if there are legal problems with their employers they often need help and advice and through our international network and contacts we can often help resolve the situation."

"Mine is a very interesting and worthwhile job with immense job satisfaction" Steve says "and if anyone wants me to come and talk more about my work and that of the Mission worldwide I'd be happy to do so."

Tourism training

DOES your church welcome visitors and tourists? If not, do you wish you could open your doors for them?

If you are among those who want to share the faith by welcoming strangers to come in to explore your church then you could be helped by coming on one of the training days being held this spring: Thursday March 26th at the Coach House, St Dogmael's; Monday April 27th at Holy Trinity, Aberaeron and Tuesday May 12th at St Cathen's Llangathen

Each day will follow the same pattern, beginning at 11 am with an introduction by local people, sharing their story of how they are trying to improve their ministry to visitors and the quality of the experience visitors have on visiting their church. There will be opportunity to explore the church as visitors do, and to comment and discuss progress and possibilities. The Churches Tourism Network for Wales and the Diocesan Tourism Group will share their aims.

After lunch, which will be provided, working sessions using the new toolkit developed by the diocesan tourism group will fill the afternoon, finishing at 4 pm.

No! It's not free, but it is well worth it. Each participant will pay £4 in advance to book their place and to register their attendance. The first five who pay will get the benefit of a new free toolkit. We have a maximum number of 25 spaces per event and are hoping that 2-4 people will join us from participating churches.

This work, to be successful, needs a small group of local people, encouraged by their priest, to lead the initiative. It is surprising how much can be done without spending huge sums of money.

To book your place send your cheque made out to St David's Diocese to Jeremy Martineau, 11 New Hill Villas, Goodwick SA64 0DT. Please make sure you tell me which date and place you intend to come to.

You are welcome . . .

. . . is the name of a toolkit that has been developed by the Diocesan Tourism Group to offer practical help to churches wanting to provide a ministry of welcome. It focuses on how a church can prepare for visitors and welcome them, as well as considering the experience of the visitor themselves.

Many parishes have already developed a ministry of welcome, whilst others want to offer this ministry, but are uncertain where to begin. This toolkit helps to identify those aspects that may already be undertaken and those that could be initiated or developed further. It uses a number of worksheets, each concentrating on a particular part of the welcome that could be offered. By "star grading" the stages of development that could be considered, it enables a church to decide where they are at present and what level they hope to achieve in the future. The toolkit is designed to be

taken apart and photocopied for group use, so that a church can concentrate on those aspects that are relevant to them. It also enables ideas, comments and notes to be added to the back of the sheet if necessary.

Many of the ideas are simple and inexpensive, but the toolkit encourages a consideration of the costs involved in raising or maintaining this ministry of welcome. It is hoped that the format used will provide a Parochial Church Council or Parish Tourism Group with an easily assessable checklist to aid their discussions and promote initiatives that are realistic, appropriate, achievable and sustainable for their situation.

Copies of this toolkit are available in either Welsh or English and cost £2.50 + pp.

Contact Revd Sarah Geach on 01834 812078 or sgeach@btinternet.com

RSCM Notes Special Service

FORMER Secretary of the West Wales Area Committee of the Royal School of Church Music Richard Stephens has been awarded a Certificate of Special Service by RSCM Headquarters. The award is in recognition of his 13 years' exceptional work, encompassing the posts of Education and Training Officer, Treasurer, and finally Secretary. He was also the prime mover behind the Music Development Team, which offers help and advice to parishes wishing to improve their musical standards.

"I enjoyed every moment of my time," says a delighted Richard. "It afforded me the opportunity of



Richard Stephens

meeting some wonderful people locally, regionally and nationally, all brought together by their common love of church music."

Richard is still firmly involved with church music as Organist of St Mary's Church, Pembroke.

Easter Breakfast Events to raise funds for Mercy Ships

CAN you organize an Easter breakfast around Easter time to bring hope to the horizon and healing for those in greatest need? Join with friends, neighbours and colleagues and enjoy breakfast and fellowship together for a great cause!

Mercy Ships operates the world's largest charity hospital ship, delivering free health care and development services.

The *Africa Mercy* was converted from a Danish rail ferry, at a Newcastle shipyard, to provide a fully equipped modern hospital with 6 operating theatres, intensive care unit, X-ray laboratory, CT scanner, recovery ward and cabin space for volunteer teams to provide urgent medical services in the world's poorest countries.

Dedicated volunteer medical teams, following Jesus' example in healing, provide vital surgeries for blindness, cleft lip and palate, benign tumour, orthopaedics, child-birth injury and dental treatments. Construction teams partner with local people on community development projects, including water,



sanitation and health facilities.

Mercy Ships makes a lifelong difference to individuals and communities, not only restoring them physically, but enabling them to rejoin at school or at work, showing their healing and new hope, found through Mercy Ships. Every donation counts: £6 can help deliver a dental check-up; £15 can provide a

month's physiotherapy; £29 can help straighten cross eyes; £72 can help wipe away a cleft lip and palate; £100 can provide a cataract operation; £297 can build a well.

To find out more about volunteering, raising funds and for an Easter Breakfast Pack visit www.mercyships.org.uk/easter-breakfast, or phone 01438 727800.

Who are they?

OFTEN a church has a book for visitors to sign, but it would be helpful if we knew a little bit more about those who come into our churches during the course of each week!

The Diocesan Tourism Group

has designed a visitors book which, through the column headings on each page, will give a valuable insight into those who are often our unseen guests.

It is hoped that this will not only help a parish in catering for the needs and expectations of those it welcomes, but will enable the

Diocese to find out more about those who visit its churches.

The Visitors Book costs £6 + p&p. It is spiral bound and has space for 250 visitor entries. They will be available at the forthcoming Tourism Days, or by contacting Revd Sarah Geach on 01834 812078 or sgeach@btinternet.com

Faith in Maintenance

by Sara Crofts, Project Director

"Take proper care of your monuments and you will not need to restore them. A few sheets of lead put in time upon the roof, a few dead leaves and sticks swept in time out of a water course, will save both roof and wall from ruin. Watch an old building with an anxious care; guard it as best you may, and at any cost, from every influence of dilapidation."

John Ruskin (speaking of Rouen Cathedral in 1859)

MOST of us know that carrying out maintenance tasks on a routine basis helps to protect the fabric of our historic buildings and assures their survival for future generations to enjoy. In October 2006, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) began its innovative five-year project to provide free maintenance training courses for churchwardens and their equivalents in other faiths throughout England and Wales. The training courses focus on the routine work needed to keep the fabric of historic buildings in good condition and encourage people to clean their gutters, check their drains and repair slipped slates and tiles. Our aim is to promote sensitive and timely maintenance and encourage the many thousands of volunteers who care for historic churches, chapels,

synagogues, mosques and temples to look after their buildings more effectively.

The courses include lectures on the typology and materials of places of worship in the local area; maintenance; managing relationships with building professionals; and health and safety. In the afternoon participants have the opportunity to put what they have learned into practice as we use our host building as a case study. This has proved enormously popular as all our volunteers gain confidence in their ability to spot potential problems and put forward suggestions as to how they should be addressed.

Geoffrey Arrand, Archdeacon of Suffolk, said: "It was good to sit and listen to expert advice and guidance, but it was even better to go outside and examine a church building so as

to locate many of the problem areas or potential problem areas that had been talked about during the course of the day. Anyone who has responsibility for a church building should grab the opportunity to attend one of these courses. Never will the blindly obvious be put in front of you so helpfully!

Having run 45 successful Faith in Maintenance courses so far, the same maintenance problems have been noted repeatedly. Common concerns include damaged rainwater goods; blocked drains; broken windows; slipped slates and tiles; and the ubiquitous clumps of weeds sprouting from behind parapets. Nevertheless, with the help of our team of expert speakers we are able to demonstrate how these problems can be easily remedied.

We also realise that volunteers need ongoing support if we are to ensure that our places of worship are looked after properly. For this reason, we provide all our course participants with a copy of *The Good Maintenance Guide* as well as a handy maintenance calendar.

Information about the Faith in Maintenance project can be found at www.spabfim.org.uk. You can also contact us on 0207 456 0913, or info@spabfim.org.uk or write to us at Faith in Maintenance, SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.

Cor Tempus Cor Cymru?

Seimon Morris, known to many in the diocese as the conductor of last year's Catalyst Choir, here reflects on the day recently when he and his own choir Tempus made it to the semi-final of S4C's Welsh Choir of the Year Competition, 'Cor Cymru', held at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. You will have to tune in to S4C on Saturday 28th March at 8.00pm to see how they got on!

10:30 a dyma ni'n gyrru i mewn i Ganolfan y Celfyddydau yn Aberystwyth mewn bws sy'n llawn o bobl a dillad. Tu fas mae rhyw ddydd gyda camera teledu ar ei ysgwydd yn ffilmio ni. Shwd yn y byd ydyn ni wedi llwyddo i gyrraedd rownd cyn derfynol y sioe teledu Cor Cymru?

Bob dwy flynedd, heb fawr o obaith, mae grwp lleisiol Tempus yn ymgasglu mewn ysgol uwchradd lleol ar gyfer rhagbrawf y rhaglen teledu Cor Cymru. Rhan o'r cytundeb yw bod pob cor yn derbyn cd o'i berfformiad ac mae safon hwnna'n uchel iawn. Beth ydy'r corau i fod i ganu? Wel mae rhaid canu o leiaf un darn digyfeiliant, o leiaf un yn Gymraeg a dim mwy nag un yn Saesneg.

Mae'n anodd iawn i esbonio faint o sioc oedd hi pan clywon ni ein bod wedi derbyn lle yn y rownd cyn derfynol. Cyn hir roedd rhaid i'r arweinydd (fi!) yrru i stiwdio, lle mae Doctor Who yn cael ei ffilmio, i gael cyfweiliad. A paid meddwl taw dim ond cyfweiliad ych chi'n cael mewn rhaglenni fel hyn. O na! Ar ol siarad ac ateb cwestiynau, roedd rhaid i mi esgus mod i'n arwain cor tra bod effaith golau "strobe" tu ol i mi yn creu

effaith diddorol. Wedyn roedd rhaid trio edrych yn ymosodol, troi i'r camera, a dweud, "Seimon Morris, Cor Tempus!"

10:45 Twymo lan ein lleisiau yn y theatr a chael practis olaf cyn symud i mewn i'r prif neuadd lle dyn ni'n cael ymarfer gyda'r camerau teledu am 11:30.

Mae grwp Tempus yn swnio'n wahanol i gorau eraill achos ein bod yr un mor gysurus yn canu pop a gospel ac ydyn ni'n canu cerddoriaeth Baroque a Renaissance. Ond yn fwy amlwg na hynny yw'r ffaith ein bod ni'n edrych yn hollol wahanol. Mae oedran aelodau

Tempus yn amrywio o 11 i dros 55 oed. Mae nhw'n cael gwisgo unrhywbeth maen nhw moyn. Yr unig rheol yw bod popeth maen nhw'n gwisgo'n goch neu du. Mae un aelod yn gwisgo ambell i bluen hyd yn oed!! Dwi'n cofio cerdded i lawr y grisiau'n ymwybodol o'r ffaith bod llygaid llawer o bobl yn troi i edrych arnon ni.

14:00 Dechrau ffilmio a ni yw'r ail gor i gystadlu.

Enillon ni? Daethom yn ail? Ah wel, does dim hawl da fi ddweud! Ond buodd hi'n ddiwrnod rydym yn mynd i'w gofio am flynyddau gyda phleser pur.



Diamond Couple



On 29 December 1948, Stewart and Joy Neal (pictured holding a congratulatory card from the Queen) were married at St Michael's Church, Eglwysfach. Last December, exactly 60 years later, more than seventy of their family and close friends gathered at Voelas, Glandyfi, to celebrate the couple's Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Ymddeoliad y Parchedig Ganon John H. Gravel, BA

Brian G. Hopkins

DETH ymddeoliad Canon Gravel o'r offeiriadaeth yn yr Eglwys yng Nghymru ar 31ain Ionawr 2009. Ei blwyf olaf oedd Llandybïe gyda Llandyfân a St Marc Cwmcoch, lle y bu yn ficer am dros dair mlynedd ar ddeg, gydag adeg o chwe mlynedd yn gwasanaethu hefyd yn ddeon bro Dyffryn Aman.

Ganed yn Llanymddyfri yn 1945, lle'r oedd ei dad yn gurad, a

The Reverend Cannon John H. Gravel, BA retired on the 31st of January 2009. Cannon Gravel studied Geography at Aberystwyth University before preparing for ministry at Lampeter. He was ordained in 1968. The Members of his Parish at Llandybïe wish Cannon Gravel and his wife, Morfudd, a long and blessed retirement at their new home in Ammanford

phan yn unarddeg oed symudodd y teulu i Gilgerran. Mynychodd Ysgol Ramadeg Aberteifi, graddiodd yn naearyddiaeth ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth ac ar ôl

dilyn cwrs tystysgrif addysg bu'n astudio diwinyddiaeth yng Ngholeg Llambod. Cafodd ei ordeinio i'r offeiriadaeth ar ddydd San Pedr, 1968. Treulioedd ei guradiaeth yn Aberystwyth ac fe'i wnaed yn Rheithor plwyf Llangeithio yn 1972. Yn 1981, death yn ficer Llannon a'r Tymbl, a symud i Landybïe yn 1995. Bu'n ganon yn Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi ers 1992 ac mae'n un o'r rhai sy'n gyfrifol am ddewis darpar offeiriad yn yr Eglwys yng Nghymru.

Yn ŵr mawr ei barch gan bawb sy'n ei adnabod, mae'r Canon yn arweinydd arbennig i ddod a phobl i adnabod Duw ac i dderbyn iachawdwriaeth drwy Iesu Grist. Mae'n debyg y bydd yn cael ei gadw'n brysur ym mhulpuadau gwag eglwysi a chapeli yn y cylch a bydd hyn wrth ei fodd er mwyn parhau i ledaenu'r Newyddion Da.

Yn ystod gwasanaeth teuluol

bore Sul, 25ain Ionawr cyflwynwyd tystebion ac anrhegion i'r Canon a'i wraig, Morfudd, gan wardeiniaid eglwys Santes Dybïe, Côr yr Eglwys, yr Ysgol Sul ac Undeb y Mamau. Hefyd cawsant rhoddion gan eglwysi Llandyfân a St Marc, Clwb Radio Llandybïe ac anrhegion, cardiau a dymuniadau da oddi wrth nifer fawr o gyfeillion yn y gymuned leol.

Fe welwn eisau'r Canon yn Llandybïe, gyda'i ddysgeidiaeth a phregethau ysbrydol o'r Ysgrhythrau a'i gyfeillgarwch ef a Morfudd. Cawsom ein hatgoffa yn ei lythyr olaf i'r plwyfolion, ein bod fel pobl meidrol wedi cael ein galw i weinidogaethu ymhlith pobl meidrol, ac fe allwn mewn cariad ac ymnedd adeiladu ein gilydd i gyflawni pwrpas Duw yn ein bywydau, er gogoniant Ei Enw mawr.

Arglwydd Iesu,

*'Dod imi galon well bob dydd,
A'th ras yn fodd i fyw;
A boed i eraill trwof fi
Adnabod cariad Duw.'*

Dymunwn pob bendith ac hapusrwydd iddynt yn eu cartref newydd yn Rhydaman.

Pilgrim Adventure Journey Leaders and Assistant Journey Leaders

Island hopping, hill walking, worshipping in out of the way places . . .

If the idea of planning and leading Christian journeys through 'off the beaten track' Britain and Ireland appeals to you, you may like to consider joining the *Pilgrim Adventure team*. Team members are volunteers from all walks of life and Christian traditions, but all share the aims of the organisation and have discovered a closeness to God and Creation through travel to remote places and a wish to share this with others.

For further information

Tel: 01834 844212

Write: Pilgrim Adventure, South Winds, Culver Park, Tenby SA70 7ED.

pilgrim.adventure@virgin.net

www.pilgrim-adventure.org.uk

Pilgrim Adventure Est. 1987





Creative Ideas for Quiet Corners

ISBN: 9781 84101 546 0

Quiet Corners, just as the title suggests is a book about creating quiet corners. It contains 14 visual prayer ideas for use with children. But the book does more than suggest appropriate prayers, offering the

reader a wealth of information on how, where and what is required in setting up quiet corners. Whilst this book would be very useful for Sunday school and religious education teachers, its scope is much wider. These corners can be known as prayer corners or even “stilling stations”; a place to be still and listen to God, a “spiritual pit-stop”, if you like, a place to refresh the soul in the hectic daily routine.

The book explores the concept in a similar way to the object boxes used in Godly play, where the use of artefacts helps to reinforce the scriptural message being delivered and concentrates the mind of the participants on the subject.

It will be an invaluable tool for Godly play-session teachers as it will enable them to expand upon their weekly stories and help with the development of the children’s prayer. But these ideas would be just as useful for adults too. Every church could benefit from a small quiet area and we could even think about “still

stations” in our own homes.

The ideas offer a “way in” to some profound ideas and themes, using a Multisensory approach. There is something here for those exploring faith for the first time and for those of us, who despite being Christians for a long time, could benefit from seeing something in a fresh and different way.

The book is probably best used in a pick and mix mode, where the reader can dip into the seasons and themes as appropriate. Two examples are pebbles and a pebble pond and the lost sheep and the shepherd.

The clear layout is enhanced by good colour illustrations, which help to support the ideas.

This book of prayers, readings and ideas would make a wonderful gift for new parents, as well as confirmation candidates. It would appeal to people of all ages and, with a little thought, ideas can be adapted for use with any age group

– Heather Witt

ARCH – Arts in Churches

by The Reverend Anthony Bailey

IN the year 2000, a conversation between the eminent sculptor, Denis Curry and myself resulted in the beginning of a movement in the Crymych area which sought to celebrate and investigate the relationship between the arts and the spiritual, in the context of places of worship.

As an initial experiment, Llanglydwen Church hosted a fortnight of the arts which was very highly commended by the Church Times. There was an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by well known local artists. A series of musical recitals concluded with a specially written Mass composed for the occasion by Jonathan Copus, and performed by his small choir. An evening of ‘Poetry Please’ in Welsh and English was well received, while children’s workshops brought many children to the church who had never before entered a place of worship.

Sadly, for a variety of reasons including some local objections, the experiment had to be abandoned. However, on retiring as Priest in Charge of Llanglydwen in 2005, we gathered together a small committee and reformed ARCH (Art in Churches). Over the next three years, many events took place in a variety of churches and chapels, including concerts of music from different ages given by various vocal and instrumental groups; a presentation of ‘Poetry Please’ by national poetry prize winner, Julia Copus; painting workshops in Gumfreston Church; and two successful photographic competitions. The organisation also published newsletters with many informative articles written by well qualified practitioners in the arts.

As well as introducing many

people to the idea of ARCH, churches benefited financially from our programme to the tune of £2,000. Some of the parishes who hosted events have since gone on to sponsor their own programmes of the arts.

Our final year of operation (2008) was spectacular in two ways. We decided to concentrate, during the first half of the year, on producing an exhibition of our work for Catalyst. Our displays of art and sculpture, some from local churches, as well as a display explaining the purpose of ARCH, were highly commended by many who attended the event. The highlight of the year, however, was the ‘stained glass’ workshop at which not only children created windows from tissue paper, but a large window was created as an ongoing group project.

We ended the year with a double event at the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Taper at Cardi-

gan, where Priest in Charge, Father Cunane, had commissioned stained glass windows for the church illustrating the sacraments, and others to enhance the Shrine of Our Lady. He, together with the artist, Amber Hiscott, gave a commentary on the work. Afterwards, in the Hall, Dr Anne Price-Owen from Swansea University introduced a film illustrating the work of David Jones, “Soldier, Artist, Poet”, which was the result of a pilgrimage which the David Jones society had made to the battlefields of the Somme.

This evening was a fitting end to the work of ARCH which, because of age and other commitments of its members, had to close. We hope however that it will have inspired many to look more deeply into the relationship of the arts with the spiritual. We thank the Archbishop of Canterbury for his support, and also our own Bishop who was our President.



Stained Glass Workshop organised by ARCH

St Davids Cathedral Festival,



ST DAVIDS Cathedral Festival celebrates its thirty-first year in 2009 with a stunning array of concerts. With appearances from some of the finest artists in the UK, the festival has built up a reputation as one of the greatest classical music festivals in Wales.

This year artistic director Alexander Mason has put together another thrilling programme with lots of new, exciting elements and a programme which will appeal to all.

The Festival opens on the afternoon of 22 May, with an educational workshop; drawing together five local primary schools who will come together to form the festival’s first Children’s Festival Chorus. The Festival will be officially launched on the same evening with a concert given by one of the hottest young vocal groups on the scene, Voces8.

On the first Saturday, the Festival Chorus and Orchestra will enthral us with a performance of Handel’s epic depiction of the exile of the Israelites, ‘Israel in Egypt’.

This year sees the première of two new festival commissions, one by the world renowned concert organist David Briggs, ‘Briggs: St Davids Service’, commissioned by The Friends of St Davids Cathedral, and a première of Mark Blatchly’s ‘St Davids Mass’ for treble voices. David Briggs will also be giving the Welsh première of his transcription of Mahler’s 6th Symphony.

The distinguished vocal ensemble, The Tallis Scholars, will make their long-awaited debut at the Festival with a mouth-watering selection of Renaissance polyphony. The festival also welcomes the hugely entertaining ensemble, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain who are fast becoming one of the most talked-about groups on the festival circuit.

The St Davids Cathedral Choir will once again play a prominent role in the festival and will perform a programme celebrating the anniversaries of Handel and Haydn, accompanied by The Corelli Orchestra, and the soprano soloist Natalie Clifton-Griffith. There will also be a broadcast of choral even-

song live on BBC Radio 3 in the middle of the week.

This year there will be a late evening lecture recital, ‘The musical road to Santiago’, with Mary Remnant, who will recreate the atmosphere of the pilgrimage route in mediaeval times with an array of contemporary instruments and following the success of last year’s ‘Film at the Festival’, Alexander Mason will enthral us all with an organ improvisation to the silent movie, ‘The Hunchback of Notre Dame’.

Thursday evening sees the world famous cellist, Natalie Clein perform works for solo cello by J. S. Bach and Kodaly. There will also be a chamber music concert featuring Andrew Skidmore and friends who will perform trios by Haydn, Mendelssohn and Brahms.

The Festival would not be complete without mentioning the hugely popular Young Musicians Platform featuring concerts by Young Musician of Dyfed, flautist, Rachel Griffiths and organist Nicholas Prozzillo, who will present a programme to illustrate the music the young J. S. Bach may have heard on his journey from Arnstadt to Lübeck in the winter of 1705-6. In addition, this year there will be two coffee concerts which will take place in the Refectory, which will feature the Choral Scholars of St Davids Cathedral and the St Davids Cathedral Boys Choir.

The Festival concludes with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, featuring cellist Natalie Clein once again for a programme of Russian favourites, under the baton of Alexander Shelley; a fitting climax to this year’s week of concerts.

Please apply for tickets to: Lionel Griffiths, on 01348 831033.

For further general information, please contact the Administrator on 01437 720057, cathedralfestival@onetel.com or via www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk

The St Davids Cathedral Festival is supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Wales.

Reviews



The Gift of Years
by Joan Chittister
(DLT, 2008)
ISBN: 0-232-52750-4

MANY of us who attend Church these days are elderly and this book, says the author, is for those on the brink of old age. Her contention is that, when our worldly struggles of bringing up a family and earning a living are over, our later years leave us these days with 20 years of living to enjoy. We are blessed with great experience and wisdom which can contribute massively to national and social life. Working mothers today need us; the grandchildren need us for we have much to pass on to them; the frail and infirm need us; the Church depends on the elderly who are Christ's leaven in society. Much of the social work in the community and the outreach to the poor and suffering in a continent like Africa are sustained by the organisation, compassion and financial sacrifice of the elderly. When we retire we are, by no means, on our way out. We have so much more to offer.

Another important fact to realise about the third age is that we are not caught up in the hurly burly of life. We don't have to go here or there and do this and that. We are not caught up in the doing of life to survive. On the contrary we have time to savour the goodness of life. We can take

advantage of the sun and the good weather. We have time to read and to think and to question. We have time to make and sustain new friendships. We can learn how to be human as God intended us to be and are not cogs in the economic machine. Above all as Christians we have time to pray and give thanks.

We have long had the movement for equal opportunities which seeks to give women their rightful place in society. In this book the author attacks ageism which relegates the elderly to be of little worth. On the contrary, she says the elderly created the society we now live in and know more about it than any other group. We have reservoirs of wisdom which often challenge the naive thoughts and policies of most of our young politicians.

The book provides us with an understanding of the nature of age and the incredible opportunities that are open to us. The author also deals with negatives of old age and how best to deal with them. I would recommend the book for study by the Mothers Union and Men's Societies.

– Canon Bob Morgan



Cosmo the Christchurch Cat: 24 stories by Canon Patrick Thomas

I APPROACHED this review with some trepidation. After all, I'm a man and not a cat. OK, Thomas Aquinas, or even John Holdsworth on the Old Testament, this isn't. Even so, I decided a consultant was necessary, so I enlisted the help of *Look-Who-It-Isn't*, a neighbouring feline whose person is Sara, our assistant Church Organist at SS.

Katharine & Peter, Milford Haven. (A strange name for a cat, but thereby hangs a tail, or rather a tale.)

I enjoyed this book. It's not in any way a heavyweight theological tome, but it contains a lot of theology and doctrine, presented in a style which is anything but dusty. It takes the calendar and, feast by feast, it helps us to discover the meaning for life which lies behind all our ceremonies and celebrations. And it's not done in a heavy-handed way, but through the eyes of a cat! And so the book is funny and great fun to read. We assume that Canon Patrick means this for children, but there is much for adults to learn as well. If you avoid the parish Bible Group and daydream during the sermon, you'll be surprised by what you will find here. We learn about faith and hope and love, but perhaps in a more approachable way than in St Paul. There are some sad moments for Cosmo as in everybody's life, but Canon Patrick brings the light of the Gospel to these sad corners.

Cosmo is a bit parochial (it helps if you know Carmarthen), but his comments on the C in W Con-

stitution would enliven any PCC meeting! And we do learn something about Canon Patrick himself. O to see ourselves as our cats see us!

There might be some who think this a trivial way to deal with our Faith. But *Look-Who-It-Isn't* reminds me that he has been told that we follow someone who was the greatest story teller of all – Jesus of Nazareth. And if a story or a parable can help us to the truth, then we owe a lot to the story teller. If you are looking for a book to learn more about our faith but don't want anything too heavy, why not try *Cosmo*, brush up on your CATechism, and learn much without even realising it?

John Davies (and *Look-Who-It-Isn't*!)

Mission Prayer Hymn Books
St Mary, Begelly, has a set of 60 Mission Praise hymn books (1997 ed.) that are looking for a new home.

Contact 01834 812078 or
01834 813981
for further information

Notices received

Aberystwyth Choral Society
will be singing
Handel's Zadok The Priest,
Vaughan Williams'
Toward The Unknown Region
and
Rutter's Magnificat
in
Aberystwyth Arts Centre
on 9 May

Tickets available directly
from the Choral Society,
Tel: 01974 272476, or from
the Box Office,
Tel: 01970 623232.

**Days of Refreshment
for the Soul . . .
in St Davids Cathedral
Cloisters**

Saturday 16th May
'The power of story' led by
Gina Silverman and Revd
Rhiannon Johnson

Wednesday 8th July
'Healing' led by Revd John
Bennett and Gina Silverman

**Wednesday 23rd
September**
'The spirituality of Ann
Griffiths' led by Canon
Patrick Thomas and Helen
Aspden

Saturday 21st November
'Listening' led by Revd
Dennis Wight and Helen
Aspden

* The days start at 10.00am
and finish at 4.00pm

* We invite a donation of £5
for each day which includes
drinks

* Lunch may be taken in
the Refectory or bring a
packed lunch

To book a place, contact
Revd John Bennett,
01348 831354 or email
johns.bennett@virgin.net

'If your body is running too
fast, stop and let your soul
catch up'

Gardener Wanted

Part time self-employed gardener wanted for Llys Esgob, Abergwili, approximately 4 hours per week during the gardening season to tend borders and shrubs.

Please apply to:
Bishop of St Davids,
Llys Esgob, Abergwili, Carmarthen SA31 2JG

Garddwr eisiau, rhan amser, hunangyflogedig yn Llys Esgob, Abergwili, tua 4 awr yr wythnos dros y tymor garddio i ofalu am y borderi a'r llwyni.

Ymgeisiwch i:
Esgob Tyddewi,
Llys Esgob, Abergwili, Caerfyrddin SA31 2JG

The Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) in Wales annual conference will take place on Saturday 28 March 2009 at Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun. The leader will Teresa Onions, who is part of the Cumbria-based ReNew consortium of counsellors.

To book a place call 0845 1235267 or e-mail
wales@acc-uk.org.

For more general information about the ACC please visit
www.acc-uk.org

THREE CHOIRS IN THE CATHEDRAL

13 April 2009, Easter Monday, at 7.15 pm

St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire

The Three Choirs Easter Monday Concert:

John S. Davies Singers,
Côr Caerfyrddin and Côr Dewi Sant,
with the Westward Orchestra.
Stabat Mater – Dvorak,
Passion Music from Handel's Messiah

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www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk

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Email info to revjc@dentron.co.uk

Make the news – make the connection