



Church School Closures on the Horizon?

by Pobl Dewi Correspondents

SCHOOL CLOSURE is an emotive issue but it is one that it seems we are going to have to live with for some time to come. Carmarthenshire County Council's recently published "Modernising Education Provision" talks of "A significant reduction in the number of primary schools, from 130+ to around 90." Four of these might be church schools. Pembrokeshire is continuing with its rolling programme of review; only Ceredigion has so far been able to avoid significant school closures.

Rural schools seem under particular threat at present – Powys has been going through a period of closing schools and most recently, Denbighshire has announced plans to close or merge 14 schools in rural areas. Locals have claimed that this will 'devastate local communities and affect their youngsters' education'. This has led to local AMs and MPs demanding that council officials think again and have demanded assurances from council Chief Executive, Ian Miller, that a period of consultation that has been announced will be a genuine period of listening by the council.

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Yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn ymateb i adroddiad Windsor

by Siôn Brynach

This is an article on the Church in Wales' response to the Eames Commission report on the future governance of the Anglican Communion which was made public recently. The response in full can be accessed on the Church in Wales web-site at www.churchinwales.org.uk/windsorreport/response.html

MAE'R EGLWYS yng Nghymru wedi anfon ei hymateb i Adroddiad Windsor at Swyddfa'r Cymundeb Anglicanaidd. Yn dilyn cyhoeddi adroddiad Comisiwn Eames ym mis Hydref 2004, holodd Archesgobion y Cymundeb Anglicanaidd am ymatebion i'r adroddiad gan roi pedwar cwestiwn i'w hateb i bob talaith. Roedd y cwestiynau hyn yn ymwneud â dealltwriaeth y taleithiau eglwysig o amcan a natur y cymundeb, eu hymateb i'r argymhellion o fewn yr adroddiad a'r gydberthynas rhwng hyn a'i dealltwriaeth o amcan y cymundeb, barn yr eglwysi ynghylch sgil-ffeithiau gweithredu'r argymhellion, ac yn olaf yr ymateb i'r syniad o 'gyfamad' cyd-rhwng

aelodau'r cymundeb. Gwnaed cais i'r 38 talaith o fewn y Cymundeb anfon eu hymatebion i mewn erbyn diwedd Ionawr.

Gan fod amser yn gymharol brin, penderfynodd esgobion yr Eglwys yng Nghymru sefydlu grŵp bychan i ystyried y cwestiynau ac i ddrafftio ymateb. Cyfarfu'r grŵp dan gadeiryddiaeth y Parch. Dr Peter Sedgwick, Prifathro Coleg Diwinyddol Mihangel Sant. Aelodau eraill y grŵp oedd Gwir Barchedig John Davies – Esgob Llanelwy, Parch. Tudor Griffiths, Canon Enid Morgan a'r Parch. John Webber. Roedd y Parchedig Athro Lesley Francis yn aelod hefyd, ond ni fedrodd fynychu cyfarfod y grŵp.

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Digilab Launch

THE BISHOP of St David's has opened the Plant Dewi Digilab. The lab, courtesy of CREDU a project created by Canllaw Online and Fujitsu Services, houses state of the minute technology such as broadband linked computers, digital cameras, video cameras, colour printers and scanners, video conferencing equipment and mobile pentabs and laptops. Being a part of this project will allow young people within the Diocese to fully develop their technological skills, putting them at the forefront of the information age. It will allow interactive multi-site training, skills and knowledge sharing and support for business planning and development. Young people will be better informed on an array of issues and will be able to make better life choices. Dolan Davies (Project Worker) said, "Young people will be able to get the help and skills they need to reach their full potential and will learn in a hands-on type of way".

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Primates of the Anglican Communion at the start of their meeting at the Dromantine Conference Centre near Newry, Northern Ireland, 21-25 February 2005

Photo: Jim Rosenthal/Anglican Communion News Service



Pictured rehearsing the Crucifixion scene are Vincent Gardner as Jesus and Rod Jones as the Centurion

Pembroke Dock Passion Play

THE BUILD-UP to Holy Week and Easter has been very special this year in the newly formed Rectorial Benefice of Carew, as members from churches across the Benefice are getting together and putting on a Passion Play. Rehearsals began back in January, and the cast of some forty players is drawn entirely from the congregations of the nine churches of the Benefice.

The Play is entitled "The Empty Tomb" and tells the story of the Passion of our Lord from the point of view of Mary Magdalene, beginning with her early life in Jericho through to her meeting with the Risen Christ on Easter morning.

The part of Mary is played by Marianne Osborne, who actually begins her training as a Reader in our diocese the week before the Play! The part of Jesus is played by Vincent Gardner, who is the Assistant Curate in the Benefice and is to be priested in St. Davids in June. The part of Simon the Pharisee is played by Richard Allen, a lifelong and distinguished member of St. Teilo's Church in Pembroke Dock.

There will be three performances of the play in St. Teilo's Church Hall the week before Holy Week, i.e. March 14th, 15th, and 16th, each beginning at 7.30 p.m. For tickets and further information 01646 680024/682943.

The Next Edition . . .

. . . of Pobl Dewi will be published on 17th July 2005. Articles to be included in this edition should be sent to the lead regional editor, Tessa Briggs, by 1st July: tessab@btopenworld.com.

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Commission for Africa



Tony Blair, Syr Bob Geldof a Gordon Brown

hawlfraint: trwy ganiatad caredig y Comisiwn dros Affrica

Wedi'r don haelioni – beth nesaf?

by Siôn Brynach

ENGLISH SUMMARY: this is an article about the response to the tsunami disaster of late December, and a discussion of some of the development issues relating to the UK's presidency of the EU and G8 group of nations during this year.

BU SWNAMI Gŵyl San Steffan yn sioc aruthrol i ni i gyd. Ond Bu'r drychineb yn fodd i ennyn ton arall hefyd – ton o haelioni. Y teimlad ymhlith nifer fawr o bobl oedd “*sut fedrwn ni gynorthwyo yn wyneb y fath ryferthwy naturiol?*” Bu'r ymateb ariannol yn aruthrol – dros £250 miliwn wedi ei gasglu gan y Pwyllgor Ymateb i Argyfyngau ym Mhrydain hyd yma a mwy yn dod i mewn bob dydd. Cyn diwedd mis Ionawr roedd y pwyllgor wedi derbyn 350,00 o roddion trwy'r post ac wedi prosesu dros filiwn o roddion wedi eu rhoi trwy gyfrwng cardiau credyd.

Bu'r ymateb oddi wrth esgobaeth Tyddewi hefyd yn un nodedig – gydag o ddeutu £60,000 wedi ei gasglu a'i anfon ymlaen at elusennau yn ymwneud â'r argyfwng yn ogystal â deunyddiau ymolchi a dillad. Y neges o bob rhan o'r esgobaeth hefyd yw y bydd y codi pres yn parhau gyda digwyddiadau yn ystod y Grawys. Wrth gwrs y gwir amdani yw fod pobl wedi cyfrannu yn bersonol yn ogystal â thrwy gyfrwng cynulleidfaoedd, felly mae'n siŵr na fydd y cyfanswm terfynol byth yn wybyddus.

Un gofid sydd wedi ei fynegi yn sgil yr ymateb ardderchog hwn fodd bynnag, yw'r ofn fod y drychineb wedi tynnu sylw oddi ar drychinebau eraill. Cyn y Nadolig, y Swdan oedd yn cael y sylw oherwydd y digwyddiadau

erchyll yn Darfur ymhlith llefydd eraill yno.

Ddechrau'r flwyddyn eleni, gwisgodd Prydain ddwy fantell bwysig – llywyddiaeth grŵp y G8 – sef y gwledydd gyda'r economïau mwyaf yn y byd – a llywyddiaeth yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae Canghellor y Trysorlys, Gordon Brown a'r Prif Weinidog, Tony Blair wedi bod yn uchel ei cloch ynghylch y cyfle y mae'r naill rôl fel y llall yn ei ddarparu. Hyd yma bu rhai datblygiadau allweddol iawn. Llynedd er enghraifft lansiodd Tony Blair Gomisiwn Affrica gyda'r nod o lunio argymhellion ar gyfer cyfarfod 2005 o'r G8 yn Gleneagles yn yr Alban ym mis Gorffennaf. Mae Canghellor y Trysorlys – Gordon Brown – wedi bod yn cael sylw yn ystod y mis neu ddau ddiwethaf hefyd

gyda'i argymhellion ar gyfer dileu'r ddyled ymhlith y gwledydd hynny sy'n datblygu – dyledion sydd ag ad-daliadau mor uchel nes eu bod yn llesteirio datblygiad y gwledydd rhieni.

Ond beth yw teimladau'r elusennau sy'n gweithio ym maes datblygu rhyngwladol? Teimladau cymysg oedd gan Robin Samuel, un o staff Cymorth Cristnogol yng Nghymru – “*fe gawsom ni ein syfrdanu gan yr ymateb anhygoel oddi wrth bobl Cymru i drychineb y Swnami. Ar yr un pryd, mae'r ofn wedi ei fynegi y gall yr ymateb i'r swnami olygu fod ein gwaith arall - yn ymateb i argyfyngau eraill - gael ei anghofio o ganlyniad. Ein gobaith ni wrth gwrs yw y byddwn ni'n medru harneisio'r haelioni hwn a manteisio arno wrth fynd i'r afael â'r gwaith ehangach.*”

Cafodd y diddordeb newydd mewn materion datblygu rhyngwladol ymhlith gwleidyddion, groeso gan Robin hefyd. “*Rwy'n hynod o falch fod Blair a Brown wedi rhoi cymaint o sylw i ddatblygu rhyngwladol yn ystod y cyfnod allweddol hwn*” medd Robin. “*Fodd bynnag mae' na ddau*

bwynt pellach i'w gwneud – yn gyntaf, ailadrodd rhai o'r ymrwymadau a wnaed ym 2000 y mae'r gwleidyddion i ryw raddau, ac mae 'na gwestiwn felly i'w holi ynghylch pam fod y problemau 'ma yn disgwyl eu datrys o hyd. Yn ail, yng nghyd-destun Affrica, cyfandir sydd gennym dan sylw wrth gwrs yn hytrach nag un wlad – ac yn anochel, mae 'na amrywiaeth mawr yn y problemau sy'n amlygu eu hunain mewn lle mor fawr ac amrywiol. 'Does 'na ddim atebion hawdd felly.' ”

Cododd Robin un consŷrn arall hefyd – “*Rydym ni'n croesawu diddordeb y gwleidyddion wrth gwrs ond mae 'na rhywfaint o ofid eu bod yn troi'r materion hyn yn ffrwd i'w melin eu hunain. Yn amlwg ddigon mae angen cymorth gwleidyddion arnom ni er mwyn medru datrys rhai o'r problemau strwythurol anferthol megis masnach deg neu broblemau rhyngwladol fel HIV/AIDS. Ond mae 'na ofid y gallasem ni gael y gwleidyddion yn gosod yr agenda ym maes datblygu, ac nid nhw o bosib yw'r rhai gorau i wneud hynny.*”

O'i holi ynghylch yr hyn y byddai ef yn gobeithio ei weld wedi ei gyflawni erbyn diwedd y flwyddyn hon, cyfeiria Robin at dri pheth – dyled, diwygio rheolau masnach a mwy o gymorth rhyngwladol effeithiol. Tra bod Llywodraeth San Steffan wedi cychwyn yn ddigon addawol adeg cyfarfod Clwb Paris yn Davos ddiwedd Ionawr ac wedi hynny yng nghyfarfod gweinidogion cyllid y G8 ddechrau mis Chwefror, dim ond ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn allweddol hon fyddwn ni'n medru ystyried o ddifrif lwyddiant neu fethiant llywyddiaeth Prydain o'r G8 a'r Undeb Ewropeaidd, ac ystyried a wnaed gwahaniaeth go iawn i fywydau'r tlotaf yn ein byd.

Competition to Build your Church for the Future

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE, a church property insurer, is running a UK-wide competition to reward the most imaginative ideas for linking churches with local communities and society.

The competition invites churches to share their creative ideas for using their buildings so that many other churches can benefit. First prize is £1,500 and 12 finalists will feature on Ecclesiastical's 2006 calendar.

Sign-posts

John Winton, of Churches Tourism Network Wales is well aware of the importance of church buildings in their communities – “CTNW has been cooperating closely with Trinity College Carmarthen and the University at Lampeter in encouraging volunteers to welcome people into church buildings. Activities in church buildings are already making a huge contribution to the life of their communities and it is important that we do all we can to use our church buildings as sign-posts of the Gospel.”

Challenge

Archdeacon John Holdsworth said “This is a great innovation by the Ecclesiastical and I hope that congregations across the diocese will rise to the challenge. I look forward to seeing a church from the diocese of St Davids featuring in their 2006 calendar.”

The deadline for entries is 30th June 2005. For further information or to enter the competition, visit www.ecclesiastical.co.uk/Church/Competitions/Building your Church for the Future 2005

Dewch a llond bws i ddigwyddiad ar Faes y Sioe Amaethyddol yn Llanelwedd ym mis Hydref – dyna'r gwahoddiad oddi wrth Cytun a Chymorth Cristnogol. Bydd y digwyddiad sydd i'w gynnal ar y cyntaf o Hydref yn nodi nifer o ben-blwyddi arwyddocaol – Cytun yn 15 mlwydd oed, y Cyfamod Cymreig yn 30 a Chymorth Cristnogol yn 60.

Bydd yr achlysur yn cynnwys nifer o weithdai ar bynciau megis y sefyllfa yn Israel, Palesteina a'r Lan Orllewinol, Cymru – gwlad aml-ffydd bellach, a Gweinidogaethu er mwyn Cenhadu. Bydd rhaglen arbennig hefyd ar gyfer pobol ifanc a phlant.

From Pharaoh to Freedom

by Betty McNiven

THE PEOPLE of the Gwendraeth Valley were treated to two performances of “From Pharaoh to Freedom” at Dewi Sant Church in Tumble, staged in aid of the Tsunami Appeal. It was an excellent show and a very clear and worthwhile telling of the story of Moses and Aaron and the journey to freedom which ultimately culminates in our freedom through Jesus.

The choir sang, the youngsters danced and Pharaoh frightened everyone, not only the Hebrew slaves! All who took part deserved the

thanks which they got, and a special vote of thanks was given to Chris Williams-Potter, conductor, and musician supremo of the whole event.

Volunteers

It is exciting that a village church with a few willing volunteers can produce a musical of this quality.

Everyone learned a bit more about our story towards freedom and were moved, and amused.

A project of this size demands hard work over a long period of

time, but it was well worth the effort. Over £1,000 was raised for the Tsunami Appeal.

Betty McNiven and the St. Mary's contingent, who were in the audience for the Sunday performance, said “When can we have another production?”

The technical expertise of Glyn & Michael Morris was exceptional. They offered their services in flyers to the clergy before Christmas. They can be contacted on michaelmorris@hotmail.com



“Super Troupers” shine in the chancel

Dod yn Esgobaeth Masnach Deg Becoming a Fairtrade Diocese

by Revd Victor Millgate

IN OCTOBER 2004 the St. Davids Diocesan Conference voted to support the initiative for St. Davids to become a Fairtrade Diocese. It called upon all Diocesan venues and Parishes to become 'Fairtrade' by using and promoting Fairtrade products.

Responsible parishes support Fairtrade because:

- Fairtrade strengthens the position of poor producers enabling them to find solutions and tackle their poverty
- for growers, Fairtrade means prices that always cover the cost of production and allow for sustainable livelihoods, no matter how low the world price goes for their crops
- for workers, Fairtrade means decent working conditions, and wages that meet international and local labour standards
- a Fairtrade price also includes an additional social premium so that growers can invest in their communities and businesses to
- improve their homes, education and healthcare facilities
- build roads
- diversify into other crops & projects.

But does Fairtrade really work?

The Fairtrade Foundation works in partnership with growers, and these people agree that Fairtrade enables their communities to live with dignity. You can read testimonies on their web site.

But we already give to charity

Fairtrade is not a charity; it is about trading in a fair way with communities who often have little economic strength.



But where can we buy these products?

Most supermarkets have Fairtrade products. You can buy from Oxfam and other shops with a focus on Fairtrade. You can also buy on-line or by mail order from Traidcraft. Many of these suppliers stock products in catering size, useful for church events.

A challenge to your church

To become a Fairtrade church your PCC needs to pass a resolution to use tea and coffee that carries the Fairtrade Mark.

From this step you can then seek to make people in your community aware of trade justice and encourage individuals, groups and businesses to choose Fairtrade products.

Information Leaflets and Pledge Forms will be sent to all churches in the next few weeks.

If your PCC agrees, you are asked to return a signed pledge form. Your church will then receive a Fairtrade Church certificate to display.

When 33% of parishes in the Diocese agree to support Fairtrade we will be declared a Fairtrade Diocese. We aim to have 60% of parishes signed up before the Diocesan Conference in October 2005.

What you need to do now

Make sure that your PCC considers the matter soon. When the resolution is passed return the signed pledge form to Revd. Victor Millgate at The Vicarage, Manorbier, Tenby, Pembrokeshire. SA70 7TN (by the beginning of August please).

Are you already involved in Fairtrade?

If so, would you be willing to talk to others about Fairtrade?

If you are able to help this campaign in this way please contact Revd. Vic Millgate.

"... The fields of the poor may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away."

Proverbs 13 verse 23

From page 1

Mae adroddiad y grŵp yn cychwyn ar nodyn cadarnhaol trwy gyfeirio at Adroddiad Windsor ynghylch hyn.

Yn awgrym sy'n derbyn y gymeradwyaeth fwyaf gan grŵp yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yw'r syniad o sefydlu 'Cyfamod' ar gyfer taleithiau eglwysig y Cymundeb Anglicanaidd. Syniad yw hwn o gael fframwaith y buasai'r eglwys unigol yn ymrwmo iddo ac mae'r grŵp ymateb yn ymdebygu hyn i berthynas briodasol – hynny yw cytundeb a chyd-ddealltwriaeth sydd y tu allan i ganllawiau cyfreithiol a fuasai'n clymu'r aelodau. Dywed y grŵp ymateb – "Gwerth Cyfamod yw y buasai'n newid y diwylliant ac yn pwysleisio gwerth perthynas. Y nod yw adeiladu ymddiriedaeth sanctaidd rhwng yr aelodau, fydd yn cael ei fireinio trwy barodrwydd yr aelodau unigol i ymagor eu hunain i drafodaethau o fewn y Cymundeb. Fodd bynnag ni ddylid anghofio am bwysigrwydd hunaniaeth."

Mae hon yn thema sy'n codi hefyd yn yr ymateb wrth drafod yr

wawdlun ohono'i hun yn anghytuno'n gryf gydag adroddiad Windsor ynghylch hyn.

Mae adroddiad y grŵp yn cychwyn ar nodyn cadarnhaol trwy gyfeirio at Adroddiad Windsor ynghylch hyn.

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Mae hon yn thema sy'n codi hefyd yn yr ymateb wrth drafod yr

argymhellion i roi rhagor o rym yn nwylo Pwyllgor yr Archesgobion, i newid rôl a statws Archesgob Caergaint fel bod ganddo rôl amlycach o fewn y Cymundeb, ac i sefydlu cyngor i ddarparu cyngor i Archesgob Caergaint ar faterion yn ymwneud â'r Cymundeb. Mae'r grŵp ymateb yn glir o'r farn na ddylid gwneud hyn ac y gallasai gweithredu'r awgrym hwn fod yn gam tuag at sefydlu 'curia' Anglicanaidd ar hyd yr un llinellau a'r hyn sy'n bodoli yn yr Eglwys Gatholig Rufeinig. Dywed y grŵp ymateb yn glir "Nid dyma'r ffordd i adeiladu ymddiriedaeth o fewn y Cymundeb. Yn hytrach mae'r grŵp yn argymhell rhoi rhagor o rym i Gyngor Ymgynghorol y Cymundeb Anglicanaidd.

Gyda Phwyllgor Archesgobion y Cymundeb Anglicanaidd wedi cwrrd yng Ngogledd Iwerddon ddiweddd mis Chwefror mae'n amlwg y bydd y trafodaethau yn parhau am beth amser eto.

Care in the Community and for Visitors Alike

by Iris Staniland

OUR LORD told us to get out into the marketplace. Pembrokeshire being a holiday destination gives us an ideal opportunity to do just that and the Landsker Borderlands Tourist Association can help.

The Association started several years ago with a small group of people meeting in a room in the old clock tower/prison in Narberth. Members in those days were mostly people who ran B. & B.'s and one or two small attractions. It now has in the region of 100 members and not only includes accommodation providers but some retailers, taxi-drivers, garages, etc. for they are all part of the holiday back-up scene.

Eight years ago the local council decided they could no longer afford to run the Tourist Information Centre (T.I.C.) at Kilgetty. The Wales Tourist Board had also given up trying to run it for a similar reason. However, as Kilgetty T.I.C. was such an important Centre 'The Landsker' decided to take it over and run it with volunteers. This was not, of course, ideal but it did maintain a service, even if it was only part-time on occasions, and both members and the public were very grateful for what the volunteers were able to do. After all, if you have raging tooth ache, you don't mind who tells you where there is a dentist if you can get help. B. & B. enquiries are not the only questions answered at the T.I.C.! However, it was fortunate that during this time the T.I.C. was able to get some financial assistance to help cover the cost of such things as rent and telephone.

Over the years the T.I.C. has welcomed over 70,000 visitors and placed over £400,000 of bed bookings. The Association now employs a number of part-time people to run the T.I.C. Members' businesses have grown and we feel we have helped just a little to increase the economy of the area.

The T.I.C. is only one aspect of the work of the Association. During the Sea Empress disaster and the Foot and Mouth Outbreak members of its committee met with M.P.s, Boards of Trade, Insurers, the Local Authority, Pembrokeshire National Park and the Welsh Assembly. They engaged a firm of Solicitors to help members with claims and helped with risk assessment on footpaths and bridleways, cycling and horse riding routes. Because we speak with a collective voice more notice is taken of our views than if there is just the odd one or two of us 'crying in the wilderness'. As a unified group we can really get things done. All members of the Association enjoy a discount purchasing scheme, started two years ago, on such things as greengrocery, printing and computer repairs.

Members are also given a full web-page each on the attractive and active website plus a link to their own website if required. From time to time members receive a News Letter informing them of telephone or advertising scams currently taking place as well as information on new rules and regulations about to come into force, and the Association often endeavours to arrange speakers who we hope will clarify such things even more.

This Association really does do its best to look after the interests of its members as well as the interests of the visitors to the area. Why not join?

Further information may be obtained from: Mrs M. McBean, The Old Post Office, Lawrenny, Kilgetty, Pembs. SA68 0PN, Tel: 01646 651856

Welsh Services on a CD-ROM

by Maria Shum

THE long awaited CD-ROM containing all of The Church in Wales services in Welsh is being sent out to every Church in Wales cleric early next month. The disk contains over 10 hours of audio and is easy to use, allowing users to select individual tracks and skip through these as required. It is compatible with the majority of computers and contains a video interview with Canon Donald Allchin. Users can either select tracks and listen to them or (provided there is a CD burner) compile their own CD from their choice of tracks.

Matthew Knight, Church in Wales Creative Resources Officer, who helped develop the CD-ROM said "the project started due to the demand from non-Welsh speaking clerics, who wanted to conduct services in Welsh. Initially the disks did not include the facility for users to compile their own CD. However the numerous requests from clergy for different audio tracks on the CD-ROM led to the development of this function."

The disk has taken nearly a year to complete, including being improved after trial runs. It represents a significant step by incorporating technology to help the work of the Church in Wales and provides an



easy to use and convenient service for all clergy.

Comprehensive instructions are included on the CD-ROM but Matthew Knight will be pleased to answer any further queries you may have regarding the disk.

Two Centuries of "Growing People"

At a time when education is top of the political agenda in South West Wales, Diocesan Director of Education, Derek Evans, reminds us how the Church became involved in the first place

THE EXISTENCE of church schools arises out of the Church's long accepted responsibility for education. Originally, it was the sole provider of education through its monasteries, cathedrals and some parish churches. The first attempt at state education came during the Commonwealth period of the seventeenth century, but it was short lived and did not survive the restoration of the monarchy. Thereafter, education again became a matter of voluntary provision.

In 18th century Wales, the Welsh Trust, S.P.C.K. the Sunday School Movement, Gruffydd Jones' Circulating Schools and some enlightened landowners who provided schools for the poor of their parishes, all sought with varying success, to meet the basic educational needs for at least some of the children of Wales.

Early in the 19th century, two voluntary societies were formed to promote and widen the educational opportunities available in the country. These two societies, the National Schools Society and the British and Foreign Schools Society, quickly became influential. Successive governments still did not see the provision of education to be the proper role for parliament. A proposal that the voluntary system of education should be replaced by a State system was defeated by parliament in 1833, but nevertheless resulted in the first government grants totalling £20,000 being given to assist the work of the two societies.

Royal Commission Report

Acts of Parliament passed in 1843 and 1846, affording facilities for the conveyance and endowment of sites for schools and the provision of the first government grants for building voluntary schools, following the critical Royal Commission Report on the state of education in England and Wales in 1847, led to a great increase in the voluntary provision of schools over the next twenty years. The gifting of the land and the purposes for which the school was being established were

set out in a Trust Deed. That document still regulates certain aspects of today's church school life and the bishop of the diocese and the school's foundation governors remain the guardians of its intentions.

Between 1845 and 1870 a large number of the church schools were established in the diocese. Individuals and parishes worked hard to provide and maintain their church school. However, the eventual direct involvement of the state from 1870 onwards, wide ranging legislation throughout the last century, changes in the patterns of population and in the philosophy and delivery of education, and financial constraints have all contributed to the disappearance of many church schools in this diocese, though some of the buildings live on as church halls or parish rooms.

Community Schools

Diocesan involvement in education continues today primarily through our nine voluntary aided and twenty eight voluntary controlled schools, and also through the work of many of our clergy in the community schools in their parishes. There are some in the wider Church, and many more outside, who question this continued in-

volvement, but the heart of the Church's mission is to make Christ and the love of God in Christ known to the world. The Church's involvement in education shows our very real care and concern for the whole person, body, mind and spirit, and underlines our belief in the importance of spiritual and transcendent aspects of life by providing the opportunity through the whole ethos of the school, to introduce children to the sense of awe, mystery and wonder that is life and to do this in educational terms. It is Christianity in action.



Archdeacon Alun Evans, happily installed, has now taken up his new duties. Please note email: archdeacon.alun@tiscali.co.uk

School Closures: The Pain and the Dilemma

WE HAVE to recognise that local authorities are under great pressure to rationalise their provision of education. This pressure is being applied from several directions. It is applied by National Audit Commission requirements that local authorities remove surplus school places in their county and by an undertaking given by the Welsh Assembly Government that all schools will be structurally sound and "fit for purpose" by the year 2010. There is the financial constraint being imposed on local authorities by the 1% efficiency claw back which is being imposed upon them by the Welsh Assembly Government in the financial year 2005/06 and which may be extended into future financial years. Finally, many schools are finding

themselves facing falling rolls as the number of children of primary school age decreases nationally. As school funding is predominantly pupil led, falling rolls can result in a school losing a teaching post or learning support post, which in the worst case, could threaten a school's long term viability by making it a more likely candidate for closure.

It is even more complicated when it is a voluntary controlled school which is under threat. The Bishop of the diocese is the guarantor of the school Trust Deed and so he has a particular responsibility to the school which is usually exercised through the Diocesan Director of Education and the Diocesan Education Authority (the Diocesan Education Team). That responsibility is to

ensure that the provisions of the Trust Deed are maintained, either through the continuation of education provision at the school or by ensuring that proper provision is made for the children of those parents who wish their children to have a continuing church school education. This is usually done by trying to ensure that the nominated school which the children of the closed school will attend in the future is also a church school and that adequate and appropriate transport is provided for them.

So although in we are in an acknowledged and welcome partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Local

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A Week at Taizé

by Maria Shum,

Student at the University of Wales Cardiff School of Journalism, Post-graduate PR Course

CALLING all 15-29 year olds, would you like to go to France this summer? How about having the opportunity to meet thousands of young Christians from around the world? Do you fancy having times of meditation, silence and opportunities to reflect on what you believe in? Are you free between August 6th-15th? If so, you should come to Taizé.

Taizé is located in the heart of Burgundy, France and is the home of an international, ecumenical community founded by Brother Roger in 1940. Currently the community consists of around a 100 brothers from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds and more than twenty-five nations.

This visit to Taizé has been organised by Revd Jan Gould from the Church in Wales. The Archbishop of Wales, The Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan will be leading the group. Travel to Taizé will be by coach and accommodation will be in tents and dormitories. Camping would be the preferable option as we will be able to camp together, whereas dormitory accommodation means separation of the group. If you can bring your own

tent then so much the better so that the group can stay together. The estimated total cost will be less than £199, although a limited hardship fund is available for any participants in need. Ultimately, the more people that go the better, as this will reduce travel costs and mean a coach can be booked to travel directly from Cardiff. This would also allow for a leaving prayer at Llandaff Cathedral before departure.

Jan believes Taizé is such a wonderful experience that she has visited every year since 1979, also spending 4 months in 1985 living as part of the community. She has been taking groups to Taizé for the past nine years. The first group she took consisted of only six young people, but this number has grown year on

year as participants enjoy their Taizé experience.

When asked what was so special about Taizé, Jan described it as: *A unique experience of holiness and simplicity that strips away materialism. There is openness, trust and acceptance. No answers are given – instead you are encouraged to wait in peace and silence to find your own way. It provides a perfect opportunity to take time away from the hectic hustle and bustle of everyday life. Taizé awakens a desire to explore and search deeper.*

Since the 1950s many young people from around the world have visited Taizé to share in the community life with the brothers of Taizé. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about God, designed specifically for young people, a place where you can worship in a multi-cultural atmosphere in many different languages.

She explains a week in Taizé as: *Our week in Taizé will be a structured programme and involve eating meals together, discussions, bible studies and house keeping.*

Along with free time to have fun, sing in the choir and meet new friends from around the world. A separate programme has been developed specifically for teenagers of 15 and 16 years old. This will incorporate a similar structure to the one for the 'older' group but also includes more games and competitions.

A normal day will involve a bible study group in the morning with a brother of the community. Along with this, you are invited to join the brothers in their prayers three times a day. Time spent in the church is very special, worshipping with up to 6,000 people – a figure which rises to around 8,000 during key times in the church's year, such as Easter.

If you would like the opportunity to get a flavour of Taizé worship, there will be Taizé prayers, which is open to anyone and will be held at 7.30pm at St. Michael's College Chapel on the 2nd Friday of each month during the academic term. Jan also has short videos showing 'a week at Taizé', which are available for loan. Please visit the Taizé website at www.taize.fr

For further information or to apply contact: Revd Jan Gould – Tel: 029 2056 3116 or email: jan.gould2@btinternet.com



Jan Gould tells Maria Shum about the Archbishop's forthcoming trip to Taizé

Diwrnod Galwedigaethol yn y Gymraeg

by Stuart Bell

ARLOESWYD llwybr arbennig iawn yn yr Esgobaeth hon ac, am wn i, yn y Dalaith, pan gynhaliwyd Dydd trwy gyfrwng yr iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer ymchwilio i 'r ffordd y mae Duw yn galw arnom i'w wasanaethu. Cynhaliwyd y dydd arbennig hwn ym mhllwyf Penrhyncoch ar Ddydd Sadwrn, Tachwedd 6ed. Cyn-Esgob Bangor, Y Gwir Barch. Saunders Davies, oedd arweinydd y dydd a daeth saith o Esgobaeth Tyddewi a dau o Esgobaeth Abertawe ac Aberhonddu i rannu'r dydd gyda chynghorwyr galwedigaethol yr Esgobaeth. Cychwynwyd gyda'r Cymun Bendigaid yn Eglwys Sant Ioan, Penrhyncoch. Yr Esgob Saunders oedd y llywydd gyda Ficer y plwyf, Y Parch. John Livingstone, yn ei gynorthwyo. Ymgynullwyd wedyn yn neuadd yr eglwys am weddill y dydd.

Dechreuodd yr Esgob gyda hanes y Greadigaeth yn llyfr Genesis, gan ddangos bod pob beth byw yn cael eu galw i fodolaeth trwy ysbryd Duw. Nid oes dim elfen o fywyd na elwir i'w creu trwy nerth Duw. Ond mae'r alwad yn rhywbeth personol. Dyfynnwyd o lyfr y proffwyd, Eseaia, Pennod 43: "*Chwi yw fy nhystion,*" medd yr Arglwydd, "*fy ngwas, a etholais er mwyn ichwi gael gwybod a chredu ynof a*

deall mai myfi yw Duw." Aethpwyd ymalen i ystyried geiriau'r Iesu yn yr Efengyl yn ôl Sant Ioan Pennod 15 ad. 1-17 lle mae Crist yn sôn amdano 'hun fel y Wir Winwydden a ninnau 'n gangheddau sydd ddwyn ffrwyth ac yn enwedig adnod 16 "*Nid chwi a'm dewisodd fi, ond myfi a'ch dewisodd chwi a'ch penodi i fynd allan a dwyn ffrwyth, ffrwyth sy'n aros.*" Eglurwyd fel mae'r alwad yn dod i 'r sawl fydd yn "*apostolion*", sef y rhai sydd ar neges oddiwrth Dduw, wedi eu hanfon i wneud ei waith yn y byd. A phan ddaw yr alwad a ninnau'n ymateb iddi, bydd yr Iesu yn ein gu'ydd ni yn union fel yr ymddangosodd yng nghanol y disgyblion yn yr ystafell uchaf ar ol ei Atgyfodiad. Yn yr un modd mae Crist yn gwobrwyo 'r sawl sydd yn gwrandao ar ei lais trwy sefyll yn eu mysg er mwyn eu hatgyfnerthu a'u calonogi. Ac fel Mair Magdalen, a oedd y cyntaf i'w gyfarch gan yr Iesu ar ôl iddo ddod yn fyw oddi wrth y meirw, fe gaiff pawb sydd yn ufudd i 'w lais gael eu hadnabod fel hithau wrth eu henwau. Galwad i gyd-wasanaethu yw'r alwad Gristnogol, er bod yr ymateb yn unigol i gychwyn. Darganfyddir wrth genhadaeth y Deuddeg a Thrigain (yr Efengyl yn ôl Sant Luc Pennod 10 ad. 1-12) taw

bwriad Duw wrth ein galw ni ato yw rhoi cyfle inni gynnal breichiau ein gilydd, dysgu oddi wrth ein gilydd a rhannu profiad gyda'n gilydd Nid ydym i fod yn fand un dyn nac yn ynsoedd wrth ein hunain. Pwysleisiodd yr Esgob y geiriau "*Rhyddid*" a "*Trysor*" yn Ail Epistol Sant Paul at y Corinthiaid, sef 2 Cor.4 ad.17 "*Yr Ysbryd yw'r Arglwydd hwn. A lle y mae Ysbryd yr Arglwydd, y mae rhydd,*" ac wedyn wrth sôn am ein gweinidogaeth ni fel trysor mewn llestri pridd er mwyn i "*fywyd Iesu gael ei ddwyn i 'r amlwg yn ein cnawd marwol ni.*" Wrth ddisgrifio cenhadaeth yr Eglwys fel corff Crist yn y byd a ninnau fel gweision Duw yn aelodau o'r Corff yna ein thema ddylai fod nid "*Ewch*" yn gymaint â "*Dewch*".

Enwyd dau lyfr yn arbennig fel rhai fyddai'n ein cynorthwyo ni yn ein ymchwilio alwad Duw arnom, "*Being a Priest Today*" gan C. Coxsworth a R. Brown (Gwasg Caergrawnt) a "*This is our calling*" gan Archesgob Rowan Williams (wedi ei olygu gan Charles Richardson.)

Wrth ddiolch i'r Esgob Saunders am ddarparu cymaint o fwyd ysbrydol i gnoi cil arno fe gyfeiriodd y Parch. Ganon Alan Meats at y ffaith fod meistr wrth ei grefft wedi bod yn eu canol hwy ac fel pob athro da, bu'r Esgob yn symbylu pawb i rannu eu meddyliau ag eraill yn ogystal â myfyrio am syniadau'r athro drostynt eu hun. Diolchwyd hefyd i'r Parch. John Livingstone fel

Esgobaeth Tyddewi  St Davids Diocese

Festival of Ministry

Mentro mewn Cenhadaeth Venturing in Mission



Sunday May 8th

3pm - 6pm at

Fishguard Church and Hall

- ⇒ "Taste and See" - Resources available in the Diocese.
- ⇒ Find out what its like to Read Lessons, Intercede, be a Worship Leader or Eucharistic Assistant, or even a Lay Reader, Pastoral Assistant or an Ordained Minister.
- ⇒ Hear some encouraging stories about Children and Youth work
- ⇒ An afternoon of information and fellowship ending with worship.
- ⇒ Creche facility.

More Information from Canon Betty McNiven 01269 860451 or
The Revd Dennis Wight 01646 636255

ficer y plwyf am ei letygarwch a'r gwaith trefnu ar ein cyfer ac yn arbennig i'r menywod a weithiodd mor galed â llwyddiannus i ddarparu bywd mor wych.

Each Archdeaconry has established a group of "Enquirers" to think through their

calling, be it to the ordained ministry or the lay ministry. Please contact the respective Vocation Advisers for more details:- Revd.Dennis Wight, Revd. John Livingstone and Canon Alan Meats.

Education – continued from page 4

Authorities in the provision of education in the diocese today, nonetheless, our influence is severely limited when it comes to matters of educational policy or strategy. The diocese has, in fact, very little actual power save that of persuasion and argument, but even so, we have had our successes in influencing the decision makers and takers and altering some proposals affecting our schools.

Finer Points

Putting aside the finer points, however, the proposed closure of any school presents the diocese with a very clear pastoral responsibility to both the school community and to the wider community in which the school is set. The period prior to the closure of a school can be very difficult, even a traumatic time for those involved. People feel hurt that their views and opinions have seemingly carried no weight. Parents might be anxious about how their children will settle in a new school, with pupils worrying about what the change will mean for them and the friendships they currently have. The community is concerned about the loss of yet another local amenity and the effect that it will have on local, and usually, rural life, while teachers and other staff may have a very real fear about their future job prospects. These pastoral issues are usually addressed by the local parish priest supporting in whatever way he/she feels is possible and appropriate in the circumstances. In the case of the closure of a church

school, it is through the combination of parish priest, foundation governors, the Diocesan Education Officers and the Diocesan Education Authority.

The role of the Bishop is a difficult one. Clearly he will share the concern of the school and the community and will want to give what support he can, but as Bishop of the Diocese, his wider role as head of one of the partners in the provision of education has to be recognised and to a degree safeguarded, because in the end, the diocese has to maintain good relations with its partners.

So what of the future? The Church will continue to play a role in education well into the future. We can expect there to be opportunities to establish new voluntary aided schools but we shall need to find new ways of funding such projects if a decision awaited from the House of Lords on the reversion of redundant school sites cuts off the traditional funding stream for new voluntary schools. We shall also face more school closures and a further whittling down of the number of church schools, as local authorities continue the process of rationalisation. But as one door closes, another may open. As schools close and are assimilated into another close by, so an opportunity arises for the Church to continue to serve its young people but in a different context. While retaining its traditional commitment to its own schools, the Church may find itself undertaking a more supportive role in some of the community schools of the diocese.

Church Schools: The Facts

TODAY, our thirty seven schools account for about twelve percent of the total number of primary schools in the counties of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion and provide education for approximately three thousand children of primary school age in the diocese. That number rises significantly if we include those educated in Roman Catholic primary schools and in the Roman Catholic secondary school in Llanelli. Primary education provision in the diocese is, therefore, a partnership between National Assembly Government (and formerly, the Welsh Office) Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion County Councils, and the Church, through the Diocesan Education Authority (the Diocesan Education Team) funded by the Endowed Schools Fund.

Partnership

In the last twenty-five years, this partnership has given us much to celebrate. It has led to the creation of new schools, and new purpose built buildings, at Wiston, Merlins Bridge in Haverfordwest, the Model in Carmarthen, St. Davids, and Jeffrey-ston. These new schools have

been part funded by the diocese, with additional funding coming from national government and the respective county councils. Also in this period, the diocese has funded, with national government help, additional extensions and improvements at schools in Wiston, the Model Carmarthen, Penboyr, Llanfynydd, Pentip Llanelli and Llanwenog, while the county councils have funded major work at Llanrhustyd, Cilgerran, Laugharne, Letterston, and Stackpole and provided a completely new school at Spittal.

Pentip School

In the future, this partnership will lead to the provision of substantial new facilities at the Model School in Carmarthen, the re-modelling of the junior half of St. Mark's in Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, the provision of an Early Years play area at Pentip School, Llanelli and a new classroom at Ysgol Bro Dewi in St. Davids.

Not all our schools, however, are housed in new buildings. Many are in old Victorian buildings which were designed in a different age and with a different methodology of teaching in mind. Yet in spite of these difficulties all our schools are strong, vibrant communities where

quality education is provided for their children through the dedication of teachers, support staff, school governors and the support of Bishop's Visitors. We are blessed with many teachers who still see their work as a vocation, and long may that continue.

Direct Replacements

This rosy picture is, however, only one side of the education coin, the other side shows a different picture. During the time we have been opening and building new schools, we have also seen the closure of a number of church schools. Those at St. Davids, Spittal and Cresselly were as a result of direct replacements, while the closure of Tredafydd VC School was as a result of its amalgamation with Letterston VC School to form Ysgol Ger-Y-Llan VC School Letterston. Furthermore, the closure of schools at the Rhos, Rosemarket, Myddfai, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, and Llanddowror, has resulted in a net reduction in the number of church schools in the diocese.

Churches Celebrate Together

Question: What can unite three churches of different traditions?

Answer: Passover!

by Brian Barnes

IT MIGHT NOT seem the obvious answer when it comes to encouraging fellowship across the parish boundaries of Goodwick, Fishguard and Letterston. In the past we had joined together for Evangelistic fellowship meals, Songs of Praise on the sea front, prayer groups, concerts and the like, so last year when it came to preparing something 'special' for Holy Week, something that would have purpose, fellowship, celebration and relevance to us as Christians, a Passover (Seder) celebration was decided upon. The 'Seder' celebration has all the elements for an evening of history and symbolism, worship prayer and praise.

The purpose of our 'Churches Together' evenings has always been to share the Word of God, have fun and raise money to give to world mission. The Barnabas Fund was the chosen recipient of whatever was raised during the evening. This fund does tremendous work amongst persecuted and needy people throughout the world and their work in the Holy land, under very difficult conditions, would benefit from whatever money raised.

Mr Trevor Silverman, who, though brought up in a traditional Jewish family has become a Christian and knows Jesus as **The Messiah**, the one promised in scripture, was invited to be 'Father of the feast'. Preparations were made and Trevor later said how much it had meant to him to be able to preside over the celebration of the Passover

from a Christian perspective, as, for him, it brought back memories of the family celebrations with his father in the Jewish community in Leeds.

To prepare Passover for 63 people is quite an undertaking and required careful preparation. A modest ticket price of £6 per head was decided upon to cover the costs of the special food and the wine provided by members of the three churches. Tickets were sold out within a very few days! It was expected that The Barnabas Fund would benefit by at least £200 from the evening once all costs had been covered.

Each of the tables at the feast was assigned a name from the tribes of Israel mentioned in The Book of Numbers. For a bit of fun at the end of the meal, before the pudding, the tribes were invited to 'ransom' the

Ark of the Covenant which had recently been 'discovered'! (In fact, it had been carefully prepared in best Blue Peter fashion from shoe boxes, paper rolls etc, all covered in the essential gold sticky back plastic). Inside the Ark were treasures which would be shared by the winning tribe. A staggering £700 was raised once all bids were in which, when added to the ticket money, meant that we would be able to send £900 to The Barnabas Fund.

Tradition

It was an evening full of history, tradition and fun. It was also moving, as we did this in remembrance of the great deliverance of the children of the 'First Covenant', celebrated in all the richness and symbolism of Passover by the 'children of the Second Covenant' in fellowship with the Lord Jesus'.

If you haven't yet experienced the richness of a Passover from a Christian perspective, I invite you to try.

In fact, this proved such an enjoyable event in 2004 that plans are well advanced for a similar celebration on 18th March this year in Fishguard.

Meditation

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Celebration of womanhood or anti-feminist put-down? Jonathan Copus suggests there's more to Mothering Sunday than cards and flowers.

FATHER'S DAY is like Mother's Day, except the gift is cheaper, quipped Gerald F. Lieberman.

Of course, if he hadn't been an American, he would've known it's really 'Mothering Sunday' and took its name from the custom of servants' being given the day off to visit their mums, picking flowers from the hedgerows on the way. Ahhhh.

Why? Perhaps because the English *Book of Common Prayer* specifies for this Fourth Sunday in Lent a reading about 'Jerusalem . . . the mother of us all' (a version of Galatians 4, 26). From there it's one small step for a preacher to talk about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and then on to Mother Church who nurtures and nourishes her children. Just add a dollop of Victorian sentimentality and more than a soupçon of a rapacious greetings card industry, decorate with a sprinkling of opportunistic florists – and you have the recipe for Mothering Sunday as we know it today.

But it is more than a time when, in Betjeman's words about Christmas, 'oafish louts remember Mum'?

Feminists certainly despise Mothering Sunday as an excuse for a male-dominated establishment to reinforce traditional stereotypes of a woman's role as humble homemaker – and nothing more. Not surprising, they say, when you consider the organisation responsible has an exclusively male top management, trouble with inclusive language, and at the heart of its credo an Almighty Father.

In secular society, though, today's earthly fathers are far from almighty – unlike their Victorian forbears. In fact, they're reduced to scaling Buckingham Palace in fancy dress just to be allowed to see their own kids. And in contrast to first-century Palestine, modern Western divorce certainly isn't a man's world. American writer Lewis Grizzard grimly remarked: 'I don't think I'll get married again; I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house.'

What has all this got to do with Mother Church? Well, arguably it's all Her fault. The history of the West over the last couple of millennia can be seen as a progressive feminisation of cultural values – courtesy of Christianity. As the faith spread, societies which embraced it abandoned essentially male virtues such as physical strength and prowess in battle in favour of feminine ideals like caring and sharing. Alexander the Great, for instance, was once revered as a hero; today, he'd probably be reviled as a warmonger – unless reinvented by Hollywood, of course. And after all, this is only to be expected of a movement which has its roots in the cult of a middle-eastern tribal war god and its culmination in a tale of triumph through submission – by gentle Jesus, meek and mild.

Don't get me wrong: in most ways this cultural shift is self-evidently progress, the evolution of mankind from the animal to the spiritual. No-one would seriously argue that the ancient barbarity of crucifixion or the modern obscenity of the Holocaust was better than feeding the fatherless and widows after a tsunami.

All I'm saying is that the next time we all troop up the front to collect our posies for dear old Mum, God bless her, alive or dead, it's worth stopping for a moment to ponder what the occasion represents today in social terms: the perpetuation of some pre-feminist dark age? Or the final victory of truly feminine aspirations?

Like most things in our gloriously contrary humanity, it could be a bit of both.

Flower Festival to Celebrate Marriage

by Ann Minugh

AN UNUSUAL flower festival is being planned for one Mid-Pembrokeshire parish for this summer. It is hoped the whole community of Neyland will be drawn together to celebrate Wedding Anniversaries through the ages, at St Clements Church from 16th to 19th June 2005.

The project involves all ages and interests: the Junior School, churches and chapels, Youth Alpha, choirs, sports clubs, Mothers' Union, WI and pensioners clubs are some of the 24 organisations taking part.

Emphasis will be on imagination and "hands-on", rather than drawing on outside help to interpret anniversaries, from cotton

and paper, through bronze, lace and china, to silver, gold and platinum.

Wedding dresses through the ages will be on display, and an exhibition of wedding photographs of those married in the parish.

Admission to the festival is free, with donation being asked towards church funds. There will also be refreshments available in the church hall.

The festival will be held from 10 am – 8 pm on 16th, 17th & 18th June and from 11 am – 5.30 pm, followed at 6 pm by a Service of Thanksgiving on 19th June.

For further details contact Ann Minugh on 01646 601096 e-mail: les.garton@ntlworld.com

CLASSIC EXAMPLE

RSCM Launches Popular Classics Series

THE Royal School of Church Music in West Wales is to launch a new series of events featuring evergreen favourites from the classics. The initiative follows the success of the *Come and Sing* concert in St Mary's Church, Pembroke, when more than 120 singers from 20 choirs in the area joined forces for a workshop on Fauré's deservedly popular *Requiem*.

The event was directed by Simon Pearce, Assistant Organist at St David's Cathedral, with the Revd Andrew Davies (Vicar of Pembroke

Dock) at the organ. The soloists both came from the Cathedral: Rachael Dixon (soprano) is Head Chorister and Jonathan Lean (tenor) is Canon Residentiary.

"Occasions like this give people a welcome opportunity to get to know the church classics as never before in a really fun atmosphere," said conductor Simon Pearce.

And "More of the same, please" was certainly the message from the delighted singers at the end of an exhausting but exciting day.

As a result the RSCM is

planning a new series of workshops featuring works which have earned a place in the nation's hearts as true classics – works such as Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*, Parry's *I was glad*, Stanford's *Three Motets*, John Rutter's *Requiem*, Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, and pieces by Bach, Elgar, Howells and Tallis.

It is hoped the new series, *Cathedral Classics*, will start in the autumn. For advance information contact Richard Stephens, Area Secretary, on 01437 760269

rds@keatspriory.fsnet.co.uk



Farm Crisis Network

by Jill Gibson

AT THE START of 2005, Farm Crisis Network is carefully watching to see how farmers will cope with the biggest change to farming in over fifty years. There has been so much written on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy that any more seems superfluous, yet amongst the readers of this particular publication may be many who have not understood what it all means, or to whom it is relevant. St David's is surely one of the most rural of all Dioceses, so even if the reader is not farming, you will never be far from someone who is, and as Christians, we should be aware of the burdens carried by our neighbours.

CAP reform is all about changing the way in which farmers are paid subsidies. For over fifty years, payments have been based on levels of production – providing a certain amount per tonne of grain or head of stock, to give the producer some protection against uncontrollable forces such as weather and global markets – and thus, by the way, ensuring stable prices to the consumer, too. All that changes this year as the new “Single Payment Scheme” decouples the link between production and support, and instead requires the farmer to demonstrate certain standards of land husbandry, and compliance with 17 specific legal requirements coming in over the next two years relating to the environment, public, plant and animal health.

Welsh farmers are envied by those in England for the way in which the National Assembly Government has opted for a more simple, historical basis for the payments, and promises to minimise bureaucracy; nevertheless, any change brings a certain amount of stress, and this year takes many into uncharted waters. The biggest fear concerns the one annual payment being subject to “cross-compliance” – that is, payment will depend on a farmer meeting the above requirements; time will tell how severe the requirements and penalties are. The burden of paperwork and farm inspections is already particularly heavy; low profit levels leave little room for employing office assistance, and a long working day is often followed by hours at the desk or computer.

FCN has concern for those who may find it difficult to manage a

single payment annually, and we can offer help in communicating with bank managers and other professionals. This does not mean that someone is a “bad farmer”. Different skills are needed to farm in today's world, and it is sad when excellent farmers, once respected, find it difficult to cope. Sensitive help and encouragement rather than judgment from neighbours, or understanding and confidential help from FCN, can make all the difference. A further concern is that genuine mistakes made either during the reference years of 2000 – 2002 from which the new payments are calculated, or in the Information Statement last Autumn, will penalise farmers for the next ten years – the expected life of the SPS – at least.

In spite of these concerns, there are many farmers in West Wales who are determined to make a success of their farming businesses. When enjoying a meal – preferably sourced from local producers – thank God for them, as the producers of our food and the caretakers of our lovely countryside.

Farm Crisis Network is a Christian charity with a nationwide network of volunteers who all understand farming. A volunteer will walk alongside a farmer in difficulty for as long as needed, introducing where wished, relevant sources of professional, practical and pastoral support. The group covering West Wales is based in Pembrokeshire.

Regional Coordinator: Jill Gibson,
Tel: 01646 600853/07866 546 250
National Helpline: 07002 326 326
(7am – 11pm daily, answerphone at other times)



St Matthew's School, Matsieng

by Bishop Carl

READERS will remember that I had the privilege of being part of a three-person delegation from Wales to Lesotho in October 2003. My two companions were the Rt Revd Edwin Regan, Roman Catholic Bishop of Wrexham and the Revd Adrian Williams, Presbyterian Minister and Chair of the Council of Free Churches in Wales.

Lesotho is a small landlocked Kingdom surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. Under the auspices of Dolen Cymru it has enjoyed a special link with Wales for nearly twenty years. Lesotho claims to be the most Christian country in the world, with around 98% of its population attending church. Its churches are major players in society and provide the majority of hospitals and clinics, together will almost all schools and



Bishop Carl with Fr Thaba Lankiri, Parish priest of Matsieng (Royal Village of Lesotho twinned with St Davids)

School in Matsieng, the royal village of Lesotho, which is twinned with St Davids. The school has around 1,000 pupils, but only nine teachers. It has just two teaching blocks and hardly any educational resources. Basic materials such as paper and pencils are scarce commodities. They try to cultivate a school garden; their only tool is one spade to be shared between the whole community.

New Teaching Blocks

On behalf of our diocese, I have committed ourselves to helping the children and staff of St Matthew's School. The Parish Priest, Fr Thaba, has provided a list of their needs, which includes new teaching blocks, accommodation for new teachers (without accommodation they will not be able to attract new teachers) and educational resources. This will cost in the region of £14,000. Each of the fifteen deaneries in our diocese has been asked to raise £1,000 by the end of June this year. I have been very pleased by the way in which Area Deans and parishes have responded so willingly and enthusiastically to this request. It is true that our own diocese will face many financial challenges over the next five to ten years. However, compared to our brothers and sisters in Lesotho, we are extremely fortunate and privileged.

I have received e-mails from the Bishop of Lesotho, the Rt Revd Joseph Tsubella and Fr Thaba, explaining how enormously grateful they are for our willingness to help and how excited the staff and children of St Matthew's are at the prospect of new school buildings and resources. I take this opportunity to thank everyone who will contribute in any way to this appeal.



education. The plight of the Basuthu people was recently brought to the world's attention through the visit of Prince Harry. The combination of drought and the AIDS pandemic, together with the repatriation of non-South Af-

ricans from South Africa, has resulted in enormous problems, such as poverty, unemployment, sickness and death on a scale that needs to be seen to be believed.

During our time there we were privileged to visit St Matthew's

New Year's Day Swim Raises money for Lesotho

by Michael Butler



“The birds of the air and the fishes of the sea and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.” – Psalm 8.

AMONG the 500 people taking part in this year's New Year's Day Swim at Saundersfoot, were 200 pupils, parents, staff and governors dressed as penguins, raising funds for the local C.P. School.

Canon Michael Butler, Chair of Governors (seen coming out of the sea!) used the occasion to highlight

the Bishop of St. Davids project to raise £15,000 from the Diocese for St. Matthew's school, Matsieng, Lesotho. He also invited his sponsors to help build a “wall” for St. Matthew's paying £5 per brick. Up to date £300 has been given and the wall is getting higher! The fund remains open until the end of June.

TSUNAMI DISASTER

Appeal

INFORMATION received on February 5th from Area Deaneries would indicate that almost £59,300 has been raised for the Tsunami Appeal.

The following points were made by those who responded:

- Many of their members have given directly via other means as well as parish appeals;
- Many have donated essential items as well as money, e.g. clothing, toiletries;
- The full extent of the response will probably never be known
- Fund raising efforts continue and other events are planned to help those in need – particularly during Lent
- Much of the fund raising was done via coffee mornings, raffles, door-to-door, supermarket and retiring collections, although some high profile events were held
- Intercessions and prayer meetings for those affected by the tsunami have been held and will continue



Multiplication is the Name of the Game!

by Angela Harvey

‘GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY’ that, together with a loan of a £10 note, was the challenge given to the eleven Mothers’ Union branches in the Roose Deanery to mark the International Year of the Family. How they multiplied (the money only of course!), holding tabletop sales, coffee evenings, naming a doll, an at home, a songs of praise, jam and marmalade making as well as by donations until, at Johnson Branch’s Advent Presentation Service, a cheque for £1070 was presented to Dilys Fletcher, the Plant Dewi

projects worker in the St. David’s Archdeaconry. This money was for use in the three Family Centres in the Deanery, in Haverfordwest, Neyland and Hakin. In her reply Dilys said members of the centres had to raise the money themselves for anything that was needed, so this money would be well spent.

We have since heard that Hakin and Haverfordwest centres used some of the money to help pay for a visit to the pantomime in Swansea and some will be used for healthy eating demonstrations. Neyland are

moving to new premises in the summer and have asked if their share can be used towards equipping this centre.

The photograph shows Dilys receiving the cheque from Mothers’ Union members of the deanery, Margaret Richardson, Angela Harvey and Gwendoline James, with twins Lauren and Ross from the Haverfordwest family centre and the Rev. Roger Hughes, Diocesan Social Responsibility Officer, who officiated and preached at the Roose Deanery Advent service.

Christian Financial Stewardship – A Challenge Worth Facing

“You know I’d give my last penny, Lord, but I’m not quite down to it yet.”

by Ian Aveson

THESE ARE challenging days for the Church and hence for each of us as we play our part as individual Church members. Our Diocesan motto “Venturing in Mission” sums up the situation we are in. We are called to carry out God’s mission in our world and in our local communities. The Kingdom of God is still at work.

Soon we shall celebrate Easter, a reminder that the risen Christ is Lord of the world and of the Church. Then comes Pentecost, a celebration of the life of the Holy Spirit in our midst. The Risen Christ and the Holy Spirit call and equip us for the work of our heavenly Father. We see it happen in our own parish churches. Think of your own church, and think about how many people are nurtured by it, how many people the church comes into contact with both through formal church events and activities and also through the lives of the individual members. Think too how much more could be done as we share the call to Venture in Mission together.

Financial Stewardship

It is thinking about these things that encourages Christian financial stewardship. On the one hand, all that we have comes from God: to use it for God’s work should be no hardship. On the other hand, when we see the need for Christian giving, we shall want to give. As we see that our Church is doing God’s work, we will want to do what we can to help

that work keep happening.

These are times of particular challenge. Until recently we have been able to rely on income from investments held by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales. Over the next few years, the Representative Body will have to reduce its subsidy for the work of the Church, and the cost of maintaining clergy will have to borne by the Dioceses, paid for through the Quota that each parish pays to the Diocese.

Dynamic Life

We face the challenges of God’s Mission and of paying for the Church’s mission and ministry. Bishop Carl has asked the new Diocesan Christian Financial Stewardship Research Group to investigate ways in which financial stewardship can be encouraged. The group are excited about their task – perhaps that’s because we see financial stewardship as part of the dynamic life of the Church, empowered by the Spirit of God for the mission of the living Christ. The group began its work in January. We look forward to bringing findings and recommendations to help our Diocese in its vision of Venturing in Mission.

PROFILE

If it’s God’s Will, it will be done . . .

Maria Shum meets Eileen Davies, the newly appointed Rural Life Advisor for the diocese of St Davids

DOWN TO EARTH, approachable and enthusiastic are words that might be used to describe Eileen Davies, the newly appointed Rural Life Advisor for the Diocese of St. Davids. When I met her at Gwndwn, the Davies’ farm in Llanllwni, she was dressed in her work clothes – a boiler suit and muddy wellies – as she dealt with the seasonal flood of lambing.

Eileen describes herself as a ‘country bumpkin’, having been born and bred in Llanllwni and is a full time farmer, but there’s more – much more – to her than meets the eye. She is wife to Dyfrig and mother to Owain, who is seven. Eileen speaks humbly of her achievements and explains how her heart for the ministry developed: “I’ve been involved in Llanllwni church lay ministry for 22 years, starting from the age of 18 when I was nominated church warden. A few years after I married, a church minister saw my potential and asked me to ‘go the whole hog’ and become an ordained cleric. But I couldn’t commit because of my family responsibilities and work on the farm.” Instead Eileen was offered the option of studying the South Wales Ordination Course part time. She had to consider the implications of studying and also ask Dyfrig and Owain if they would support her.

“After much consideration, prayer and support from my family

I decided to apply to be a Non-Stipendiary Minister. The selection process was rigorous but somehow, by the skin of my teeth no doubt, I managed to get through,” says Eileen. Her main motivation for becoming an ordained Minister was because “It is important that the church is brought closer to rural communities through the use of Rural Advisors, who fully understand the needs and culture of the rural areas.”

Eileen studied part time for three years at St. Michaels Theological College to get her diploma in ministerial studies. “I often studied until late and ended up writing sermons in bed!” With regards to managing a work and play balance, she believes: “if it’s God’s will, it will be done.” She explains the interest that her work has generated “In February 2003, S4C decided to make a programme about me and my family. This showed how I coped with working full time on the farm along with studying part time.

“The programme was great in raising awareness about the role of Rural Ministry and I received lots of cards showing encouragement and support,” says Eileen.

She is aware that there is a lack of understanding on both sides between the church and rural communities. “I am co-ordinating a team that aims to forge links and build relationships and understanding between the church and rural communities. This includes meetings with farmers organisations and partnerships such as the farm crisis network. Together, these strive to work for the benefit of rural areas in the St. Davids Diocese.

“The role of the Rural Life Advisor is to take the church to the community and vice versa. Being ordained gives me an identity and provides a good opportunity for me to reach the parts that others can’t reach. People usually see me in my boiler suit, which they find much more approachable. Since being ordained, I have been surprised by the number of people, even those who know me well, who have contacted me to discuss matters about which they are worried. It is as if the people see me in a new light and some-



Photo: Siôn Brynach © Church in Wales

how there is a deeper level of trust,” describes Eileen. “There have also been occasions when sales representatives and vets who have seen me working on the farm then see me in my clerical collar - and this then provides a good opportunity to tell them about what else I do in the community,” says Eileen.

Currently Eileen’s work on the farm continues, as does her determination to carry on studying. “I am working towards a Bachelor of The-

ology (BTh) Degree, which will be done on a part time basis over three years. I am delighted that Dyfrig and Owain continue to support my work and study.”

On 11 April 2005, Bishop Carl will commission Eileen at the mart, Llanybydder. The auctioneer intends to invite the Bishop to join him on his plank for the commissioning ceremony. Along with this, she hopes to be ordained a priest in June 2005.

YOUTH WITHIN TENT!

by Adrian Legg

THIS SUMMER'S Diocesan Youth Camp sees a change of dates and venue from the past view years as we go to Llandysul for five days at the start of the school summer holidays. (25th-29th July) And yes, we really will be camping.

An action packed and fun filled time is promised for young people from the diocese aged 11-17. Outdoor pursuits will be provided by Llandysul Canoe Centre; including canoeing, orienteering, rock climbing, abseiling, coastal traversing and archery. There will also be plenty of less strenuous activities – worship, craft, music, drama and much more. Something for everyone; activity for the soul as well as the body.

Later in the summer, the camping theme continues over the August Bank Holiday weekend as the Youth Committee will again be taking a group of 14-17 year olds to the Greenbelt Festival at Cheltenham. This has proved highly popular with all who have gone in the past, offering an incredible mix of music, drama, worship, speakers and much more. An experience guaranteed to enhance your faith, challenge your life, and leave you counting down the days to the next Greenbelt.

Full details of both events will be sent to parishes and youth groups soon.

For young people who are not able to make these events, don't despair, further one-day events (that don't involve camping) are in the pipe-line.

For further details please contact the Youth Chaplain, Adrian Legg. He is especially keen to hear from any Youth Groups who are not on the present mailing list.

Diocesan Youth Chaplain: Rev. Adrian Legg, The Vicarage, Llanwrda SA19 8HD. Tel: 01550 777343
theleggs@members.v21.co.uk.

Come and Sing

Handel's Messiah

All are welcome to come and sing **Handel's Messiah** in St. John's Church, Pembroke Dock on Saturday, 16th April.

Those wanting to sing should register in St. John's at 1.45 p.m., there will then be a rehearsal (with a couple of breaks!) until 5.15 p.m.

The hall next door will be available during the day for teas/coffees, etc., and the performance will start at 7 p.m.

Admission: £3

All are welcome!

Come and have a go!

Further details:
01646-682943

Minister Visits St Paul's

by Roger Hughes

EDWINA HART, AM, Minister for Social Justice and Re-generation, visited St Paul's Family Centre. This private visit in the company of Catherine Thomas, AM for Llanelli, took place on Friday, 18 February 2005.

Family Centres

After spending time with the Centre users, parents, grandparents and children and talking with them, the Minister congratulated the Diocese of St Davids for all it had achieved at St Paul's and elsewhere in the Diocese adding "The work undertaken and to be seen at St Paul's helps people change their lifestyle by improving their health and well being and is a good example of best practice, demonstrating the value of the Church being actively involved in partnership for the benefit of the community and its people." In the course of the visit the Minister affirmed the importance of our Family Centres in the context of both Health Challenge Wales and their essential contribution to capac-



Catherine Thomas, left and Edwina Hart at the Family Centre

ity building within the community as shown in these Communities First areas of Llanelli.

On 22 February 2005, the Minister said, "The physical, psychologi-

cal and social benefits of a healthy active lifestyle are just some of the aims of Health Challenge Wales – the national focus for action to build a healthier nation."

Wind no longer a problem for the Organist!

THE ORGAN in St. John's Church, Pembroke Dock, was installed in 1895 at a cost of £365! And we have just restored it at a cost of some £8,500! Over these last 110 years it has stood the test of time, leading the music of our worship, as all church organs do, in a majestic and inspiring way. But over recent years it became very frail, a major problem being that the heavily repaired wind chests could be patched up no longer, and air was escaping to such an extent that the full organ could no longer be sustained by the wind power, and even then the organist did not dare hold on to a final chord for too long, in case it began to "sag".

But last year Michael Grange,

our own Pembrokeshire organ builder, came to our rescue, and the organ had a through clean and overhaul, and received its new magnificent bellows, thus equipping it, we hope, for another 110 years.

Celebrate

And now we plan to celebrate our newly-restored instrument with a "Come and Sing Handel's Messiah". What better way to celebrate the part played by our church organ in parish life than to use it in Handel's great celebration of the gospel of Christ! And rather than simply giving a "performance" of this great masterpiece, we want as many people as possible to take part, to share in the great celebration, indeed, *to come and sing*.



Pictured at the newly restored organ are St John's Organist, Mr. Brian Lavender, who will be leading and conducting the day, with the Rector, Andrew Davies.

Cardigan Group of Parishes

AN AFTERNOON of Prayer for the Asian Tsunami Disaster was held by the Cardigan Group of Parishes in St. Mary's Church, Cardigan, on Thursday 6th January 2005 from 1 pm until 6 pm. This was an opportunity to pray and reflect on the situation and also to donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC). This time was well supported and appreciated by the local community. The sum of £365 was raised as a result.

Week of Prayer

Collection for the DEC was also held at an Ecumenical service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, also held at St. Mary's, on Friday 21st January at 7 pm. Theme of the service was "Christ, the one foundation of the Church". Leaders and members of the local churches took part and the service was well attended. The sum of £93.58 was raised for the Tsunami Appeal making a total of £458.58. In addition to this other generous monies were given directly to the Banks through the church that would have attracted Gift Aid.

Flower Arranging

Foliage for Effect

by Donald Morgan, Llanrhystud

IN THIS edition of *Pobl Dewi* I've decided to produce a simple arrangement using mainly foliage. So here we go:

Items needed

- 1 glass bowl
- 3 Aspidistra leaves
- 2 Phormium tennax leaves.
- 2 stems of yellow Eleagnes.
- 2 small branches of Acuba japonica (Spotted Laurel)
- 3 pieces of bamboo
- 5 lemons
- 1 small bunch of grapes.
- 3-5 small chillies
- 1 piece of soaked oasis to fit the top of the glass dish.

Method

1. Place 2 slices of lemon into the glass dish, for interest.
2. Place your soaked oasis on to the glass dish.
3. Now you can start with your arranging, as follows.
4. Place one of the Phormium tennax leaves at the back to give height.
5. Just to the left of that, place 3 pieces of bamboo at three different levels, as shown.
6. Just in front of the bamboo, place the Eleagnes and to the side of that and coming towards the front the 5 lemons will be your focal point.
7. Place the chillies near the lemons and behind the chillies, fold



the other Phormium tennax leaf to encapture space.

8. Now we come to the front of the design. From left to right: place the Acuba japonica in a group; add the grapes in the centre, and to the right place the Aspidistra leaves which have been curled and stapled to create an interest. This is an arrangement with little cost. Happy Flower Arranging until next time.

News from the World Mission Group

by Claire Mansel Lewis, World Mission Officer

MY UNDERSTANDING of what it means to be a Mission Church, is that we are in a series of relationships. We are a Church because of our relationship with God, because of our relationship with the communities that surround us, and we are members of the worldwide family of the church throughout the world. As chairman of the World Mission Group, I see it as the group's principal task to encourage the church in this Diocese to reach out to the worldwide church with something approaching the magnanimity with which God has reached out to us in the person of Jesus, His son. Vast numbers of us will have responded with generosity on behalf of the victims of the Tsunami – a horrific natural disaster whose impact was fundamentally unavoidable. However, it is our response to the ongoing tragedy of essentially avoidable disaster in the developing world, making the lives of millions of people a misery, which should be of concern to each one of us, and it is with this in mind that the World Mission Group is working on the following initiatives, with the support of Bishop Carl.

1. Following on from the Diocesan Mission Service (reported in the last edition of *Pobl Dewi*) we will be preparing a World Mission presentation, available for use during the Annual Area Deanery Conferences. These could be made open events and the presentation would include such things as songs, readings, prayers, a quiz, opportunities for discussion and refreshments (all with an overseas flavour!) and could be incorporated into other necessary business of the Conferences.

2. The Governing Body has recently passed a resolution encouraging every person on the Electoral Roll to be on the mailing list of one of the World Mission Agencies, which is a tremendous challenge to every one of us. To do so connects us with churches around the world through organisations working in partnership with them; our faith will be encouraged and challenged, as will our giving. There may be some who believe that they are already overstretched financially, but an annual gift equivalent to what some of us might spend on CDs, Videos or DVDs in any one year could make a crucial difference to our brothers and sisters in the developing world. At the very least it is our aim that every PCC should appoint a World Mission Adviser responsible for that Church's link

with at least one Anglican Mission Agency. The forthcoming Articles of Enquiry will contain a question that addresses this point.

3. This is an important year for Britain's role in striving for greater Trade Justice throughout the world. The Church in Wales, as a Member of the Trade Justice Movement, is hoping that Sunday, 10 April 2005 will be used by congregations to focus on the plight of the developing world, coming as it does at the beginning of the Global Week of Action on Trade Justice (10-16 April). Many parishioners will already have signed voting cards (carrying the famous 'scales' logo), but if your church hasn't and parishioners would like to do so, the voting cards can be obtained from Tom Defis at tdefis@christian-aid.org (01267 237257) or from Tearfund at enquiry@tearfund.org (0845 355 8355)

If you would like to know more about Wales' contribution to Worldwide Mission in past and present times there will be an Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 19 March (9.30 am-12.30) at Bethel Christian Centre, St Clears Road, Johnstown, Carmarthen. If you plan to come, or would like more details and directions, please contact Glyn Davies on 01792 589062 glyn.davies@parklandschurch.org.uk

Conference Encourages Nationwide Consultation

CYTÛN is to release 'Companions for a Change', a study pack for churches and ecumenical groups as a lead to a major conference at Trinity College, Carmarthen from 13-15th September 2006. The aim is to develop new patterns of local ministry for mission across denominational boundaries.

Christians are invited to consider the contemporary situation in Wales and worldwide; God within today's culture; our understanding of the Church of Christ in our modern world and issues raised by existing denominational processes.

There is an urgent call to establish or use existing ecumenical groups who will arrange six sessions during October and November 2005.

Pilot projects encouraging local discussions will feed responses in to the conference with everyone attending being part of a local group.

'Companions for a Change' will be available from July 2005 at a cost of £3 per copy. Cytûn are also producing a companion pack, free of charge, telling the stories of several existing partnerships and giving guidance on their establishment. It has also been suggested that the pack be used as a basis for a series of services and a discussion starter in meetings and churches.

For further information contact: Assistant General Secretary, Cytûn, 58 Richmond Road, Cardiff CF24 3UR. Tel 029 2046 4204 Email: companions@cytun.org.uk



St. Issell's Church Sunday Club enthralled by Ron

Canadian Tells Stories!

by Michael Butler

A FEW weeks ago some clergy and Sunday Club teachers from the Narberth Deanery came together at St. Issell's Church for a workshop on "Bible Storytelling" – led by Ron Baker.

Ron is a professional storyteller from Canada, spending the winter in Saundersfoot.

Associates of the Iona Community, Ron and his wife Rita have conducted retreats on Iona and in many parts of Canada. Rita was editor of *The Anglican Magazine*, the national magazine of the Anglican Church of Canada for 15 years. Ron has specialized in telling stories from the Bible in new and exciting ways. He has over 50 scriptural stories on CD.

As Ron tells us, stories have been an integral part of the Gospel since Jesus told stories to the crowds on the hills of Gallilee. Stories are powerful – they have the ability to change people's lives. Stories are processed in the imagi-

nation of the listener. While the teller sketches an outline, the listener paints the full picture and adds to the story with personal experiences and emotions. Thus the story enters the consciousness of listener and influences their lives.

People remember stories! We must follow the example of Jesus and recapture the art of storytelling. How many sermons of Jesus are recorded? How many stories? Priests and ministers who have used stories from the pulpit say that people will discuss and comment on the story whereas they rarely discuss sermons. We should not limit our storytelling to Biblical stories (although the Bible is a wonderful mine of stories). We should use folktales, literary stories, personal and contemporary stories too. If a story is beautiful, it is Holy!

Ron and Rita return to Canada at the end of March but plan to return to Saundersfoot next January.

MU's Theme for 2005 'Peace and Reconciliation'

By Glenys Payne

THE THEME that the Mothers' Union has been given for 2005 by the Prayer and Spirituality Unit at Mary Sumner House is 'Peace and Reconciliation'. We are hoping to spend some time during the coming year in our MU branches thinking about what part we can play in making this world a more peaceful place to live in.

Peace can mean so many things:

- the absence of war
- the absence of mental anxiety,
- stillness or silence
- harmony between people or groups
- serenity

It can mean a state enjoyed by an individual or by a community or nation. It can refer to human beings in relation to others, or most importantly, human beings in relation to God. There are so many people for whom the world is not a peaceful place to live. One of the things for which most people pray earnestly is peace!

Before people can know true peace, they often need to experience reconciliation. This means forgiveness on both sides, a willingness to leave the past behind, and a sense of acceptance. We all need to be reconciled with God if we are to be filled with what St Paul called 'the peace that passes understanding'.

Peace begins with individuals

*If there is to be peace in the world
There must be peace in the nations;
If there is to be peace in the nations
There must be peace in the cities;
If there is to be peace in the cities
There must be peace between
neighbours;*

*If there is to be peace between
neighbours*

*There must be peace in the home;
If there is to be peace in the home
There must be peace in the heart.*

Lao - Tse

like you and me. Our lives need to be filled with the peace of God and we must allow that peace to influence all that we do, and let it flow out to others.

Should anyone require further information on ideas to explore the theme of 'Peace and Reconciliation', please contact Mrs. Glenys Payne, The Vicarage, Swiss Valley, Felinfoel, Llanelli SA14 8BS Tel: 01554 773559 geepayne@tiscali.co.uk

BOOK REVIEW

Boundaries and Pleasant Places: Healing Division in the Church and the World

Enid Morgan

SCM/Canterbury, 2004

Boundaries and Pleasant Places is the SCM Canterbury Press Lent Book for 2005. It began life as an Archbishop of Wales Lent Book, commissioned by Archbishop Rowan, in a series which contains acclaimed books by, for example, Leslie Griffiths and Jeffrey John; and it is unfortunate that no acknowledgement of this pedigree is made to explain the pervasive Welshness of the work. For this is a book as much about culture as much as anything, and especially about the ability of cultures to be exclusive and oppressive. Written by a Welsh, Welsh-speaking, woman who is extremely theologically and politically aware, and a Christian priest, it has rich veins for mining.

There are seven chapters in which there is some correlation between subject and liturgical calendar, making the book suitable for a Lent group, though in truth it is probably more appropriate for private reading and reflection. As such it would be helpful at any time of the year. Each chapter introduces some new context in which boundaries are to be observed, containing imaginative and helpful illustrations which bear witness both to the author's cultural heritage and her experiences as Church in Wales Director of Mission. The second half of each chapter consists of a Bible study or more accurately, a reflection based on a Biblical passage or passages, which I guess will form the basis of many sermons for ministerial readers in the coming months. You could do far worse. Each chapter concludes with a series of questions which in my view could be dispensed with, without loss, since they are not framed in a way that makes them easily usable by any potential reader or group of readers.

That said, this is a rewarding book, written by an able communicator whose speed of thought and ability to make connections between Christian tradition and contemporary experience is everywhere evident. Above all, it is written with passion, and it sets out a way of understanding discipleship which is easily ignored. Given the subtitle of the book that is both ironic and inevitable. – John Holdsworth

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Plygain

Sir,
READERS who found interest in the 'Plygain' article by John Matthews in December's edition may like to know that the marvellous collection of traditional Plygain carols recorded by the Welsh Folk Museum is still available – on compact disc. Hopefully, the equally marvellous notes should be with it. This disc is in stock in Welsh bookshops.

Yours faithfully,
Denys Smith.
Bryn Hawddgar
Pentrefelin
Llandeilo

Holy Week and Easter at the Cathedral

PALM SUNDAY marks the beginning of our journey with our Lord through the last days of his Passion. We gather at the River Alun before the 9.30 am parish services for the Blessing and Distribution of Palms and the Reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel before processing to the Cathedral. The scene then changes as we read the narrative of the Passion, and our focus is immediately turned to the events of Holy Week. Our daily services reflect the mood of the week with the Passion narrative and the choirs sing a meditative plainsong Evensong.

Maunder Thursday marks the beginning of our final journey to the Cross. The evening Eucharist centres around the theme of love and service, and, as it is the night on which the Lord's Supper was instituted, the theme of redemption reminds us of the glory to come with a link to the Eucharist of Easter Day. A 'Watch of the Passion' for one hour gives many the opportunity to enter into the mood of the events to follow.

On Good Friday the 'Three Hours Devotion' from 12 noon to 3 pm is now not observed in many places. This tradition is kept alive here at the Cathedral and this year the meditations will be led by The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, the Bishop of Monmouth. People are free to enter and leave between the

sections of the Service, during the singing of the hymns. Easter begins with a Vigil on Easter Eve, and we welcome the Bishop for the rite of Confirmation when, usually, candidates from several parishes in the locality present themselves for Confirmation. The Easter Liturgy has, for centuries, included a period of watching and waiting, whilst the symbol of new light has also been a powerful visual expression of resurrection and new life. From early centuries Baptism and Easter were closely linked and the climax of the whole Easter Liturgy is the Eucharist. All these combine on Easter Eve with the Vigil, Lighting of the Paschal Candle, Baptism/Confirmation and the Eucharist. The Traditional said and Choral services follow on Easter Day.

St Davids Cathedral – Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi

The main Services for Holy Week and Easter 2005

Palm Sunday – 20 March

- 8 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist
- 11.15 am Choral Mattins
- 6 pm Choral Evensong

Palm Crosses will be distributed at the beginning of each of these services.

Maunder Thursday – 24 March

- 8 am Morning Prayer & Holy Communion
- 11 am Chrism Mass
- 6 pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30 pm Choral Eucharist with Vigil and the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday 25th March

- 8 am Morning Prayer, Litany & Ante-Communion
- 10 am Family Service
- 12 noon The Three Hours' Devotion.
Preacher: The Rt Revd Dominic Walker, Bishop of Monmouth.
- 6 pm Choral Evensong

Easter Eve – 26 March

- 8 am Morning Prayer, Litany & Ante-Communion
- 6 pm Evening Prayer
- 7.30 pm Choral Eucharist with Confirmation and the Lighting of the Paschal Candle
Preacher: The Bishop

Easter Day – 27 March

- 7.30am Morning Prayer & Litany
- 8 am Holy Communion
- 9.30 am Cymun Bendigaid *gweinyddu gan yr Esgob*
- 9.30 am Family Eucharist
- 11.15 am Choral Eucharist *celebrated by the Bishop*
- 6 pm Choral Evensong

PLANT DEWI VIDEO/DVD

The Plant Dewi video/DVD 'Cradle to Cradle' is now available on loan *free of charge*.

Please contact Plant Dewi, 3 Red Street, Carmarthen, Tel: 01267 221551.

We hope to have a Welsh version of the video/DVD available in the summer.

Clergy Vestments

by Ray Tarr

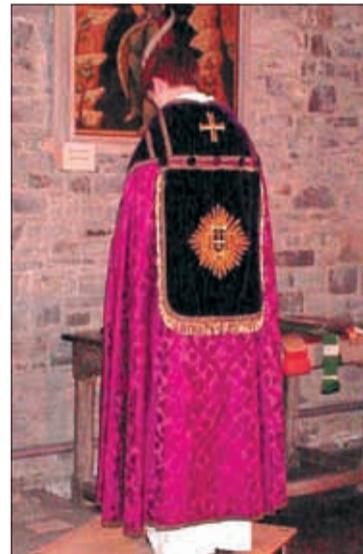
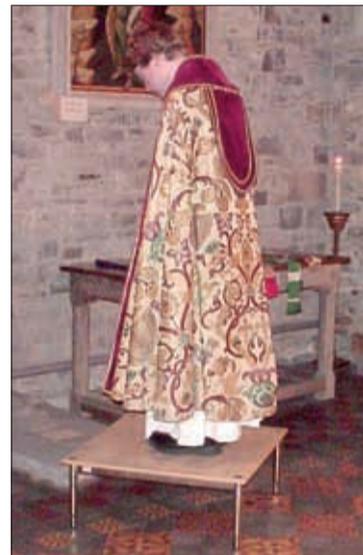
VESTMENTS are the distinctive dress worn by the clergy and others when performing liturgical and other services of the Church. Their origin is to be found in the cultural background of the Roman Empire and most of the garments now worn by those leading formal worship were either symbols of office of Roman officials, or indeed the ordinary civilian or outdoor clothes which in the early centuries have been adapted for use in worship.

The basic garment worn by clergy, choirs and others is the *Cassock*, worn for warmth and convenience and to cover ordinary dress and which identifies those taking part in worship. Over this is worn the *Alb* or the *Surplice*, the Surplice being a shorter version of the Alb, which is a long white tunic, which has been in use from New Testament times.

The *Black Scarf* or the *Stole* are symbols of priestly office, the colour of the stole changes according to the season. The customary colours are White, Purple, Green and Red, which indicate and celebrate the various Seasons and Holy Days of the Church. Some Churches may use more elaborate vestments including the *Chasuble* and the *Cope*. The Chasuble representing the seamless robe of Christ is an oval shaped garment specifically used at the Eucharist. The Cope is an adaptation of this and more like an outdoor cloak for use at choir services and for processions.

Distinctive Copes

At the Cathedral we have an extensive collection of Vestments including two fine Chasubles and matching High Altar Frontals in White and Green in use since the early 1960's. Several distinctive Copes dating back to the 1930's, and amongst the more modern garments a Cope of Scandinavian origin very highly decorated with sequins and embroidery, given to the Cathedral by the widow of the late Canon Hugh Picton. Three matching Chinese Silk Copes in a gold damask in use since the early 1970's, made by Pratts. An all seasons Cope made by the Royal School of Needlework, and a more recent addition, a High Mass set with Chasuble, Dalmatic and Tunicle (for use by the celebrant, deacon and sub-deacon), with matching Cope and Nave Altar



Some of the Cathedral's magnificent Copes

Frontal made by Watts of London, and a gift of the Friends of the Cathedral, now in use on all festal occasions.

We use all of our senses in worship and vestments are an in-

tegral part of worship in many churches, as they provide colour, and in many cases add to the splendour and theatre of the presentation of liturgy.

Christian Holiday Handbook 2005

by Jeremy Martineau

HAVE you come across this handy guide? It offers information on holiday accommodation and facilities offered by Christians. "I have found it most comprehensive, well illustrated and it gets bigger each year" said Iris Staniland, member of the Landsker Tourist Association. Covering mainly Great Britain, although with a section for overseas which is growing with each year, it offers a wide choice. The handbook is free of charge, apart from postage, and is available by sending six second-class stamps to:

The Christian Holiday Handbook

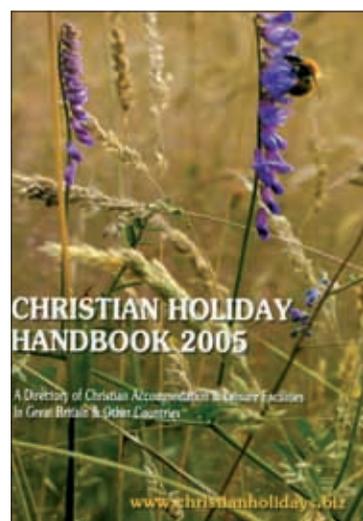
P.O. Box 118, Dereham

Norfolk NR19 2WS

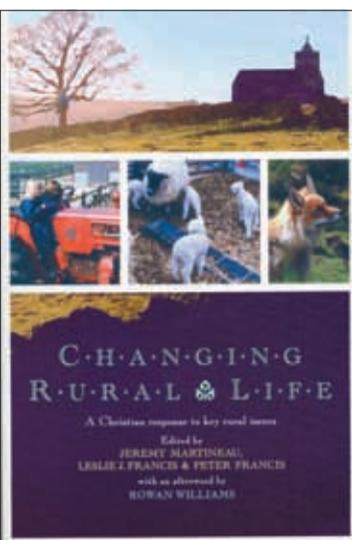
Tel: 01368 853376

Email: info@christianholidays.biz

Web-site: www.christianholidays.biz



Reviews



Changing Rural Life: a Christian response to key rural issues

Jeremy Martineau, Leslie Francis and Peter Francis (Editors), ISBN 1-85311-599-1

Norwich, Canterbury Press, 2004 pp 262, paperback £19.99

AT A TIME of great change and uncertainty in the 70% of the UK land mass that is broadly considered to be countryside, this volume provides carefully researched information and theological reflection on issues that are facing rural communities today. Individually the chapter authors make some interesting challenges for all of us involved in rural ministry. However, this book is relevant not only to the rural Christian and rural dweller, but to policy makers and deliverers in local, regional and national Government, Diocesan offices and the wider voluntary and community sector.

Changing Rural Life is a collection of 13 essays by Bishops of the Anglican Communion on the underlying issues facing British rural communities in the 21st century. It cannot hope to cover them all and does not attempt to. By avoiding some of the contentious political issues to get at the important and often hidden realities, the book will have a wide impact on rural church and community life. The chapters are supplemented by a compelling theological reflection by the Archbishop of Canterbury, presented as an afterword.

The topics addressed include the dynamics of community life, parish governance, the understanding and use of the countryside, the three linked issues of environment, farming and food, the contribution of the church to rural life and the relevance of scripture and the Anglican tradition to modern life.

The editors have sought to widen a potentially narrow English focus by inviting contributions from some Anglican Bishops in Wales, Ireland and Scotland. These chapters broaden out the experience that can be contributed to the debate on Ethnicity and Diversity (John Davies, Bishop of St. Asaph); Globalization and Local Autonomy (Richard Clarke, Bishop of Meath & Kildare); and Isolated Communities (Bruce Cameron, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church).

There is an unfortunate tendency in a couple of the chapters to quote

received wisdom on contentious scientific topics, which is compounded by a lack of references on the subject matter. Received wisdom should be challenged on fact, as well as theologically and not simply repeated verbatim.

John Oliver's chapter on Biodiversity concludes with a plea for the issues associated with climate change and habitat loss to be taken seriously with "experience of a kind that needs to be sustained by religious fervour." This call for Christians to engage with contemporary issues is mirrored by the dual plea for appropriate church involvement in community by Michael Langrish and John Went. Recovering a profound sense of community, Langrish states, "is one of the major tasks of mission anywhere." This impassioned argument we would do well to take heed of.

Alan Smith reminds us and Government that churches have much to contribute to all aspects of social capital, challenging Government to offer additional support to churches and faith communities "that can demonstrate that they are increasing the level of 'bridging' social capital by their social involvement and community service."

As an exercise for continuing professional development for Bishops it has more than fulfilled its task. As an exercise in the development of the rural church and its essential role in rural communities and the countryside, it is only just beginning. This volume will help enormously those of us working to ensure that it succeeds. – *Jill Hopkinson, National Rural Officer for the Church of England*

In a Strange Land: People with Dementia and the Local Church, a guide and encouragement for ministry

Malcolm Goldsmith

4M Publications, £14.95

"I DIDN'T GET ordained to spend all my time visiting old ladies," remarked a curate huffily. Yet in a society where life expectancy has increased quite dramatically ministering to older people is a crucially important element both of mission and pastoral care. One result of an ageing population is an increase in dementia. Roughly 1 in 10 people aged between 80 and 84 develop the condition. This figure rises to 2 in 10 in the 85 to 90 age group and 4 in 10 among 90 to 95 year-olds. Most of us have relatives, friends and fellow members of our congregations who have either developed dementia or are caring for those suffering from it. This book will be an invaluable help not just to clergy, but to lay pastoral assistants and anyone else who has to cope with this illness in the lives of loved ones or in their own lives. It is beautifully written, full of helpful insights, advice and prayers, and deals sensitively and thoughtfully with the practical, theological and spiritual issues relating to dementia. I know that I shall find it invaluable in my own work. I'm sure that many others will do so as well. – *Patrick Thomas*

A Church at War: Anglicans and Homosexuality

Stephen Bates

I.B. Tauris, £17.95

THIS hugely readable account of the Anglican Communion's battles over the ordination of homosexuals is the work of the *Guardian's* religious correspondent. Like many others, he wonders why such an apparently marginal issue has suddenly loomed so large in the life of the church. After all, if it is simply a matter of Biblical teaching, the Diocesan Board of Finance should look to its investments. The Scriptures are not exactly keen on the idea of lending money at interest – even my humble mini-cash ISA may be an occasion of sin. Stephen Bates spots a conspiracy. Conservative Evangelicals have become a growing force in a shrinking church. He says that they needed an issue on which they could flex their muscles and assert their new influence. Opposing women's ordination was too contentious, objecting to remarriage after divorce would have offended too many people. Gay priests, so Bates alleges, were an easy target: a minority with not much support within the church. If this is really so, it is rather disgraceful. Jesus (according to St Luke) had a soft spot for bullied minority and marginal groups. Perhaps there is another side to the story. It would be interesting to hear it.

Patrick Thomas

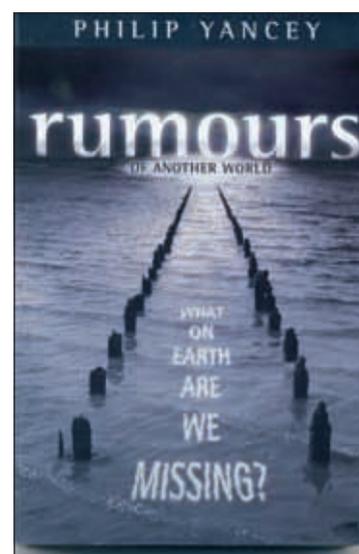
Secular Lives, Sacred Hearts:

The role of the Church in a time of no religion

Alan Billings

SPCK, £10.99

ONE of the curious aspects of religious life in Britain at the moment is the huge gap between the surprisingly high percentage of people who describe themselves as Christians in surveys and censuses and the depressingly low percentage who actually attend places of worship. Alan Billings, the author of this fascinating book, has long experience as a theological educator and a parish priest. This study stems from his work as vicar of Kendal in Carlisle Diocese, in a parish that would bear comparison with many town parishes in our own diocese. He identifies the existence of a large number of what he describes as 'cultural Christians'. They lead secular lives, but nevertheless still have 'sacred hearts', and it is this that leads them to turn to the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Some of his views are challenging and contentious. He is concerned that the development of exclusive policies, particularly on baptism, are cutting the church's links with these 'cultural Christians' and turning the Anglican Church into a sect. Critics might argue that subsidising a somewhat sentimental and superficial 'cultural Christianity' is a luxury that the church can no longer afford. Billings' book would certainly provide stimulating material for a parish discussion group, a PCC session, or a clergy study circle. – *Patrick Thomas*



Rumours of another World: What on Earth are we missing?

Philip Yancey

ISBN 0-310-25284-9

Zondervan £8.99

THE OPENING chapter of this book is surprising, as Yancey refers often, and at length, to a recent exhibition entitled 'Body Parts', where visitors could see human bodies, preserved whole or stripped away to reveal muscles, bones and internal organs in full colour. Thus the foundation is laid for the questions 'What are we missing? What do we not see for lack of imagination or faith?' and the theme for this book is set.

Yancey does not shy away from acknowledging the enormous scientific, technological and medical advances being made in the 21st century but in all of the cited examples he attempts to show that there is a far greater power at work.

Hypocrisy, deceit, discontent, greed, pride, guilt and repentance are all among the subjects tackled in this book. The chapter on sin, euphemistically entitled 'A word unsaid', is particularly interesting as the reader feels that the author is, at last, really getting into his stride. In this chapter, the narrative begins to flow, with the references and anecdotes being more cohesive and readable and, therefore, more persuasive. As Yancey observes, the word 'sin' is used less and less nowadays, due, in

part he suggests, to our very politically correct outlook on life. A multitude of quotes, from the Bible and from such authors as C. S. Lewis, Milton and Albert Einstein, are used to illustrate the points being made and a full bibliography is included for those who wish to read further.

Thought-provoking, at times heavy going and rather disjointed but ultimately an interesting and reflective read, Yancey does not provide any easy answers, nor a sop to the troubled conscience. Rather he examines some of our very human failings and offers a series of pointers for the reader to follow, which provide assurance, comfort and peace plus a greater understanding of this world, the promised world to come and the links between the two.

Tessa Briggs

Amsr i Dduw: Trysorfa o Weddïau Hen a Newydd

Elfed ap Nefydd Roberts

(golygydd)

Cymdeithas Llyfrau Ceredigion Gyf., £12.99

DYMA gasgliad godidog o weddïau sy'n mynd i fod o werth aruthrol i'r rhai ohonom sy'n gweindogaethu trwy'r Gymraeg. Rwyf wedi gwneud defnydd helaeth ohono yn barod yn y Boreol a'r Hwyrrol Weddi, ac mae'n gyfrol gampus. Fe all hefyd fod o fudd mawr i bob Cristion Cymraeg fel cyfrwng defosiwn personol. Mae adran gyntaf y llyfr ym ymwneud â 'Rhannau Gweddi', sef Nesâd, Moliant, Cyffes, Diolch, Ymbil, Eiriolaeth ac Ymgysgriad. Testun ail hanner y gyfrol yw'r Flwyddyn Gristnogol o'r Adfent i'r Pentecost, yn ogystal â gweddïau ar gyfer amgylchiadau arbennig a chasgliad o fendithiadau. Daw'r cynnwys o amrywiaeth ryfeddol o ffynonellau a'r canlyniad yw gwir drysorfa o weddïau: un sy'n debyg i gael ei gyfrif ymhlith clasuron y traddodiad ysbrydol Cymraeg. Diolch i'r golygydd hynaws am ein bendithio gyda'r casgliad bendigedig hwn.

Patrick Thomas

Notices received

'Children and Young People – A code of good practice for use by parishes in the Church in Wales.' Training evenings for Parish Child Protection Co-ordinators. Archdeaconry of St David's: 7 April 2005. Archdeaconry of Carmarthen: 23 June 2005. For full details contact Diane Morley-Jones, St David's Diocesan Child Protection Officer, tel: 01554 890458.

'Dynamic Prayer in the Local Church.' A one-day conference designed to make prayer meetings effective and enjoyable. To be held on 23 April 2005 at St Michael's Church, Aberystwyth. For full details contact Naomi Tarling, tel: 01970 617184; e-mail: office@stmikes.net.

Narberth Open Learning Centre – Summer Term 2005. Subject: *The Ten Commandments*, Tutor, Dr. Gareth Edwards, Commencing Thursday 14th April at 7.30 pm in the Queen's Hall, Narberth. For further details tel: Mrs Jeanne Thomas, 01437 767182

Holy Trinity, Pontagothi is open to the public every Thursday from May to September from 2 - 4 pm. This unique Grade II listed church, located on the banks of the River Cothi, has fine murals and attractive stained glass windows. Please visit us and help our Restioation Appeal. Group visits arranged. For further details tel: Margaret Messent on 01267 290431