Thy Kingdom Come - The ten days that lead up to Pentecost Sunday is traditionally a time when we particularly pray for the Holy Spirit’s power and gifts in the building up of the church, and for their use in our witness as we seek the coming of God’s Kingdom in all its fullness. As part of this period of prayer, the bishops are encouraging the faithful to join in the international ecumenical initiative ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ between Ascension and Pentecost, 10-20 May 2018. More details and resources can be found at: https://www.thykingdomcome.global/

#therebutnotthere – Find out how your church or community organisation can host the haunting art installation, There But Not There, to commemorate those from your community who fell in World War 1. Details at: https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/taking-part/armed-forces-covenant-fund-trust/

New to STAR

Mold & District Choral Society will perform Handel’s “Acis & Galatea” at the Church of St. Mary, Mold on Saturday 19th May at 7:30 p.m. Conductor: Trystan Lewis. Soloists: Soprano - Katie Hinchliffe, Tenor - Rhodri Jones, Bass - Callum Speed. Tickets £10 available from choir members, Sue 01352 757195 or at the door.

21-27 May this year is Dementia Action Week. The Diocese of St. Asaph is marking this with a Dementia Friends Information Session on 22 May, 11am - 12pm in the Tea Rooms at the Cathedral. This is for the public and for Cathedral volunteers. Come along and learn more about dementia and how to help. See the info sheet attached. Bob Friedrich, Dementia Support Officer, 07475 117077, bobfriedrich@churchinwales.org.uk.

Come and enjoy an evening of Midsummer music at Corpus Christi Church Tremeirchion. Sunday 3rd June at 7.30pm with The Oriana Singers from Bangor conducted by Lorna Todd - an evening not to be missed.
**Rural Mission Sunday** has been promoted over the last few years by Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre based at Stoneleigh in England. It is essentially an initiative encouraging us to acknowledge and celebrate all that churches in rural communities are, do and contribute to the local community/world. It is celebrated in July - this year July 15th is the day that's being promoted, but you can mark it on a different day - for example in Vyrnwy MA we’ll be celebrating on July 29th when we have a fifth Sunday MA Eucharist. Germinate produce resources which you can access (and find out more about RMS generally) at [www.germinate.net/rural-mission-sunday](http://www.germinate.net/rural-mission-sunday)

**Christian Aid Week 13-19 May** highlights the plight of the more than 40 million people displaced around the world, but who remain within their own countries. Find out more at [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org)

**The Theology for Life Course (formerly Exploring Faith)** - Would you like to study theology? Are you interested in exploring your vocation, training for a ministry or just want to find out more about how the insights of academic theology and lived-out faith might inform each other? Fancy beginning a certificate, diploma or degree programme, or want to take your existing learning to the next level?

Theology for Life programme might be for you. We are setting up new small study groups for Sept 2019 and there will be groups you can join spread across the Diocese. Or why not set up your own group together in your church or Mission Area? We have an introductory morning at 10am-12:30pm at All Saints Church Southsea, Wrexham, LL11 5PG on Saturday 9th June where you can find out more about the course. You may like to watch the short videos on this site to get more of a sense of the course - [http://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/?page_id=49](http://www.stpadarns.ac.uk/?page_id=49), and there is further information attached to this email.

**Please see the following message from Revd Canon Dr Manon James – “Mapping pioneering work and fresh expressions**

In the diocese we are looking to map the pioneering work and the ‘fresh expressions’ of church that are happening in our mission areas. These can be projects or services and although definitions vary, we would like to map everything that we are doing, be it a project, service or anything else which seeks to attract new people to church by using new and creative methods. They can be based inside or outside the church walls. We’d love to hear from you so please do let us know via Jackie Feak, the ministry support officer on ministry.stasaph@churchinwales.org.uk (or 01745 582245 Monday and Tuesday). We will then use the information to encourage one another across the diocese with ideas, and to provide support, as well as get a more accurate picture of what is happening. It may even be useful to set up a network.

Gill Stanning, our officer for pioneer ministry elaborates on what pioneer ministry is:
Pioneers seek to bring the love of God to those outside the church through new forms of worship (such as fresh expressions), sensitive evangelism, community service and missional activity. Pioneers are called by God to identify and creatively respond to both the spiritual and physical needs of those outside the church. Where appropriate, Pioneers aim to establish new contextual Christian communities. These new communities may develop from Fresh Expressions of church which operate out of the existing local church or they may develop in areas where there is no visible Christian presence at all. Pioneers also seek to make good relationships with interest/action groups in the local community so that they can help with existing initiatives such as Alzheimer’s support. They also hope to develop spiritual connections through these relationships.

Examples could be: café church, messy church, church in a circle, resource church, Forest church, storytime services, variety of interest linked groups who gather for worship together either before or after activity e.g. runners.....

If you’d like help with this area of church life, then Gill’s contact details are:

Gill Stanning:
Phone number: 01244 541420
Email address: gill.pioneerpriest@gmail.com

Please also remember that our Church Army Centre for Mission can also help, and are a resource available for all of us:
Centre for Mission, Wrexham
Captain Chris Lawton 07974 417052
clawton106@btinternet.com

If you have pictures of activities then this would also be a great help.
Many thanks manoncjames@churchinwales.org.uk.

**Coming up this week**

**Bangor on Dee and Wrexham Art Groups present an Art Exhibition in Bangor on Dee Church** 12-20 May. Open from 10am till 4pm each day. Come and support local artists. Many of the works on display will be for sale.

**Betws yn Rhos Village Plant & Cake Sale** in the Village Hall - Saturday 12th May, 10am-12pm. All welcome, teas, coffee & cake.

**Taize Service at St Asaph Cathedral** on Sunday 13th May at 6.30pm, praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for Pentecost. A warm welcome to all (Poster circulated previously).
Living Church Weekend / Penwythnos Eglwys Fyw: 12/13 May – St Peter’s Church, Ruthin, 10am-4pm. Details on the posters circulated previously.

Archdeaconry of Wrexham Visitation – Sunday 13th May in St Giles’ Church, Wrexham at 4pm – there will be no roll call of Clerics and Readers this year but from 3.15pm all Clerics, Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers are asked to ‘sign in’ prior to the service and Churchwardens are asked to sign the required declaration at the relevant table where the Mission Area Leader will be situated.

“Setting God’s people free: A theology of lay ministry” – In this day Prof Canon Elaine Graham (Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology at the University of Chester) will help us to think through the theology of lay and shared ministry and how to put this commitment into practice in the life of our mission areas. 15th May, 10am-3.30pm in Gladstone’s Library, Hawarden. Open to all. Booking is essential, please contact siancharlesworth@cinw.org.uk

Marketplace and information

Translators’ Tearoom: The new Cathedral tearoom is now open for cakes, ice-creams and drinks. Why not drop in and visit the new interactive interpretation of the history and importance of the Cathedral at the same time.

National Churches Trust Community Grants
Funding is available for projects which introduce facilities to enable increased community use of places of worship.
The Community Grants programme offers grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 towards the cost of capital works (additions and extensions) and the introduction of facilities, such as accessible toilets and catering facilities. Projects must have an estimated cost of at least £25,000 (including VAT and fees) and have already raised 50% of the total project cost
Projects must be able to demonstrate local consultation, need for the project and benefit.
All permissions (faculties) must be in place at the time that projects apply and work must be able to start within two years of the application.
All projects must be overseen by an architect or chartered surveyor who is AABC, RIBA, ARB or RICS accredited
Further information is available at https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org
Or martynschlangen@churchinwales.org.uk Funding administrator Diocese Office St Asaph.
Welsh lessons - Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in learning / improving Welsh. We have had a great response and hope to start lessons in Wrexham on Monday and Wednesday afternoons 1-5pm as these were the most popular times and place from September 3rd/5th onwards. Please do set aside these times and dates in your diary and I (Manon) will be in touch soon with registration forms. We are going to be part of a Welsh in the workplace project which is fully funded therefore we need a minimum number of confirmed and registered participants and it will be important to commit to all the sessions. For more information contact me on manoncjames@churchinwales.org.uk

Jackie Feak, the ministry support officer will be changing her hours to two full days from this week onwards: Monday and Tuesday 8.15am – 3.45pm and can be contacted on ministry.stasaph@churchinwales.org.uk and 01745 582245 about vocations and discernment queries. Inquirers’ forms can also be found at https://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/life/steering-groups/developing/discernment-process-for-ministry/inquirers-form/). Manon Ceridwen James can also be contacted on manoncjames@churchinwales.org.uk, or direct line 01745 532599 or on her mobile 07918 624675 (though the signal in the office is very poor).

Forthcoming dates

Dates of the 2018 Archdeacon’s Visitations:

- Archdeaconry of St. Asaph - 17th May in St Margaret’s Church, Bodelwyddan at 7pm. Churchwardens can sign declarations from 6.15pm.
- Archdeaconry of Montgomery - 23rd May in St Beuno’s Church, Berriew at 7pm. Churchwardens may sign the declarations from 6.15pm onwards or after service.

Pentecost Confirmation, 20th May in St Asaph Cathedral, 3pm.

A Hope and a Future – Transforming churches and Communities

A one day event open to everyone who is interested in helping their church be relevant to their community. Come and hear stories about how churches and communities are working together to improve lives. There will also be practical workshops as detailed below:

Bringing the Bible to life through drama
Bringing the Bible to life through films
How to plan a project using simple planning tools
How to help your church respond to mental health issues

The day will be interactive and will give you tools and resources to take back to your churches and communities.

Date 6th June
Time 9am – 4pm
Venue Llangollen Pavilion, Llangollen

To book your place please email siancharlesworth@cinw.org.uk

StAR - If you want something including in the St Asaph Round up, please send it to siancharlesworth@cinw.org.uk. The next StAR will be on Thursday 17 May.

Check back on previous editions of StAR at http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/news/star/(also linked from the home page)

Nominate people in your church to receive this information. It’s free and we want to share it! Ask your Church Secretary, Wardens or Mission Area Communications Officer to send an e-mail to siancharlesworth@cinw.org.uk with ‘Subscribe to StAR’ in the subject line and we’ll do the rest.

Keep up to date with what is going on across the Diocese.
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and visit our website: www.facebook.com/stasaphdiocese @StAsaphDiocese http://stasaph.churchinwales.org.uk/