The answer’s yes.
Now, what’s the question?

asks the new Diocesan Secretary

THERE’S a new broom sweeping through the diocesan office.
Howard Llewellyn was looking forward to retirement after a distinguished and varied legal career when...

“I’d been working closely with the diocesan secretary in Oxford Diocese (as Independent Chair of the Safeguarding panel) and thought, that looks like an interesting job.

“I mentioned this to someone at a church conference and they said there was a vacancy in St Davids.” Within two weeks, he’d sent in the application form, been interviewed and been offered the post.

So, what attracted a man who has been described as “a non-believing Christian” to the Church?

“I found myself (in Oxford) in a collegiate, familial environment in which there were issues that were relevant on a personal level to people in the community.

“I don’t believe there is no such thing as society; in all the work I have done I have tried to make sure there is a strong community element.

“We live in one of the richest countries in the world and yet we see food banks, beggars on the street etc and it struck me that the Church was at least standing firm, proclaiming some resistance to this and seeking solutions.

“What I’ve found here in St Davids is that it lends itself to that familial, collegiate environment. I don’t know whether that’s how the office has always presented itself, but it will from now on.”

“Every day I find something interesting, something involving, something educational, informative, something humorous and something downright bizarre!”

“I’m working with people who are clearly eager, accepting and open to embracing a new direction.

“So where is that exactly?

“It will be a much more open, transparent experience than they’ve had before. I want to create a more public profile so that clerics and parish members feel they can resort to it and don’t feel they are on their own.”

“If the Church is not active in its own and the wider community then what is its purpose?”

“Our responsibility is to facilitate help for the parishes where we can, perhaps not in the way congregations are used to because we live in a time of public austerity and the church is a public-facing organisation. But I don’t think that’s always been the case here in the past.

“We will adopt a much more engaged approach and I expect the parishes to respond. I believe we can make improvements simply by meeting people and talking through problems, which are mostly about finances.”

“Ministry Share is something the whole Church is going to have to review because there are perceptions that the Mother Church is very rich, yet still requires a congregation of six or eight members to come up with money every year.

“We have to demonstrate that the money they bring to the Church isn’t about paying their vicar or supporting the fabric of their church; it’s about enabling Ministry and Mission across a much wider area.

“I hope that by engaging we can improve the understanding of what this money is used for and how we can help to improve their lot and that of the Church family.”

“I want the Diocesan Office to be ‘a good neighbour’. If there’s a problem, we want to help. The answer’s yes but even if we can’t provide the definitive answer we’ll help the questioner find it.

“This approach is nothing new for clergy but there are fewer of them. So, I want to expand that approach from the office.”
**Transition News**

**Newyddion Trosgwyyddiad**

It has been a really busy few months since Diocesan Conference shut us, at some pace, into transition! Transition Missioner Marianne Osborne takes a breather to provide an update.

As promised, a team has been put together to work with the new LMAs. Our new Transition Companions are Revd John Hancock and Simon Thane, both of whom have experience in management and, in particular, change. Howard Llewellyn, our new Diocesan Secretary, will also play a consultative part as the need arises.

As a team, we are committed to working with ministers and congregations to make the changes as smooth as possible, ensuring our movements are as transparent as possible and that all who wish to talk about the changes in their churches, and ask questions, have the opportunity to do so. We have compiled a handbook, which can be taken home after discussions for reference – it can be difficult to retain all of the information at long meetings so we hope this will be a useful tool.

The most recent Bishop’s Ad Clerum has ensured that all clergy have the timetable for change. I am currently working with the first cohort of LMAs and our aim is to have them licensed and functioning in their new capacity by September this year.

The Bishop’s team is currently working on names for specific areas. We already have a number of pre-existing LMA titles but two of the most recent are Greater Dewisland, licensed a few weeks ago and being led by LMA Dean Revd Mike Rowlands, and the first of our new LMAs, Bro Llied, licensed last December, led by LMA Dean Revd Canon Huw Mosford.

The LMA Dean is a new position within the diocese and, as ever, it is the Bishop’s responsibility to appoint. She is prayerfully working on this and will be contacting potential deans by the usual official means when she has discerned these appointments.

I would be happy to hear from any areas who would like some support as they begin to think about how moving into larger working and worshipping areas might work for them, or PCCs who would like some clarification on how the new structure will work. Perhaps you’d like some guidance on how you can be proactive in your LMA?

The more we prepare, the more information we can share within our churches and communities and the easier it will be to make these changes. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions you might have, or, as I say, if I can begin conversations within church life I’d be more than happy to do so.

Tel: 01437 214812

E-mail: marianneosborne@aol.com

The first step towards something new is always the hardest.

**Yes, but where can I find out more?**

Continuing his thoughts on getting involved, the diocesan Lay Development Officer, Robb Wainwright, talks about upcoming opportunities to learn more about what goes on in our diocese.

Following God’s call in our lives may sound simple but it often requires us to work hard at our understanding of just what He wants us to do in response to his call. Whether as a person of fragile health, housebound and called to prayer ministry, or in rude health and raring to take on the world, whatever our call and our understanding of that call, it behoves us to keep listening to the still, small voice of God’s Holy Spirit as he talks to us in our hearts and through family, friends and complete strangers. Our job is to be open in every possible way to whatever the Spirit is saying to us and, yes, that includes articles in Pobl Dewi.

What can I do? I asked last time. Well, as promised in the last issue, we are running some Taster Days from 9:30-4pm; by the time you read this, the first one will have taken place at Aberaeron Church Hall (10th March), the second will be near Carmarthens at Llanpumsant Memorial Hall on 14th April. There will be speakers covering lots of the activities that God calls us to including studying (Theology for Life), The Fellowship of Vocation, Safeguarding, Vocations Advisors, the Lay Development Team, Tir Dewi, Pioneer ministry and our youth work in the diocese. Each presentation will be no more than 15 minutes, with time for questions and discussion afterwards.

There are two further training days this year, both in the north of the diocese. On 21st April, Bishop John Saxbee will be at Penryncoch church hall talking about ‘Pastoral Care in the light of 2020 Vision’ and on 19th May at Aberaeron Church Hall, Revd Sharon Swan will be offering a fun day in which we can understand and scrutinise God’s call in our lives.

Finally, please remember that the Lay Development Team would love to lead coffee morning training sessions (2 hrs max) for any church, deanery or LMA on the topics of Reading the Bible, delivering intercessions or welcoming visitors to our church services and functions. Initially please contact me: robbwainwright@gmail.com. Please see the diocesan website for full information on all these days.

**It is more blessed to give than to receive**

(Acts 20:35)

How Anderson, Diocesan Mission Resource Officer, is offering to run seminars for LMAs on the subject of generosity.

This biblical verse of the title is remarkable in two ways. Firstly, it is the only direct quotation of the words of Jesus recorded in the Scriptures that are not found in the four Gospels. Secondly, virtually nobody believes it! But what if it were true? Indeed, it must be true, but what if we acted as if we were convinced it was true? What if we almost tried to outdo one another in our acts of love and generosity? Perhaps then we would see something like the Church in the New Testament where:

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47 NIV).

How wonderful it would be if we also rejoiced in giving and thus became so attractive that newcomers were added daily to our congregations! But how can we encourage this generosity? One powerful tool that has been used to great effect around the world is a seminar called ‘The Journey of Generosity’, promoted by the

**For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14)
Thy Kingdom Come 2018

Archdeacon Will Strange invites us to imagine being part of a worldwide wave of prayer embracing Christians of all backgrounds focussing on more people coming to know Jesus Christ.

Welcome to Thy Kingdom Come. It began as a call to prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Church of England in 2016 and has grown since then in a truly remarkable way. Last year, which was the initiative’s second year, 85% of Church of England churches and cathedrals were involved. It also took off in other churches of the world-wide Anglican Communion, including our own Province, as well as Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Baptist and Methodist churches, Free churches and Orthodox churches. So that now, in its third year, Thy Kingdom Come is a truly international and ecumenical venture.

It invites all of us to make use of the days between Ascension and Pentecost (10-20th May this year) as a season of prayer.

We can commit to pray in a whole variety of ways and settings. We can, of course, pray as individuals, but also as families or as churches. There are a host of suggestions and resources available on the Thy Kingdom Come website: https://www.thykngdomcome.global/

What are we doing in this diocese?

On a diocesan level, we will launch this season of prayer with a ‘beacon event’ – a Thy Kingdom Come service in the Cathedral at 7pm on Ascension Day itself (10th May), at which the preacher will be Very Revd Jon Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. Parishes can make this their Ascension Day service, and celebrate this venture in prayer together.

On an individual level, the diocese will be distributing prayer cards, in an easy-to-carry business card format, with a reminder to pray for five friends. The cards will have on one side a space to write the names of five friends for whom you want to pray, and on the other a form of prayer you may want to use. The cards will be available in English and Welsh.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has said of Thy Kingdom Come: “I cannot remember in my life anything that I’ve been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.” So let’s get involved, too.

Matthew Hill invites everyone along to a series of services to mark the establishment of St Davids Changing Attitude Cymru/ Trawsnewid Agwedd Cymru (CATAC)

A CATAC support group is being established in this diocese. The responses I received to the article regarding CATAC in the previous edition of Pobl Dewi, and to the email that I circulated to all the clergy in the diocese, has meant that this is now possible.

By way of inauguration, the group will host a celebration of the Eucharist followed by an opportunity for simple and open fellowship over refreshments in each of the archdeaconries. Bishop Joanna will preside and preach at each of those celebrations.

By the time you read this, the first celebration will have been held in the Archdeaconry of St Davids, (5th March at St John’s, Pembroke Dock). The dates, times and locations of the other celebrations are as follows: 7.15pm, Monday 16th April, Llanbadarn Fawr; 7.15pm, Tuesday 1st May, St John’s Carmarthen.

Full details will be posted on the Facebook page of the Diocesan CATAC Group: https://www.facebook.com/cataccds/posts/

We hope these Eucharists will create a space where we can worship as those who share in common the image and likeness of God and baptism into Christ; a place to recognise more fully the depths of God’s grace given to us all, whether we be LGBT or have a concern for LGBT equality.

An opportunity for open table fellowship

The Chaplain to the University of Wales Trinity St David, Carmarthen, has been appointed to a new key post in the Church in Wales.

The Diocesan Conference welcomes motions from parishes and deaneries and even individuals. It is the place where issues and matters should be debated and discussed. Last year, via a motion that came out of a deanery conference, a motion about the confusion over the Bench of Bishops’ decision to extend Communion to all the baptised went to the floor of the Governing Body: it was passed and raised significant issues.

So, if there is an issue that you are burning for the diocese or Church in Wales to discuss please submit a motion to the Joint Secretaries of Conference (Mr Howard Llewellyn or me). We will be happy to help you with the correct drafting or wording of any motion. In order to ensure that a motion goes to the next Diocesan Conference, on Saturday 6th October, it should arrive in written form by the June Standing Committee (21st June). This is so that it can be agreed by the Standing Committee to be in order and further help given if required. Each motion will require a proposer and seconder, both must be members of the Diocesan Conference. But please note:

- Motions that relate to liturgy or doctrine can only come from a bishop of the Church in Wales.
- Motions that relate to diocesan finances can only be advisory to the Diocesan Board of Finance and not binding.
- Motions that require a change to, or would contradict, the Constitution of the Church in Wales would have to be passed by the Governing Body after being passed by the Diocesan Conference.

It is your Diocesan Conference and so if you wish to use the democratic process, please submit a motion.

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Appointments

Revd Susan Barnett appointed House for Duty, Letterston w Llanfair Nant-y-gof and Puncheston w Little Newcastle and Castle Bythe in conjunction with her post as NSM Curate of said Benefice, 5 November 2017

Revd Delyth Wilson appointed NSM(L) Priest in Charge of Cynwyd Gaero (St Cynwyd) w Llansawel & Talley & Abergorech, 31 January 2018

Revd Dr Emma Whittick appointed Chaplain at the Lampeter Campus of the University of Wales, Trinity St Davids, 20 February 2018

Revd Kingsley Taylor appointed Vicar of the Benefice of Whilland (St Marys) with Cyffig & Henllan Amgoed & Llangan w Llandissilio & Clundenwen & Llanboidy, 26 February 2018

Revd Ann McKnight appointed NSM(L) Priest in Charge of Cil-y-Cwm (St Michael) & Ystrad-Ffin w Rhandirmwyn & Llanfair-Ar-y-Bryn, 7 February 2018

Revd Shirley Rayner appointed NSM Associate Priest of Begelly (St Mary) w Ludchurch & East Williamston, 21 January 2018

Revd Christopher Lewis-Jenkins appointed Priest in Charge of Laugharne & Llansadwrn & Pendine & Llanmiloe & Llanddowror, 26 January 2018

Revd Sulin Milne appointed Assistant Curate of the United Benefice, LMA, Deanery of Bro Llidi, 21 February 2018

Revd Dr Adrian Furse appointed Associate Priest of Newport w Dinas, 4 March 2018

Revd Michael Plant appointed NSM LMA Vicar, Greater Dewisland, 10 January 2018

Revd Dr Adrian Furse appointed Associate Priest of Newport w Dinas, 4 March 2018

Revd John Cecil to be Deputy Diocesan Director of Education, 1 August 2018.

This is in addition to his role as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Steynton

Revd Jonathan Copus to continue as Interim Minister of the Crymych Group for an additional period of 6 months, until 2 September 2018

Mr Timothy Brian Nelson to become NS House for Duty Lay Chaplain at Llandovery, 12 February 2018

Revd Canon Paul Mackness, appointed Archdeacon of St Davids, 22 March 2018. This will be in conjunction with his role as Bishop’s Chaplain until further notice

Au revoir

After Holy Eucharist on 2nd February (Candlemas), the hall of St Peter’s Church, Llanelli, was the venue chosen to celebrate the ministry and 70th birthday of Revd Howard Jones, who was laying aside his pastoral role on that date.

JEFFREY Hughes, sub-warden of St Peter’s, thanked Howard for his extensive knowledge of the Anglican liturgy and his readiness, though retired, to serve the various churches of Llanelli on Sundays and Saints’ days, when his sermons and addresses combined erudition with a puckish sense of humour.

A small celebration breakfast was laid on and Howard was presented with a fountain pen, wine and card. Jeffrey said that the card contained names of so many well-wishers that reading it would rather be like deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Howard is held in esteem by all in the congregations in the LMA and everyone extends their good wishes and prayers for his retirement.

Articles which, unfortunately, could not be accommodated in this issue, plus translations of some can be found on the PD Extra pages of our website:

www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/life/pobldewi/pdextra/
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Spiritual abuse

The recent conviction of a vicar in Oxfordshire, under the Clergy Discipline Measure 2003, for spiritual abuse highlights the impact that this can have on vulnerable members of our congregations. Lyn Rees, Diocesan Safeguarding Support Officer, offers an insight into spiritual abuse

The perpetrator was found guilty of ‘conduct unbecoming or inappropriate to the office and work of a clerk in Holy Orders through the abuse of spiritual power and authority’ arising from ‘private mentoring sessions’ with a 16-year-old, whose family were part of the abuser’s congregation. The panel ruled that the mentoring of the child was so intense that the victim ‘had been deprived of his freedom of choice as to whether to continue this mentoring.’

Whilst there is no universal definition of spiritual abuse, it can be classified under pressure and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context.’ Research by Oakley and Kindmond (2013) identifies that the key characteristics are:

- Blame: the victim is blamed for any problems and is pressured into silence
- Accountability: the victim is forced or coerced into sharing personal information or including another in decision-making
- Damage: the damage that it does to the victim, which often occurs through manipulation, fear and shame.
- Inability to work with others is often apparent in spiritually abusive individuals
- Misuse of scripture and its use to support an individual’s personal agenda is a key warning sign

Spiritual abuse may also include manipulation and exploitation, isolation, pressure to conform and the requirement to conform to the abuser, who may suggest they have a divine position. Whilst ‘coercive and controlling’ behaviour is key to spiritual abuse, it is also a prominent characteristic of many types of abuse, which may also be happening at the same time.

Although the case in Oxfordshire is the first conviction of a cleric for spiritual abuse, it is unlikely to be the last. Research by the University of Bournemouth in partnership with the Churches’ Child Protection Advisory Service identifies how widespread such incidents may be. Out of a sample of 1,591 completed on-line questionnaires, 1,002 respondents had personally experienced ‘spiritual abuse.’ Whilst 72% of respondents were ‘confident’ that they knew what spiritual abuse was, responses highlighted the need for clearer policies and more training.

Work is continuing in both the Church in Wales and other denominations to develop policy in this area and spiritual abuse is included as part of the ‘Safe Church’ training course that is available to parishes. For more information or to book a training session, please email: lynnrees@churchinwales.org

For those seeking to answer

God’s call

Revd Canon Mike Kavanagh reports from the third annual Fellowship of Vocation conference which was held at Gelli Fawr from 24-26th November

I would like to remind everyone in the diocese that the FoV is open to everyone who is seeking to follow God’s call in their life and is not limited to those seeking ordinatio. If you would like to join, please talk to your vicar, Area Dean, LMA Dean, a vocations advisor or contact me directly at robhwain@gmail.com

Old church – new life?

Nowhere better illustrates the difference between ‘closure’ of a church building and ‘redundancy’ than St Andrew’s, Moylegrove.

Although having closed for worship several years ago, St Andrew’s has not moved to redundancy (the point at which the diocese hands over care for the building to the Representative Body and the church is potentially put up for sale).

A group of local residents of Moylegrove started to become concerned about the building in their midst in the course of 2017. The church, which is a Grade II* building in the Pembs Coast National Park, draws visitors and is a real point of interest in the locality.

After discussion on an individual basis with the Archdeacon of Cardigan and the LMA leader, Revd John Bennett, their concern for the church found expression in an initial meeting of around a dozen people in the village on 27th November, chaired by the LMA leader.

Insurance

Out of this meeting came numerous questions: how could they form a group with the authority to do or request work; what about insurance or the reconnection of electricity; what funding bodies could be approached?

However, with these questions there was also a determination to get on with practical things which could be done here and now. After some years of neglect the church yard was getting overgrown with brambles and saplings, while the path was disappearing under a covering of moss. An enthusiastic band of volunteers turned up on the morning of 13th January and, in a few hours, transformed a scene of neglect into an obviously cared-for churchyard.

Questions

It was a start. There is much more to be done and many very practical questions to be answered. The long-term outcome is still to be explored.

But Moylegrove is showing the way for what is possible when the local community is given the opportunity to express its concern for a church building – even a closed one – in its neighbourhood.
Serving the community

For many years, there has been a vision at St Anne’s Church, Penparcau, to open a Community Café in the village. Malcolm Dye describes the ups and downs of bringing the project to fulfilment.

In 2015, we thought the café was to become a reality when we formed a partnership with the Methodist Church to use their redundant building in the centre of the village. Unfortunately, we encountered several problems, which forced us, very reluctantly, to abandon the project. However, the vision had not gone away. We wanted to extend our outreach to the community following on from Starkie’s Lunch Club, which provides a free lunch to families during the summer holidays. But we also wanted to provide hospitality to clients of Jubilee Storehouse (the food bank run from the church) when they come to collect food packs.

A team from the church got together to think about what could be done. It became apparent that our church hall could be made available for use as a café. So, we set about planning what changes would be needed to make the building suitable as a café, whilst retaining its role as a church hall. During this planning process we went to a conference where we picked up one piece of advice: Don’t wait until everything is in place – just do it! So, we decided to open Starkie’s Café with the facilities we’d already got.

We started in November 2017 and the café opens every Tuesday morning from 9am until 1pm. The menu is basic: tea and coffee (we bought a domestic espresso machine to provide the usual range of coffees), cakes, sandwiches, pastries and baked potatoes. It was decided not to charge, but to ask for donations based on what people think the service is worth or on what they can afford.

So how are we doing? We averaged 17 customers with a high of 29. However, we have not advertised the café widely because most of the volunteers were novices at running a café, and we felt we needed time to learn how to cope under pressure! Many people come in for a lunchtime snack, and that’s when it can get hectic. People are donating generously, so the café is more than covering its running costs.

We still intend to renovate the building, so that the café facilities can have multiple uses in our efforts to fulfil the aims of St Anne’s strapline: Serving the community, growing hope.

An exciting development

A brand new church school of approximately 500 pupils has opened in the Parish of Hubberston, Milford Haven. Andy Bookless, Rector of the parish, looks forward to strengthening ties between church and school.

Gelliwick Church in Wales VC Primary School is a bright, modern new school building with landscaped grounds and sports facilities overlooking Gelliwick Bay and the Haven, just along the road from St David’s Church. The school came into being at the start of the 2017 autumn term, whilst still spread over three sites, when the former Hubberston Church in Wales VC school, and separate infants and juniors sites of Hakin Community Primary School, amalgamated, which, after consultation, was designated as a church school.

The children were excited to start this term together in the new building on its completion at the start of the new year. Then, on 30th January, Bishop Joanna made a visit to bless the school, leading an assembly and meeting staff and governors, accompanied by Bishop’s Chaplain Paul Mackness, Director of Education Bryan Witt and Schools Officer Jean Voyle Williams.

We, as a parish, are praying about how best we can support the school and provide opportunities for the children to hear the Christian good news. There have already been good links with the formerly separate schools, such as through assemblies, membership of governing bodies, sponsoring beautifully illustrated children’s Bibles for Year 3 children, Good News Bibles for Year 6 through the Bibles for Children programme, and hosting special school services in the three churches in the parish. It will now be easier to let children and parents know about our parish activities, including a monthly Messy Church, a weekly Kids Club, Sunday School, and parents and toddlers group, Little Fishes, as well as other special events or services. We look forward to offering what support we can to Headteacher Nick Dyer and the whole school community, and are grateful for the assistance of Roose Deaneery’s Children and Youth Worker, Amanda Coombe, who is already helping in various ways in our outreach.

Having such a large Church in Wales school in our parish provides great opportunities and is an exciting development. We pray that God will enable us to make the most of these opportunities for the benefit of the children, their families and all involved in the life of the school.

History and heritage bound together

Congregations from the three churches of Begelly Benefice and members of Longstone Chapel gathered on Sunday 28th January in St Elidyr’s Church, Ludchurch, to celebrate their Patronal Festival and receive a unique document.

The guest preacher at the service was Revd Canon Paul Mackness who enlightened the congregation as to the probable identity of the elusive Saint Elidy – likely to be Saint Ted. The occasion was marked by the presentation of a beautiful copy of St Elidyr’s Church Record presented by Ann-Maria Thomas of the Arts Society. This is the first such recording of a church in this part of West Wales and St Elidy’s PCC was delighted to receive it.

A church record comes into being after many months, years even, of painstaking work. Enthusiastic Arts Society volunteers select a church and then set about examining and recording its contents, looking at the church’s metalwork, sculpture, woodwork, stonework, textiles, paintings, manuscripts, memorials and windows. They consult experts as they meticulously study, research, record and photograph – sometimes making exciting discoveries along the way.

The Church Record becomes a wonderful testament to the history and heritage of that church and an excellent resource for PCCs, as the material can be used for guidebooks, presentations, fund raising and grant applications.

St Elidyr’s will hold the original Church Record, with copies lodged at the Victoria and Albert Museum and The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. The information will also be available to view online, on a new church record database.

The project in St Elidyr’s was initiated some years ago by Paul Speyer, who was a member of the Arts group and also a long-standing member of St Elidy’s, serving for many years as churchwarden. Paul’s widow, Caroline, and some of their family attended the service and Caroline presented a bouquet to Ann-Maria Thomas in thanks and recognition of the Arts Society’s excellent work. Proceedings concluded suitably with hospitality, fellowship and wine.
WHAT’S ON AT
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL . . .

Passion Sunday – 18th March
6.00pm Music & Readings for Passiontide

Palm Sunday – 25th March
8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.15am Procession of Palms from the Cross Square followed by Choral Eucharist in the Cathedral
6.00pm Choral Evensong

Monday in Holy Week – 26th March
10.00am Holy Eucharist & Reading of the Passion

Tuesday in Holy Week – 27th March
11.00am Chrism Eucharist for Diocesan Clergy celebrated by the Bishop

Wednesday in Holy Week – 28th March
10.00am Holy Eucharist & Reading of the Passion

Maundy Thursday – 29th March
7.00pm Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper with Washing of Feet, Stripping of the Altar & Watch of the Passion

Good Friday – 30th March
10.00am Good Friday Family Service
12noon The Way of the Cross: A walk of witness through the city (from Cross Square)
2.00pm Devotions at the Cross
6.00pm Choral Evensong

Easter Eve – 31st March
7.00pm Choral Eucharist with Confirmation & Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Easter Day – 1st April
8.00am Holy Eucharist
9.30am Cymun Bendigaid
9.30am Family Eucharist Easter eggs will be distributed to children
11.15am Choral Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop
6.00pm Choral Evensong

Cloister Gallery Exhibitions
27th March to 9th April  Arts and Crafts
10th April to 23rd April Kersten Howard
24th April to 7th May Pembrokeshire Craft Makers
8th May to 21st May Triple Vision
22nd May to 4th June Audrey Johns
5th June to 18th June Arts and Crafts

Concerts
Tuesday 3rd April, 12noon
St Laurence Church, Catford, Choir; informal concert
Saturday 14th April, 7.30pm
Landsker Singers

For further information about the above events please contact the Deanery Office on 01437 720202 or email info@stdavidscathedral.org.uk
See our website www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk
Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

St Davids Cathedral Festival
Gŵyl Eglwys Gadeiriol Tyddewi

Hilary Rudge previews this year’s Cathedral Festival, which takes place from Friday 25th May to Sunday 3rd June

CONCERTS will be in the beautiful setting of the cathedral and at Ty’r Pererin (the cathedral’s education centre).

The festival will be launched on Friday 25th May at 6pm by the popular Children’s Festival Chorus, when young people from local schools will give a rousing performance, led by the renowned vocal animateur Rebecca Lodge.

We’re pleased to welcome back The BBC National Orchestra of Wales performing Sibelius’ Symphony No 1 in E minor and joined by cellist Leonard Eslchenbroich playing Elgar’s Cello Concerto. Alexander Mason (former organist of St Davids Cathedral) will provide an improvised organ accompaniment to the 1923 silent film Hunchback of Notre Dame based on Victor Hugo’s book of the same name. This year the Festival is proud to support Project Zula, a University of West England Bristol-based charity supporting educational development in the Madadeni Township, South Africa, and young students from there will perform traditional Zulu music and dance.

Other concerts will include performances by the Cathedral Choir accompanied by City Musick; Vox Angelica; the Cathedral Choral Scholars and Vicars Choral; the Cathedral Boys’ Choir and an organ recital by this year’s talented organ scholar, Rupert Jackson.

For more information and to book tickets visit the new website at www.stdavidsfestival.co.uk which goes live this month.

Forthcoming Events at Ty’r Pererin

Tuesday 3rd April, 2-4pm, & Thursday 5th April, 2-4pm
Easter egg hunt in the cathedral

How many places is it possible to hide an Easter egg in the cathedral?

Come and find out!

An afternoon of fun for all the family

Fridays 6th & 13th April, 10.30am–12 noon
Friday pilgrimage to the cathedral
Meet at Oriel y Parc Information Centre

Saturday 12th May, 10am-4pm: Retreat Day at Ty’r Pererin
‘Treasure in our Hedgerows’
Flowers in Wales: how do their Welsh names inspire our theological reflection?
To include a guided walk around St Davids to observe the flora, reflection & tea in a flower garden. Led by Janet Ingram

More information:
education@stdavidscathedral.org.uk
Tel: 01437 729151
www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk
A happy welcome

With spring upon us, Caroline Evans, Diocesan Tourism Officer, suggests that we imagine ourselves as visitors to our churches

A FRIEND is planning on putting her home on the market and is busily reading up on how to give her house kerb-appeal and feel warm and welcoming in ways that don’t cost much money. At this same time, I’ve been brought some feedback from two friends who like to ‘cruise’ churches: using OS maps, they scan for church symbols in an area and then set off looking for them. Calling their trips “Spiritual Treasure Hunts”, they reported finding some absolute treasures, little gems, unexpected and fascinating churches. However, they also had regrets about the ones they found locked up, no indication of opening hours nor contact numbers to ring – even no sign of the actual name of the church. Some of their comments made uncomfortable hearing.

To enhance our ministry of welcome, spring may be the time to give our churches a ‘Welcome Audit’. To warm up, maybe drop in on someone else’s church and see what they are, and are not, doing – can one learn anything? Then look at your own church with an objective eye:

- Does it look ‘used/loved’, not abandoned?
- Does it look as if it wants people to visit? Is the gate unlocked and easily opened (not rusted up)?
- Are the paths and steps safe to walk on (moss/algae/leaves cleared)?
- Is there a noticeboard with the name of the church, details of services and events?
- Are the opening times listed, failing which are there contact telephone numbers for key holders?
- Is there information also on a website, Facebook and other media?
- Is your church door easy to open? If it sticks, your regular church family will know to give it a thump but visitors won’t and will assume it is locked up!

Inside is your church welcoming? Does it smell of damp and mildew or flowers and candle-wax? Are there items of welcome – visitors’ book, leaflets about the church, history, features indoors and out? Directions to the nearest loo, other churches nearby? Donations box clearly visible?

Above all, inside and out, does your church look cared about? All this can be very difficult when our churches are low on bodies and cash to do things, but there can be ways, for example time locks could overcome the lack of key-holders to unlock and lock up. So let’s put away our valuable items, brush up our welcome, and open our hearts to our wider congregation, our visitors, our pilgrims. In the event of any queries, contact us at FaithTourismSDavids@gmail.com

A life-changing experience

Rebecca Boardman looks back on a short-term mission placement with the USPG Journey With Us programme. For those who want to know more about the programme, there is an ‘Exploration and Discernment Weekend’ in April

“BEING woken up with a phone call at four in the morning to be told I was needed at a meeting 150 miles away that evening, then spending nine hours on a bus before being asked the next day to speak to a room full of bishops and archbishops – that was one of the more interesting days!”

After completing a geography degree at Cambridge University, Rebecca Boardman was keen to explore both the world and her Christian faith. She spent 10 months in the Philippines with the short-term mission placement programme run by the Anglican mission agency USPG.

“I wouldn’t swap the experience for anything,” said Rebecca.

“At home in Hampshire, I was fresh out of university and used to a fairly predictable way of life. In the Philippines, my church hosts drew upon all my skills and resources and I rose to the challenge.

“The placement stripped me of all my usual labels. In the Philippines the people I met had no preconceptions. They just saw me for who I was, without masks, which was both challenging and refreshing. It was a case of just being me, in the moment, drawing upon my resources and creativity, but always with the support of my hosts.”

Over the years, those taking part in USPG Journey With Us have been to countries on every continent, finding themselves helping in schools, on farms, in churches and clinics. The point is not so much about the tasks that participants might be given, but a chance to fellowship with your hosts and experience the life and mission of the local church.

The programme arranges placements of up to 12 months and is open to people from Britain and Ireland, aged 18 or over, regardless of their church background or where they are on their faith journey. No professional skills are required. There is preparation before travel, support while you are on placement, and debriefing on your return.

Any reader wanting to find out more about USPG Journey With Us is invited to attend an ‘Exploration and Discernment Weekend’, in Birmingham, from 6th to 8th April. For more information or to book a place, contact Habib Nader at tel: 0207 921 2215 email habibn@uspg.org.uk or visit www.uspg.org.uk/journey

Peaks, shallows and ‘deep’

Readers are invited to a guided holiday retreat around Italy’s Lake Como hosted by the Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia, from 7th to 12th October.

IN the past, you have visited Lake Como, popular with visitors from around the world since the Grand Tour, you may have visited the Anglican Church of the Ascension at Cadenabbia. The church, built in 1891 by a group of English-speaking residents, still provides a place for visitors and residents to worship or simply to stop and have a few moments of quiet in its beautiful interior. Lake Como itself is a wonderful setting and we want to share some of its hidden gems, which have inspired pilgrimage and reflection for centuries.

How can we refresh our discipleship and be willing to move forward on our journey of faith? How can we cope with changes in ourselves, our circumstances, the church and the world? In what ways can we let God breathe new life into us when our spirituality feels tired or stuck, especially as we get older? These are some of the questions we hope to address in this holiday retreat, which will be conducted by Revd Lyn Philips. The programme will include daily worship, bible study on events in Jesus’ own lakeside ministry, spiritual exercises, discussion groups and times for meditation and reflection. There will also be visits to sacred sites, times for relaxation and companionship and opportunities to enjoy the inspiring panoramas of Lake Como.

An average level of fitness and health is required, as some of the sites involve walking.

The cost, with 5 nights half-board accommodation, is 695 euros; travel to and from Cadenabbia is not included.

For more information or to book a place, please e-mail Jeannie Willan: jeanniewillan@btinternet.com
Focus on Readers' discoveries

Just another day in Baghdad

Communications Officer David Hammond-Williams describes an excursion with a difference

I've never been much of one for the beach and book kind of break. My excursions away from the Welsh hills tend to take me in more urban directions. However, my city break in Baghdad was unlike any other. A holiday? Sort of. An experience not to be missed? Definitely.

We think of Iraq's capital as a war zone still. But those days it is starting to recover from the turmoil of recent years although the scars remain everywhere to be seen.

The allied soldiers have gone and, in recent months, Daesh/ISIS has been expelled. And it is a testament to the human condition that it takes so little time for people to resume normal daily life.

Well, almost. Baghdad is a chaotic place, but one that, once again, is full of noise and colour.

From my hotel overlooking the mighty Tigris River, my first port of call was St George’s, the only Anglican church in Iraq, a brutalist piece of architecture built by the British military in the 1920s during a previous period of upheaval.

But inside its heart beats for joy. Five (six?) hundred people attend here every Sunday. And here the Friends of Friendless Churches perform.

Next door, the church-run kindergarten is equally awe-inspiring. Some 150 children – almost all Muslim – attend daily, immaculately turned out and keen to learn. So keen in fact that their parents have asked for the facility to be extended so they can stay there throughout their education.

Then there are the clinics and the food parcels, ministering to the needs of hundreds every week. Now that’s community engagement.

Back in the city, the legacy of war shows itself in the numerous military checkpoints that guard key locations – I counted 12 on the road to the airport alone. And street after street is lined with huge concrete barriers hiding bombed out buildings.

But the shops and pavement stalls are bustling and bulging with both the necessities and the luxuries of life. And in the fish market, where we went to buy the local speciality Masgouf – a river carp unique to the Tigris – you could almost believe nothing had ever happened.

I shall not forget my visit to Baghdad in a hurry; the same goes for the taste of Masgouf – delicious!

The delights of church tourism

Although the modern generation enjoys previously impossible access to virtually all areas of the world, Bill Hines is often struck with how little advantage we take of the beauties which lie to publicise these to the casual visitor, T J Hughes Guide to Wales One Hundred Best Churches a recent model of such work.

However, redundant churches can easily be overlooked by the passerby and here the Friends of Friendless Churches perform valiant work in caring for some of our historic places which now lack a regular congregation. Within St David’s Diocese there are a number of such buildings, including Manordeifi and Hodgstonet, which are well worth a visit. But for the tourist looking to travel a little further there are some real gems. Two of the major examples of Arts and Crafts work lie within Wales, at Brithdir near Dolgelau, and Llanfair Kilgeddan outside Abergele. Llanfair has beautiful sgrafito murals by Heywood Sumner, and Brithdir has wonderful woodwork and fittings by Henry Wilson. Just outside Porthmadog there are three modest redundant churches at Llanfrothen, Penmorfa and Ynyscynhaearn. None has any spectacular architectural features, but they well repay the effort in seeking them out down remote rural lanes and the group make for a splendid day’s outing.

Llanfrothen is noteworthy as the scene of the famous nonconformist burial dispute that brought Lloyd George to prominence at the end of the 19C. But many years earlier, in 1833, the graveyard was sold by the local Masgouf the highlight for Eluned Rees was learning about the fortified Saxon churches.

R OEDD yrnewdd â Rwmwiaid a Sioned Hyderf, yr brofiad diddorol, ac yn enwedig wedi gadael Bucharest er mwyn teithio i Transylvania. Er mai enw Dracula sy’n dod i’r meddwli wrth sôn am yr ardal hon, i mi un o’r uchafwbyntiau oedd dysgu am yr egwysi caerog, *forfitted churches*’ sydd yno. Y mae cannoedd ohonyn nhw Drwyn Rwmwiai i gyd, ond closwtr o saith ohonynt yn ardal Transylvania. Pentrefi Saxoniaidd ydynt o’r Carol Oesoedd a sefydlwyd gan Frenhinoedd Hwngari yn y deuddegfed ganrif er mwyn rhoi cartref i ymfudwyr gwerthwyr nwyddau a chreff twyr. Roedd cynedeithas gref y mae n’i hystydau hynny i’r gwylwyr. Rhodd yr oneatau mewn pergyll oddi wrth ymmosodiadau gan yr Ottomaniaid a’r Tartariaid. Felly, codwyd egwlys fawr caerog yn nghangach o ddyn siaradwyr. Ymddengys oedd ygwylwyr o’i chwmpas ac adaeladu o ffein y muraia. Yn aelod yr eglwys yr hyn ym nwyr yw eglwysi Caerog Transylvania.

Although Transylvania is most famous for its Dracula connection, the highlight for Eluned Rees was learning about the fortified Saxon churches.

Further details on the Friends of Friendless Churches website: www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk. They also produce an excellent thrice-yearly newsletter with the Ancient Monuments Society.
Celebrating in style
Sue and Terry Reeves have a great time in a small village church in Ceredigion

FIFTH Sundays are always different. This 5th Sunday, at the end of July 2017, was the day before our 41st wedding anniversary, so it seemed an appropriate opportunity to worship somewhere out of the ordinary.

Our destination: Dewi Sant, Nebo, a tin pop-up church. A simple building with alternate pews like tram seats with moveable backs. The service theme: Through the year with Charles Wesley.

The young organist began by carrying in a battery-powered keyboard and setting it up; there was little time off for him as one hymn swiftly followed the previous one.

So, we began in praise with ‘Love divine all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down’ (Gwlad y byd newydd, tynd i lawr). On to the Christmas season and the proclamation of Christ’s birth in the words of ‘Hark the herald angels sing!’ (Henffych eni ceidwad dyn).

By now voices were well warmed up and harmonies flowed as we sang the amazing truth of Christ’s death at Calvary for me, for us! Slipping seamlessly between Welsh and English ‘And can it be’ (Ys byd o bryd i lawr, dafodau fil mewn hwyl)

V ERY ancient sites do not usually reveal their original purpose. Archaeologists are inclined to attribute religious significance to items or sites for which there seems to be no obvious practical purpose. Whatever the purpose of the stones erected, not always in circles, the landscape in which they are placed, and the huge effort that must have been required to erect them are awe-inspiring. The Stone of Setter, on Eday in the Orkney Islands off the north of Scotland, shares that mysterious purpose. I stood gazing at it, looking beyond the wild sea and thanked God for our predecesors who lived here some 4,500 years ago.

Ecumenism at its best
Robert and Hannah Wilkinson enjoy a well-attended service in the North of England

WHILST on holiday in the Yorkshire Dales, we went to the service for the opening of the Grassington Festival. This was an ecumenical service held in the town hall with about 150 people present. The numerous small congregations in Upper Wharfdale hold regular ecumenical morning services every couple of months, and are used to meeting together. A one-hour service, starting at 10am, was followed by tea, coffee, sherry and a chance to chat.

We arrived about 10 minutes early and were given a service sheet and sheet with words of the songs being sung whilst people arrived. The music was varied, with two solos by an opera singer in t-shirt and jeans, a performance by a ukulele band and congregational singing accompanied by a music group consisting of an electric piano, a cajon drum, 2 clarinets and a bassoon.

A South African statement of belief was used. Two people stood at opposite ends of the stage with message from Advent to eternity, before refreshments to restore our voices, then we departed, feeling uplifted and happy.

Certainly a memorable service – both venue and content full of prayer and praise. Our Saviour seemed to cry out ‘Sing louder’ as the rain rattled on the corrugated roof.

Eglwys Dewi Sant is the daughter church of St Bridget’s in the Parish of Llansantffraid, Ceredigion. Services are held at Dewi Sant at Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas, as well as other special occasions throughout the year. Details on the church’s Facebook pages.
**Start something new**

A major priority for the Children and Youth Team in 2018 is helping and supporting LMAs to start new work with children and young people. The team is hoping to encourage this in several ways, as Clare Williams explains.

**PRAYER:** We are building on our days for networking and prayer and will support you throughout the year in this way. Our next date for this is 21st April in St Mary’s Hall, Cardigan, when we hope you will join us.

Planned Events: Take advantage of our forthcoming events focusing on particular things we can offer help with including Messy Church, Schools Work and the Eden Bus – see http://stdavids.churchinwales.org.uk/life/children for details.

Practical Support: Whilst we try to offer a variety of events to appeal to many people, we recognise that some places need something different and that others may not be in a position yet to launch new work. We always offer to work alongside your team to help in practical ways to get things off the ground and to be there to help with leadership too. This can be with any work of your choice from after school clubs to choirs, from Sunday Schools to youth outreach. Email us today and ask for our help.

Putting our money where our mouth is: In addition to all of this, please remember that we offer grants to help inject new energy into ministry with children and young people or to get a project off the ground. Monday 16th April is the deadline for the next round of applications.

Partnership: In the Diocese as we move into LMAs we feel this is a really great encouragement to work together as a larger team to offer provision for children and young people in a variety of ways. To support this we are using our Summer Salt project during August for LMAs to work together for an activity day. We are offering: leadership, resources, financial assistance, games and activities and a BBQ. We are asking you to provide; volunteers, food and drink and of course, the children and young people themselves. Speak to us about how to book a Summer Salt day for your LMA.

Family Fun Day: As part of this year’s Thy Kingdom Come initiative, we are holding a Pentecost Party in the Park on 20th May (See details above.) If you have any questions, require more information or help please just get in touch: clarewilliams@churchinwales.org.uk or tel: 01267 236145.

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**Plant Dewi Young People’s Project**

Gaynor Ford continues her tour of Plant Dewi projects with a visit to the Young People’s hub in Ammanford

“I REALLY enjoy coming here”; “there is not much to do in the town so it’s great to meet here”; “I have made friends and we meet up at other times now”; “some of us who have new babies pick up tips and advice from the others”; “I feel more confident in myself since I have been coming here.”

These are some of the many comments made by those at the hub, which meets every Tuesday, from 1-3pm, at the Old Miners Theatre in Ammanford.

Young parents who are not in education, employment or any training often find themselves in a position where their needs cannot be met by the usual support services and this can make them particularly vulnerable. As new parents, they need support to help them adapt to their caring role.

So, here they are given the opportunity to develop social skills and their confidence as well as being offered access training and education. They are given support regarding housing, benefits, relationships and many other issues.

This project specifically works with young parents in rural areas in Carmarthenshire. This is because research has identified that they felt isolated and socially excluded, and, due to their locality and circumstances, it was difficult to access the services that are available in urban areas.

The programme of activities provided range from training sessions, support with budgeting, healthy eating, language and play, interview skills, job applications advice and parenting courses. Other professionals also provide sessions and workshops focusing on specific issues that meet the needs of the group.

Carys Davies, Project Worker, says that home visits are also made on a one-to-one basis to help those who have emotional issues to build up their confidence enough to be able to come to the hubs and mix with people of their own age.

Further hubs are held at the Church Hall in Llandybie on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, and at The Pavilion, Pencader, on Wednesdays.

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**Agents for change**

Locally and globally, the Mothers’ Union continues to work to improve lives, as Glenys Payne explains:

In 2014/15 Mothers’ Union (MU) set out plans and hopes for participation in the Church in Wales centenary initiative, 2020Vision. Good progress is being made and we are now able to demonstrate an impact on more than 650,000 lives per year.

To create a vision for the future, which is grounded not just in our members’ views and the needs of the communities in which they live and work, we need a mechanism that will enable us to discern and build the bigger picture.

Strategic meetings are being held globally. The name for this process is MUOLA which stands for Mothers’ Union, Observing, Listening & Acting. Representatives from St Davids Diocese will be attending one of these meetings in February in Swanwick, Derby.

There are many objectives in this process including developing ways of communicating more effectively. Thus it is hoped that the MU will be better equipped to listen to the voices of the people we serve, and have insights into how to work more effectively together to bring lasting and holistic change.

It is also hoped that, individually and together, members across the world will be inspired in their relationship with God and each other, enabling them to make a difference in their church and community.

This coming year will see Wales in the spotlight as the General Meeting is to be held at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea in September. St Davids Diocese will be very much involved in this meeting, which will also give us the opportunity to celebrate the work of the MU.

Our Families First and Families Worldwide publications provide more details and information on all these projects.

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**Contact Carys on 07483 966166 or Vicky on 07483 966167 and on 01267 221551. Facebook: young-parents Carmarthenshire**
Llyfr am enwau tai a ffermydd Bont-goch yn codi arian at Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru

Lyn Lewis Dafis speaks to Richard E Huws, the author of a recently published book on the house and farm names of Bont-goch (Elerch), Ceredigion

The story of the cross – Leonie’s history lost and found

The enigmatic grave by the door of St Martin’s Church in Laugharne had puzzled people for a century. But now the mystery has been solved

The small wooden cross simply said: “Leonie Sophy Demoulin” and “A Notre Mère, Regrettée” – “To Our Mother, Sadly Missed” But nobody knew who Leonie was, or how she came to be there... until local historian Janet Bradshaw decided to dig deeper.

“I was fascinated yet also saddened at the thought that this French woman, as some said she was, had died so far from home,” Janet says.

“Had she been washed ashore from a stricken ship like others before her, or maybe come to Laugharne as a servant to one of the local gentry? And what about her children? I was determined to find out.”

It turned out she wasn’t French at all but Belgian, one of a dozen First World War refugees from that country that found sanctuary in the Laugharne area in late 1914. It also transpired that she did not come alone. The Demoulin number four: Leonie, her husband Michel, their daughter-in-law and her young son, René.

Sadly, in January 1916, Mme Demoulin died of a heart condition. She had been in Laugharne less than two years. She was 58.

And that is how Leonie came to rest by the door of St Martin’s. And now that her story has been revealed, the villagers have arranged for a new cross, bearing the same inscription, to be placed over her grave.

It was dedicated by the Priest-in-charge, Revd Christopher Lewis-Jenkins, at a commemorative service in January during which he drew a parallel between the Demoulin family’s experience of a warm Welsh welcome and the needs of today’s refugees seeking safety in Welsh communities.

Also present was retired teacher Rosemary Rees. She remembers her grandfather speaking fondly of the family and recalls him visiting them after their return to Belgium some years after the war. And she has photographs.

Unfortunately, none of Leonie’s descendants could be traced to invite to the ceremony, if indeed there are any. But Janet Bradshaw is still searching.

“I’m sure Leonie Demoulin would be proud of us”, she says. “I’m also sure that she, like I, would still have that lingering hope that one day we discover whether she has any descendants who could come and visit her final resting-place at Laugharne.”

In October a small group from St Mary’s, Haverfordwest, started the Faith Pictures course. We thoroughly enjoyed this course and found it really worthwhile. We have even recommended it to the PCC and hope to run it again in Lent.

So, if you are looking to do something that is meaningful, fun, helps you talk about faith and eat jelly beans this is the course for you and the best thing of all is it is available completely free online at https://www.churcharmy.org/Groups/266913/Church_Army/mys/Faith_Pictures/Faith_Pictures.aspx

We have enjoyed, writing, “enjoyable experience”, but as the battery starts to drain my light dims” one person shared. Another used a blanket they were making to explain how their faith was really diverse, some bits exciting, some bits difficult or dull, but the whole being knitted together with love.

“My faith reminds me of a joyous light, not noticing and to start to talk about, ing how easy it was to start to share, getting to eat them! It was amazing how easy it was to start to share on quite a deep level without really noticing and to start to talk about our faith in new and different ways.

“My faith reminds me of a joyful light, aspx

Faith_Pictures/Faith_Pictures.
Brexit ar lawr gwlad

Cyfle euraid yn ôl rhoi cyfle i ddiadain wrth i'r newidiadau mwyaf i'n gwlad pennaf. Ond os na allwn wneud hynny, yna fe fydd hi'n anodd traffod Brexit a holl oblygiadau.

Fe wyddom ei bod yn anodd traffod Brexit a holl oblygiadau Cyfle euraid yn ôl rhai, achos gwewyr a gofid yn ôl eraill.

Where next after Brexit?

“NEVER” talk about politics or religion” goes the old saying. It’s true that many of us at the moment fight shy of mixing politics, religion and Brexit! Yet we know that members of our congregations and other parishioners are wondering what happens next in their area and their country after we leave the European Union.

In the Lampeter area, several churches of various denominations have decided to give an opportunity for people within and beyond the churches to discuss these matters in a Christian atmosphere. In partnership with the Wales and Europe Working Party of Cyfún (Churches Together in Wales), they have arranged a public meeting in Ysgol Bro Pedr, Peterwell Terrace, Lampeter SA48 7BX on Tuesday, March 13 at 7-9pm. Dylan Iorwerth will chair.

Cyfún’s Policy Officer, Gethin Rhys, “The aim is to give people a chance to listen to one another. It will not be a platform for politicians to pronounce, nor for people with strong views to berate those who disagree. Rather, our hope is that we can, in small groups, listen to one another, in Welsh and English, and understand each other’s hopes, fears and ambitions for the future.”

Everyone is welcome.

Further details from Revd Jenny Kimber – jcm.kimber@gmail.com

Exhibition elicits enthusiasm

Last November, during Interfaith Week, the small but much-loved Pilgrim Church at Bletherston in mid-Pembrokeshire became the setting for what may just possibly have been the first of its kind for the diocese. Derek Davies, Diocesan Interfaith Officer, would like more of the same.

An exhibition consisting of maps, books and a range of miscellaneous documents relating to major world faiths had been assembled for the event, which opened for 2-3 hours on three occasions during the week.

To claim that the numbers who visited were vast would be “fake news” but, as a pilot venture, the objective was two-fold. Firstly, there was the desire to mark Interfaith Week in a local context, and, secondly to explore the level of response which such an event might generate, should others wish to replicate it in the future.

The numbers who attended were indeed modest but, and it is an important ‘but’, despite the fact that advertising had been confined to just a few parishes around Bletherston people came and amply demonstrated that, in the depths of rural Pembrokeshire, there is a desire to know more of these matters. That this should be so, I might add, came as no surprise whatsoever to this writer.

At the risk of appearing totally immodest, comments left in the visitors’ book included ‘wide ranging display’, ‘interesting discussion’, ‘important exhibition’, ‘lots of food for thought’, ‘really comprehensive display, congratulations’. These comments, it may be noted, were offered in the context of all who attended having been invited to indicate if there was any aspect of the exhibition which perturbed them – either in the content of the displays or the choice of venue. Sensitivity to the risk of inappropriate handling of the scriptural texts of other faiths had, very appropriately, meant that such texts were not on display but had it been otherwise it is believed that their presence would not have been problematic for our visitors.

Bibles, however, were much in evidence stimulating thoughts of the issues attached to translation.

Five centuries must have elapsed since a “Vulgata” was last seen in Bletherston.

To look to the future: a similar event is anticipated for Bletherston in 2018 but our beautiful church is small and situated in a sparsely populated area. It does not possess the facilities which might allow invitations to be extended to either greater numbers or representatives of other faiths from outside the immediate locality. What might be possible elsewhere in the diocese?

The Mothers’ Union in Bukavu Diocese

In the latest of his series of articles, Roger Dirokpa describes some of the invaluable work being carried out by the Mothers’ Union in our Companion Diocese in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The MU projects are beneficial for the diocese. Derek Davies, Diocesan Interfaith Officer, would like more of the same.

Many more projects are being carried out by the MU in our diocese and others are planned. However, they often encounter difficulties such as lack of sewing tools, machines and financial support.

For more articles which, unfortunately could not be accommodated in this issue, please visit the PD Extra page of our website:

www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/life/poldewi/pdextra/
Reconnecting, remembering, rededicating

There is little doubt that the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has many layers and deserves honest discussion. However, at the very heart of the existence of Israel is the two millennia old Jewish desire and hope to be a free people in the land of Zion and Jerusalem, as the national anthem Hatikvah (‘The Hope’) states. Joel Bardon reports from an event to celebrate the centenary of the Balfour Declaration.

ZIONISM has become, in some circles, a term at which the nose is turned up, but at its heart is simply the hope that Hatikvah articulates. Jewish people, scorned and persecuted across the world for centuries, perhaps most shamefully by the Church (e.g. the Blood Libel, forced baptisms), and leading to the Holocaust, which we marked in January on Holocaust Memorial Day, had the hope to be, to have a home in the Holy Land, a land God promised to Abraham as a gift forever, but from where, since the late first century AD, the Jews had been exiled.

The British played a proud role in making the Jewish hope possible. The Balfour Declaration of 2 November 1917, under the Prime Minister David Lloyd George and Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, marked the official backing of the British government for a Jewish home in the land, then known by most as Palestine, and continued rights for non-Jews in the land. This was momentous and began the long road to what became the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

On 7 November 2017, roughly 3,000 people gathered to celebrate 100 years since the publication of the Balfour Declaration in a special service at London’s Royal Albert Hall, organised by the Balfour 100 team (www.balfour100.com). The congregation comprised Christian and Jewish delegates, including the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, Mark Regev, who spoke eloquently. The Christian impact on the government of Lloyd George cannot be underestimated, nor can the theological influence of those such as the Bishop of Liverpool, J C Ryle, who saw in Scripture a promise that the Jewish people would once again find a home in the land. The event had live music performances by Christian and Israeli Jewish artists, acting and drama bringing to life the events that led to the Balfour Declaration, and speeches. There was also a time for Christians to dedicate themselves to fighting Anti-Semitism and Replacement Theology (the Church has replaced Israel entirely in the New Testament). We ended by singing the British and Israeli national anthems.

Whatever one’s feelings about the state today, British Christians’ positive impact for the Jewish people must be celebrated.

Pray: Please uphold the plans for CAWeek in prayer and remember that it coincides with the global wave of prayer Thy Kingdom Come. Bilingual resources are available online – order of service, prayers, fundraising ideas, schools’ packs, Big Brekkie, petition sheets, and much more – or from the Carmarthen office carmarthen@christian-aid.org

Together we’re stronger than the storms

Mari McNeill, Deputy Head of Christian Aid Wales, encourages us all to get involved in Christian Aid Week, 13-19th May.

ID you know that two thirds of people who are forced from home are still in their own country? That’s 40 million people uprooted by conflict or natural disaster, unwilling or unable to cross a border. They are largely ignored by the international community and denied official protection afforded to refugees. If we knew their names, it would take us well over a year to read them aloud.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to step out in mission and prayer with the world’s poorest people. This Christian Aid Week we will follow the stories of families who have endured some of the most as Palestine, and continued rights for non-Jews in the land. This was momentous and began the long road to what became the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

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As followers of Jesus, we are called to step out in mission and prayer with the world’s poorest people. This Christian Aid Week we will follow the stories of families who have endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth – a deadly earthquake in 2010 and Hurricane Matthew in 2016. They’re not just survivors. They’re fighters. But they’re only so strong.

They need our steadfast support to rebuild and withstand the storms. £210 could train a local builder in Haiti to build secure homes for people like Marcelin, giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Join this Kingdom work, 13-19 May:
- Give: CAWeek brings tens of thousands of Christians together to achieve incredible things with some of the poorest people in the world. Over the past year we have heard great stories of outreach into our communities across the diocese with Big Brekkies, concerts and house to house collect ing! This year we are calling for new ideas to strengthen CAWeek for the future. Have you got an idea you would love to try? We have a small innovation fund and we would love to hear from you!
- Act: Please help us to collect signatures calling on the UK Government to speak out for internally displaced people at the UN. And if you would like to learn more as a church about what we can do to support the 40 million people who are internally displaced, we have a new exhibition called UPROOTED. Contact us for more info.
- Pray: Please uphold the plans for CAWeek in prayer and remember that it coincides with the global wave of prayer Thy Kingdom Come. Bilingual resources are available online – order of service, prayers, fundraising ideas, schools’ packs, Big Brekkie, petition sheets, and much more – or from the Carmarthen office carmarthen@christian-aid.org

Together we’re stronger than the storms

It’s interfaith – but not quite as we know it

John Holdsworth, Executive Archdeacon in the Diocese of Cyprus and The Gulf, is impressed

I’m travelling through the arid countryside of the little-known Emirate of Ras al Khaima in the northern United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the remote village of Sha’am near the mountains that separate the UAE from Oman. With the local Chaplain, Father Jon, I am going to see someone he regards as a saint and a bridge builder. Amal is 88 years old and is a Christian, Syrian by birth, who wanted to serve Muslims and demonstrate Christian love and mercy as the local midwife; one of four such women with whom Father Jon has contact. She moved to this remote place over 50 years ago having trained in London, and has delivered most inhabitants of the village. She looks and speaks like Mother Teresa when we arrive at the tiny shack she calls home.

In the garden there is what looks like a discarded ironing board next to a crude wooden crib. Once there were the delivery table and nursery in the tent that served both as home and clinic. As a trained nurse Amal was the only medic in the district, long before the area became rich and famous; she travelled miles on foot, often over rough terrain, to visit patients in their mountain homes. I am beginning to understand why Jon calls her a saint.

The previous day I had visited a mosque in Abu Dhabi newly dedicated to ‘Mary the mother of Jesus,’ and heard about the recently created UAE Ministry of Tolerance. I had heard the Abu Dhabi Chaplain, Canon Andy Thompson, describe his global travels as an ambassador for religious tolerance in the UAE that had included meetings with both the Pope and Donald Trump. I had marveled with him that his book, Jesus of Arabia, had just been translated into Arabic and commended to Muslims as a must-read by the Minister of Tolerance himself – a first. I had heard of a forthcoming meeting of the Gulf Christian Fellowship at which a declaration was to be signed by church leaders, committing to better interfaith understanding.

Before we left Sha’am, Amal brought her battered old hymn book to join Father Jon in a faltering but heartfelt rendition of The King of Love my Shepherd in. I reflected that interfaith has many forms.
**Improving lives and connections for people in Ceredigion**

Naomi McDonagh, Environmental Health Officer – Health Improvement & 50+ Strategy Co-ordinator, Ceredigion County Council, describes two community services available to everyone.

**Home Hosting**

A scheme to offer a personal welcome to those arriving by ship in Fishguard has proved successful on several levels, says Jeremy Martineau.

Those in the Fishguard area who provided Home Hosting for the travellers from the cruise ship _Corinthian_ last year are ready to do so again in 2018. Home Hosting is a special treat that the Grand Circle Company tries to provide, which enables their passengers to get under the surface of the countries and places they visit and find out more about life and culture there.

The 90 or so passengers are delivered to the hosts’ doors, or nearly so, for an hour and a half over lunchtime, between the morning in Fishguard and the afternoon trip to St Davids. Thirty-eight hosts volunteered to be involved and some 14 are used each time. As the _Corinthian_ is scheduled for 13 calls in 2018 all will be used, as most can cater for 4-8 guests. Payment is made through the Chamber of Trade and Tourism, which makes the arrangements.

As Fishguard has a well-earned reputation as a friendly place it is hoped that other cruise companies will respond to a development of Home Hosting – to offer larger groups a meal in local restaurants with local people acting as raconteurs. The guests don’t necessarily want to eat a lot as they are very well fed on board, but they do enjoy local Welsh produce.

Fishguard has a bright future as a cruise port as it is an easy approach and mooring, with quick access to many attractions across Pembrokeshire. Cruise Wales, as part of Visit Wales, the Welsh Government agency, has been very successful in promoting Welsh ports to the international cruise market. The warm welcome travellers have received has astonished and delighted both Government, the travellers and their cruise companies. “We don’t get such a welcome anywhere else.”

“It is good to hear from the visitors about their country and place and to share experiences, facts and opinions about our own country. They love to hear about life here,” said one home host. “We usually exchange small mementoes as gifts. Of such are relationships made that can endure.”

As most are older Americans they are often church people which can give greater depth to the conversation. The Welsh Government now recognises the importance of faith tourism. For some visitors and hosts this may be an important part of their hospitality experience. (“Do not neglect to show hospitality; by doing this, some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13.2)

**Plant Dewi appeal**

Just a reminder, brothers and sisters, of the Wish-You-Well appeal for Plant Dewi funds.

The idea of this appeal, if you don’t already know, is that every church should have a bucket (£1 from Poundland – other suppliers also sell them), and over this coming year the congregation and visitors put money into the bucket. On 15th September in St David’s Cathedral there will be a celebration service, led by Bishop Joanna, giving thanks to all who took part in fund-raising. All the parishes that participated will bring their buckets and empty them into a wishing well in the cathedral.

This money is very important to help Plant Dewi continue its invaluable work in the some 30 projects that we have going at the moment, as well as other projects that are in the pipeline – projects whereby people who are really struggling will be helped by your generosity.

Thank you so much for helping, not only us in Plant Dewi but also the people in your towns and villages.

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**Porth y Gymuned** (Community Gateway) is a free and confidential service, available to anyone living in Ceredigion, no matter what their age.

At Porth y Gymuned, we have a team of Community Connectors who can spend time with you, your relative or friend to help make sense of all the services, activities, groups and opportunities available in your community. They will work with you to identify targeted solutions that can help contribute to your wellbeing.

We can put you in touch with social groups, such as friendship groups or luncheon clubs; activities where you can meet new people, make new friends and try something different. If that feels a little daunting, we can even arrange for someone to go with you. We can also help find support services for you that are offered by the voluntary or the third sector.

Porth y Gymuned can be contacted by telephone or via email, or, if you would rather, you can speak to a Community Connector on a one to one basis by making an appointment with us.

Porth y Gymuned is being led by Ceredigion County Council and will be available from April 2018. To contact us call 01545 570881 or email us at porthygymuned@ccg.ceredigion.gov.uk or email at communitygateway@ceredigion.gov.uk

**Dewis Cymru**: Ceredigion and other areas in Wales now offer a new website and on-line service called Dewis Cymru. This may be an option for you if you have access to the internet, and would rather look independently for information or advice about your wellbeing. You may wish to look for general information or something more specific, such as the support available to help you live in your own home for as long as possible or what childcare provision is available in your local area.

It has also been developed to help you find a variety of organisations, services, groups and activities in your local area that can help you take control of your own wellbeing. It is an all-Wales service, so not only can it help you search locally or within Ceredigion but more widely, too. For more information go to: www.dewis.wales.

If you provide a service or are part of a group that you think would benefit from being on the Dewis website, you can add your details directly onto the website or speak to a Community Connector at Porth y Gymuned who can help you upload the information.
Books for Bukavu

Under the auspices of the World Mission Team, a Book Fayre will be held in Newcastle Emlyn over the last weekend in June to raise funds for the Bishop of St Davids Library in our companion diocese of Bukavu. Dewi Roberts invites everyone along.

The link between our two dioceses has grown out of a personal connection formed by Jennie and Dave Amnis, who regularly visit Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We are further reminded of the link by regular contributions to Pobl Dewi from Roger Dirolka, who writes about issues and matters of concern in the DRC.

The Bukavu-St Davids Link Committee encourages the sharing of human, material and ministerial resources between the dioceses and the forming of links between parishes and schools.

The proceeds from the Book Fayre will provide resources to establish the Bishop of St David’s Library, which will be stocked with appropriate books on the site of St Peter’s Cathedral.

There will be an opening presentation by Revd Jennie Amnis at 7pm on the Friday evening (29th June) with wine and canapés, and then the opportunity to browse and buy books all day on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon, with coffee and cake available. Hopefully much support for this special event will be garnered from across the whole of our diocese.

It is always inspiring to be involved with projects that are not centred on local needs alone. As part of the body of Christ, if we are able to help others who are living in far more straitened circumstances than our own, then this is certainly worthwhile. Knowing that we, as a diocese in West Wales, are eager to offer goods and services to bring even a small measure of normality to lives in the DRC can only be a source of encouragement to them in the midst of the political and social upheaval that is blighting their country at this time. So please support the Book Fayre Fundraiser for Bukavu; donations will always be gratefully received.

Venue: Church Community Hall, Newcastle Emlyn
Friday 29th June, 7-9pm (Admission £5, with wine & canapés)
Saturday 30th June, 10.30am-4pm (Admission free)
Sunday 1st July, 2pm-4pm (Admission free)

Ancient and modern

A familiar story demands to be told with flair and imagination if it is to enthral and enthuse a new generation. So successful was the new, interactive take on the Nativity at Haverfordwest that plans are in hand to bring the Easter story to life in the same way.

Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass.” So it was that more than 250 pupils from Haverfordwest schools took the shepherds’ advice and made their way to St Mary’s Church to see, celebrate and share the good news of God born as one of us. Alan Evans and Gill White, Curate and Churchwarden respectively, were responsible for writing the script and narrating the story through words and music. Members of the congregation played the key roles with a mixture of scriptural accuracy – and some inspired spontaneity!

Taking part is as important as paying attention and audience participation was crucial to the play’s success (as it will be at Easter). Nine performances over three days posed a challenge, but the feedback from staff and pupils alike proved the effort more than worthwhile. For all who took part it was a profound experience, bathed in prayer, and rewarded by the wide-eyed wonder of children totally entranced by what they saw and heard.

Most of all, the plays ensure that these young people celebrate Christmas and Easter fully aware of their meaning for them – and for the world. God came to serve and to save in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Easter Story will be performed at St Mary’s, Haverfordwest, from 14-16th March. All are welcome.

Area Choirs’ Festival

Glynis Morris previews this year’s Area Choirs’ Festival and other Royal School of Church Music events

We are delighted that David Hill has agreed to come and direct this year’s Area Choirs’ Festival, which will take place at St Davids Cathedral on Saturday 12th May. David is widely respected both as a choir and an orchestral conductor and this will be a rare and exciting opportunity to work with such a renowned musician, so we hope that a large number of singers will want to take part.

We plan to use the RSCM’s new Festival Service book King of Glory, King of Peace and the charge for taking part in the festival includes a copy of the service book for each singer to keep, an approach that seemed to work well last year. The book contains a wide selection of hymns, worship songs and other choral items suitable for full SATB choirs, as well as those with more limited resources, so it should be useful for all churches and choirs, regardless of size and style of worship. Our festival will take place just two days after Ascension Day and so the theme ‘King of Glory, King of Peace’ could not be more appropriate.

The arrangements for the day of the festival are: 1.30pm Registration; 2-4pm Rehearsal; 5pm Festival Service. The charge for taking part is £8 for RSCM members and affiliates and £10 for others.

There will be a preliminary rehearsal at Narberth Community Primary School on Saturday 28th April 10.30am-12.30pm (registration will be from 10am to allow time for everyone to collect their music). We have tried to find a good, reasonably central location and a strong attendance at the rehearsal will help us to prepare well for the festival.

Booking forms will be sent to all local contacts at the end of February and will also be available via the West Wales section of the RSCM website (www.rscm.com/area/west-wales/index.html), the RSCM section of the diocesan website (http://stdavids.churchinwales.org.uk/rscmwest-wales-area/) and the RSCM West Wales Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rscm-westwalesarea). We will be asking singers to book by 31st March, at the latest, so that we can purchase the appropriate number of books.

Other events planned for the year include: Meet, Eat and Sing Choral Evensong, 7th July at Holy Trinity Church, Aberystwyth; Lift Up Your Voice, 22nd September, location to be confirmed; Young Voices’ Festival, 7th November at St Davids Cathedral; the Complete Church Organist, ongoing, see the websites listed above.
Reflection

He lives!
Archdeacon Dorrien Davies encourages us all to bask in the glory of the Resurrection and share it with others.

‘Y OU’ seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is Risen, he is not here.’ (Mk 16:6). God’s messenger spoke these words to the women who were looking for the body of Jesus. But St Mark also speaks these words to us; Jesus is not a figure from the past. He lives! and walks before us as one who is alive, calling us to follow Him, who is the living God, calling us to live a life of discovery and truth.

For the Christian the Resurrection of Christ enables us to rejoice in the living truth that, following his sacrificial death, he did not remain in the tomb, he belongs to the world of the living, not to the world of the dead. He is the beginning and the end of all things; he lives not only yesterday but today and for eternity.

The Resurrection for the Christian is something different and wonderful. It brings us into new dimensions of faith, new order and understanding, which changes our whole outlook on life and our contribution to the world. What happened at the tomb is something that has changed the world, it changes you, it has changed me.

Jesus is no longer in the tomb. He is not here. ‘For the Christian the Resurrection of Christ enables us to suffer, and we are not partakers of any other resurrection. This acceptance of the resurrected Jesus makes a difference. We are not dealing with an event from the past but with a very real and present Resurrection which takes hold of us and transforms our lives. St Paul says in Galatians, ‘It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me’ (Gal 2:20). Christ releases us, we are not partaking in some mystical union with God but a very real experience, a life giving and changing experience. We become one with Christ, we are liberated from the bonds and bounds of sin and death and we are drawn out of the experience of ‘dying’ into the experience of ‘becoming’ children of eternal LIFE.

This indestructible truth and life of the Resurrection reassures us: ‘I live, you will live also’ (John 14:19). It’s not just about ‘life after death’, it’s about life now. The love of Jesus brings life, it comes to us from living-with, and loving-with, him. Jesus is not in the tomb, it is empty. Where then do we find him? For those of us baptised and believing we need look no further than ourselves and in one another. I believe that this experience of the risen Jesus gives those of us who ‘live in him’ a challenge and a commission. As we continue to read Mark 16 at verse 20, the witnesses of the Resurrection respond to the life which Jesus promised which now lives in them by ‘preaching everywhere’. To the world of today it is we who now pose the question and the answer of the messenger at the tomb: ‘You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, he is not here.’

An angel called Debbie

In January 2017 the St David’s Centre of Mission decided that, as a way of blessing the community of Merlins Bridge, they would make and deliver angels. 180 angels were knitted over the course of the year ready to wing their way round the estate. The results were moving, uplifting and encouraging, says Sister Val Legg.

The angels, each with a hand-written message, were delivered over the Christmas period. Many people were surprised at simply being given something, especially when all offers of donations or payment were refused and, instead, they were asked for prayer requests. Some wonderful conversations ensued and some valuable connections made with people we would probably not otherwise have met. Our efforts led to a flurry of activity on social media, many commenting on how it had reminded them of the true meaning of Christmas.

As with any outreach project, there are always a few stories that really touch you. One lady on being given an angel immediately burst into tears. She then said, “This angel is going to be called Debbie.” She went on to explain that her sister Debbie had recently died and she wasn’t sure how she would be able to cope over Christmas without her. We were able to spend some time talking to, and praying with, her. We have since been told that Debbie the angel had pride of place in the lounge all over Christmas. This one encounter would have made the effort worthwhile, but God always does so much more than we can ever imagine.

The next day an angel was given to a family where the mum explained that this would be her first Christmas on her own with five children. For her the angel showed that someone cared. Later an elderly gentleman told us that it was the first Christmas present he had received in 5 years. Through these visits we also met a bedridden lady who, after asking for home communion, offered to make some angels for us this year.

These are just a few of the stories which go to show what a little kindness can achieve. Good news arrived in the form of knitted angels, how are you going to be good news in your community this year?

Data protection: what do the new regulations mean for you?

IMPORTANT, wide-ranging changes to data protection law come into force on 25 May 2018. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) establishes new principles and obligations for anyone handling people’s personal data, offering enhanced rights and greater protection for individuals.

Churches, PCCs and diocesan staff are as bound by the new law as anyone.

To see how GDPR affects you, we have compiled a guide to what it involves on the diocesan website: https://stdavids.churchinwales.org.uk/gdpr

FINAL COPY DATE
for the June edition of
Pobl Dewi
11th May 2018
Mission on the Mount

The opening of the Mount Community Centre on 20th January was the culmination of an 18-month campaign to re-open the only remaining facility on the largest estate in Milford Haven. Opportunities abound for mission, says Harri Williams

The building had been closed for over seven years and, with continuing cutbacks in public funding, it was unlikely that the centre would ever re-open its doors unless the voluntary sector was prepared to step in.

Almost 100 people came along to the formal opening of the centre and, during the first week, a different event or activity was held each day in a bid to engage with different elements of the estate’s community, which comprises almost 1,000 residents.

Since then, several groups have already established themselves as a permanent fixture in the weekly calendar. The ‘Knit and Natter’ group meets on a Tuesday, offering an opportunity for anyone to drop in and enjoy a time of fellowship; the fortnightly bingo sessions on Thursday evenings have proved a tremendous success with local families; Plant Dewi have begun their work in centre with the ‘Dewi Project’, when men can meet for fellowship and develop new skills. The ‘Baby Bundle’ Project will also run from the centre and, if funding allows, a new ‘Young Parents’ project will begin. The local police force intends to run a monthly surgery, as does the local county councillor, both of which will hopefully assist in addressing some of the substantial social issues which exist on the estate. Adult learning classes are about to begin and several charitable bodies have also expressed an interest in beginning work on the estate.

The work of bringing the Good News of the Gospel onto the estate is already in hand through the provision of a weekly teenagers’ group run by Young Life International. The ‘Be-Attitude’ Club for children under 11, which proved tremendously popular with 16 children attending the first week, will run through the work of St Katherine & St Peter’s Church and we also anticipate running projects during the school holidays, such as holiday clubs and providing hot meals for those who miss such provision when school is closed.

The Mount Community Centre provides a much-needed facility in one of the most deprived communities in West Wales, but it also offers a wonderful missional opportunity for the Church to engage with so many who have yet to know or experience the love of God in their lives. Let the Mission on the Mount begin!

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Am ragor o erthyglau, nad oedd hi’n bosib eu cynnwys yn y rhifyn hwn, ynghyd â chyfieliad o rai ohonyn, ewch i dudalen

PD Extra ar ein gwefan:
www.stdavidsdiocese.org.uk/life/pobldewi/pdextra/
Digging deep and uncovering the past

A Celtic Parish
Ancient History of a West Wales Parish
By Kingsley Taylor
Pub: Blessed Hope; 2017
ISBN: 978-3-330-70276-9
Price: £14.00

This book contains a wealth of historical research painstakingly carried out by Revd Kingsley Taylor. He has gone to quite some length to unravel local stories and ideas and has reached some interesting conclusions.

He has looked at historical activity in the parishes, and the area around, Llandysilo and Clun-derwen. They are geographically close and he has been looking for the links to bring people in the present-day two parishes together.

Certain links do exist from the period just after the Roman occupation and the early Middle Ages and Kingsley does his best to support them and show how they can work. The book does not reveal very many characters in the area and some people may regret this, but I found the book covered the ground well and made sense to me, so I did enjoy the read.

There is evidence of a link to the Irish who had settled there under a treaty with the Romans: a stone now sitting in Abergwili. The stone is important, since it actually has a cross etched in it, which is unusual. There are also remains of a Roman road, potentially there could also be Roman buildings in the area, and he indicates where they might be found. Kingsley does indicate what remains are to be seen and this will be a useful guide for historical tourism and for those interested in this period.

He describes what has been discovered about an important Cistercian Abbey which was built as their chief abbey in Wales, although much later another abbey was set up nearby, unaware of this important part of their history.

He also revealed a fascinating fact that Hywel Dda gathered a large number of important people here from around Wales to formulate the Welsh laws. He was the first king of what is now Wales and is highly significant in the formation of Wales as a nation in its own right.

I found that Kingsley has presented his results in a way that makes sense from what must have been a confusing set of facts to start with. He has spoken to a lot of local people to gather his information.

Peter Lane

Not for the faint-hearted
Homo Deus:
A Brief History of Tomorrow
By Yuval Noah Harari
Pub: Vintage; 2017
ISBN: 978-1-7847-0393-6
Price: £9.99

One-volume histories of humanity, the universe and everything are now in vogue. Following his bestseller Sapiens, the Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari has written what he calls ‘a brief history of tomorrow’.

As the title Homo Deus suggests, it predicts a future in which some human beings assume divine status, determining the lives and destinies of all other beings. God is deemed dead ‘even if it is already been given to this matter, demonstrates that attention has already been given to this matter, although some remain. For example on page 109 it was King Henry IV of France who gave tolerance and not just a cross. The text is fairly dense, and it would, perhaps, have made for a more digestible read if the author had confined himself to Taylor’s writings during the Golden Grove period, when, “He who stileths the raging of the sea, and the noise of His waves and the madness of his people, had provided a plank for me [and] the opportunities of content or study”.

Bill Hines

A useful summary
Jeremy Taylor (1613–1667)
A Prebendary of St Davids Cathedral
By Dr L Baker-Jones
Pub: Quatrefoil Books; 2016
Price: £14.95. Available at the discounted price of £9.95 to readers of Pobl Dewi (quoting reference PDM) from The Friends of St Davids Cathedral, The Deaneery, St Davids SA62 6RD, e-mail: friends@stdavidscathedral.org.uk Also available from the cathedral bookshop

John Wesley began the Preface to his journal noting, “It was in pursuance of an advice given by Bishop Taylor in his Rules for Holy Living and Dying, that about fifteen years ago, I began to take a more exact account than I had done before, of the manner wherein I spent my time ...”. Writing to Keats almost a century later Coleridge said of Taylor, “such a miraculous combination of erudition, broad, deep, and omnigenous; of logic subtle as well as acute ... I believe such a complete man hardly shall we meet again”. Popular editions of Taylor’s main works continued to appear through the 19th century and clearly he exercised a significant and extended influence on Christian thought. Many of his most important books were written while he was under the protection of the Vaughan family at Golden Grove after the Civil War, and it is to be regretted that he is apparently so little regarded in the Wales of today.

To mark the 350th anniversary of his death, Dr Leslie Baker-Jones has produced a useful summary of Taylor’s major works, which may serve those who lack ready access to the ten collected volumes of his writings. The first chapter of the book is given over to a survey of Taylor’s life and ministry. The other chapters are devoted to coverage of individual writings such as The Great Exemplar, Holy Living, Unam Necessarium, and Doctor Dubitandum, which Taylor regarded as his most important composition. A final chapter covers compositions during his final years in Ireland. Summaries of the arguments in the books are accompanied by a selection of Taylor’s devotion and prayers. A pernickety reviewer will often draw attention to misprints but a table of inserted corrections

Contributions to Pobl Dewi
We welcome articles of interest from readers and, in particular, we would like to encourage submission of articles in Welsh. Articles should be e-mailed to the Managing Editor: Tessa Briggs, editor@churchinwales.org.uk

Photographs of children must have parental permission for publication in print and on the internet. Please confirm this in writing to the editor when submitting photos.

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