

# CROESO



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## Vicar's pet takes a pew

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# Public debate held as numbers using foodbanks soar

**The number of people using foodbanks in Wales has more than doubled in the last year and is disproportionately high in relation to the population, a new report has revealed.**

This startling rise has led to a 'Breadline Question Time' public debate to be held in Cardiff this month as the number of people accessing food aid tops a million in the UK and nearly 80,000 in Wales.

And it follows a call to the government from church leaders across the country, including the Archbishop of Wales, to act fast on the rising food crisis as part of the End Hunger Fast campaign.

The Oxfam report, *Below the Breadline*, found that foodbank charity Trussell Trust had dealt with 79,000 people in Wales last year compared to 71,000 in Scotland, whose population is two-thirds bigger. In the previous 12 months 35,919 had accessed food aid in Wales.

This included a 123 per cent rise in those using the Trussell Trust foodbank in Bridgend while in Rhondda, foodbank usage went up between 40 and 50 per cent. Oxfam Cymru said Wales was caught in a 'perfect storm' of 'benefit cuts, low wages, sanctions and insecure jobs.'

This latest report from Oxfam comes as the first foodbank offering evening opening hours aimed at those in full-time employment or education opened recently at St Saviour's Church in Splott, Cardiff.

Revd Dean Atkins of St Saviour's said, "It is clear that there is a need for this kind of support in the local community and I believe that the Church has a responsibility to try to meet that need."

The Breadline Question Time debate is to be held in Cardiff at the United Reformed Church, Windsor Place, on Friday July 4, at 8pm - hosted jointly by the Trussell Trust and the URC.

Panel members will include Stephen Doughty, Cardiff South and Penarth MP; Kirsty Davies, Head of Oxfam Cymru; Julie Jarman, Programme Manager - Church Action on Poverty and Tony Graham, Wales Manager - Trussell Trust. Foodbank users and volunteers will be speaking about their experiences.

The event will coincide with the biggest ever national food collection being held by Trussell Trust foodbanks in conjunction with Tesco and Fareshare, which takes place between July 3 and 5 at Tesco supermarkets across Wales.

Tony Graham, Wales manager of the Trussell Trust said, "This debate is intended to give a voice to foodbank users and those involved in tackling food poverty. There will be an opportunity to debate and answer questions from members of the public about the reasons for, and some potential solutions to food poverty. We hope to attract a large audience to discuss this crucial issue."

In April, the Archbishop was among 40 bishops and more than 500 clergy who co-signed a letter as part of the End Hunger Fast campaign calling on the government to act fast on the rising food crisis. It marked the biggest ever faith



Foodbank volunteers at St Saviour's Church, Splott, (left to right) David Alabere (St Saviours), James Escott (St German's) and Suzie Alabere (St Saviours's)

leader intervention on UK food poverty in modern times.

The letter was sent following the release of figures revealing the 120 per cent rise in people accessing food aid in Wales. It said the situation was "shocking" and asked the Government to commit fully to the independent inquiry on the rise of hunger in the UK.

The Archbishop said, "It is incredible that in a prosperous country like ours where we are told the economy is improving and house prices are rising, that nearly a million people feel the need to visit foodbanks to feed their families. Surely the mark of a civilised society is how it treats its poorest and most vulnerable people."

A motion supporting the work of the Foodbank organisation while deploring the social and economic conditions which have made foodbanks a necessity, was passed at the April meeting of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales.

Archdeacon of Llandaff Peggy Jackson who proposed the motion said food poverty was a scandal of our time - although the work of Foodbank organisation should be applauded.

She said the words of the Archbishop of Wales at the opening of a recent foodbank, 'glad to be here, sad to be here' aptly summed up how churches should feel about them and how they should respond to the situation of food poverty.

## 2020 Vision Conference – The Time Is Now

People from all over Wales will gather for a landmark conference later this year to share ideas on the future of the Church in Wales. Delegates from the six dioceses of the Church will meet for a two-day event to explore how major change is happening across the country as part of the Church's strategy for growth. Called 2020 Vision, the strategy follows a wide-scale review of

the Church in Wales which was commissioned to see how the Church could best serve Wales by the time it celebrates its centenary in 2020. At its core are the creation of "Ministry Areas" led by teams of clergy and lay people, replacing the traditional pattern of smaller parishes led by one cleric.

About 200 people will attend the conference, entitled 'The Time Is Now',

at Venue Cymru, Llandudno, on 21st-22nd November. They include 30 representatives from each diocese and all the Church's six bishops.

The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said, "This conference is about winning people's hearts and minds in order to continue a cultural change that has already begun in the way people think about church.

Meanwhile, a special Sunday on November 16, is being set aside ahead of the conference for congregations to focus on and pray for the Church's 2020 Vision.



# You've been Talking!

**A**cross the diocese, people have been talking. At a series of Parish Share Conversations, parish officers and clergy have been gathering together to hear about and discuss proposed changes to the way funds are gathered from all the parishes in the diocese to finance ministry. Almost 200 people attended the series of six meetings held during April and May, two within each archdeaconry.

Each meeting included a presentation on the importance of Parish Share within the life of the diocese and the church; some £4.3m was offered up by parishes through the Parish Share scheme during 2013. In fact Llandaff Diocese has the highest collection rate of Parish Share of all the dioceses in the UK – an incredible 99.7 per cent in 2013.

Direct funding for paid ordained ministry in 2013 totalled some £4.7m – 72% of all expenditure within the diocese. In a nutshell, the clear message at these events was 'Parish Share makes ministry possible'. Ideas were shared by the Parish Share Review Group; Paul Marshall, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, Peter Atkins, Diocesan Secretary, Jan Boyce, Diocesan Accountant, Richard Jones, Parish Resources Adviser, along with the local archdeacon for each area visited. Central to the meetings was an exploration of how the current formula for assessing Parish Share might be made fairer and more flexible, ensuring it can adapt to the future needs of the church, especially in light of plans to be developed for Ministry Areas as recommended by 2020 Vision (the Church in Wales Review.)

Some of the key features of the 'Fairer Share' proposals include:

- Help to support growing parishes, including a change in how movements in numbers of worshippers are assessed and the creation of a new 'Going for Growth' fund; critically important when new people are joining the church and are growing as disciples of Christ.
- A new 'Helping Hands' fund – for those times in parishes when exceptional and unplanned circumstances hit hard and have a direct financial impact on the local church.
- A new direct link between Parish Share and the ministry provided within a benefice or parish. We are not a church that believes in each congregation paying for their own priest; after all this would result in large areas of our diocese receiving no ministry – exactly where it is most needed. However, we have set out to make an important connection between Christian personal giving, Fairer Share and ministry; to at least in part to answer that question so often heard "where does the Parish Share go?"
- Keeping the popular features of the current Parish Share scheme; the assessment based on a three year rolling average of attendees; and the much valued 5% rebate to those parishes that contribute



their Parish Share to the diocese through direct standing order payments each month.

The success of these meetings will mean that the Fairer Share proposals will now have been shared with almost 700 people from within the diocese during the last 12 months. Paul Marshall, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance said "This has been an excellent opportunity for the Diocesan Board of Finance to explain their proposals to those who actually deal with Parish Share at a local level and to listen to their reactions and concerns. This should enable us to put

forward a proposal that reflects those views and concerns in a fair and workable scheme that can be seen to be fair and understood by all"

Diocesan Conference will be asked to endorse the Fairer Share proposals in September with a planned, phased implementation from January 1, 2015.

For more information about the Fairer Share proposals please visit <http://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/ministry/parish-share-conversations/>

## Focus on Fair Trade



**Parishes are being urged to sign up to Fair Trade status within the next few months, to help the Church in Wales achieve its aim of becoming a Fair Trade Province – the first in the Anglican Communion.**

Two years ago the Governing Body of the Church in Wales passed a resolution to work towards becoming a Fair Trade Province, by encouraging 70 per cent of churches to commit themselves to using Fair Trade products. Working with Fair Trade Wales, the target was to achieve this by April 2014. However, this has not quite been achieved yet.

So a motion was passed at April's GB to welcome the progress that has been made to date; to endorse the work of the Fair Trade Province Steering Group for a further 12 months; and to urge those parishes which have not adopted Fair Trade status to consider doing so by the end of October 2014.

How to become a Fair Trade Church

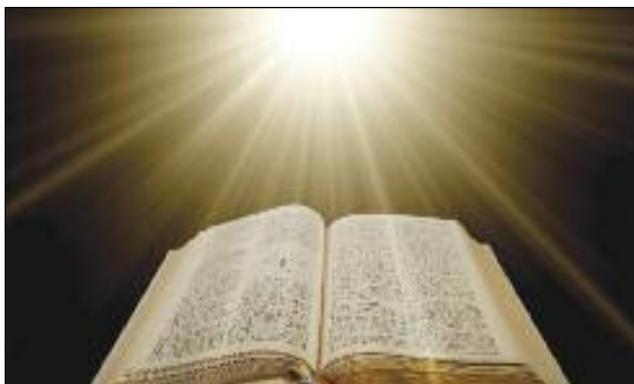
- Pass a motion at the next PCC meeting either committing yourselves or re-affirming your previous decision, to making your churches Fair Trade churches.
- Send a copy of the Pledge Form or PCC resolution to the Revd Carol Wardman at the Church in Wales, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff CF11 9XF, listing all the churches covered
- Display the certificate you will receive in return in each church
- Comply with Fair Trade principles by using as many Fair Trade products as you can, and publicising that you do.

## Archbishop - Bible texts will not settle Moral Disputes

**When it comes to turning to the Bible to solve moral dilemmas, we often see what we want to see, the Archbishop of Wales said in his Presidential Address to members of the Governing Body.**

Dr Barry Morgan warned that there was no one Christian viewpoint on issues such as same-sex relationships or assisted dying. Rather our attitudes are shaped by our upbringing, education and which particular part of the Bible texts we emphasise. He said, "We often see what we want to see. We often use Scripture to reinforce viewpoints that we have already arrived at in other ways and for other reasons. Some people have changed their minds for example on women's ministry and same-sex relationships when they have experienced the ministry of a woman priest in the one case, or discovered their own son or daughter to be gay on the other.

"Holy Scripture itself is far more nuanced, subtle and complex than we often realise..... We cannot just quote Biblical texts on different subject matters and think that that settles an issue. It is easy to opt for prohibitions in Scripture and regard them as the word of the Lord, and forget that the Bible contains stories which also convey God's word to us. Moreover, the Church's views can evolve and change as it responds



to the world around it. Just as there is a dissonance today between the State's view on same-sex marriage and the Church's, so there was on the remarriage of divorced people some years ago. The State allowed the possibility of divorce and re-marriage for a long time before we did as a Church. Not only do we now bless such unions, we actually re-marry divorced people in our churches. In the past, if a cleric divorced and re-married, that person could no longer

continue in the ordained ministry in Wales, whereas now that is no longer a bar to continuing in ministry. So our views have evolved and changed on a subject on which Jesus pronounced very clearly. He had nothing to say about same-sex relationships. Will we, as a Church, eventually adopt the same approach as far as same-sex relationships are concerned, as we have done about re-marriage after divorce, or is gay marriage in a different category from the re-marriage of divorced people? Whatever our viewpoints, I hope that our discussions can be charitable."

The Archbishop reminded members that peoples' lives would be affected by the Church's response and warned of the danger of the Church being seen as homophobic. However, he urged clergy keen to redress the balance and publicly bless same-sex marriages, to be patient. "Much as some people may want to do so, the rule is the same as was the case over the re-marriage of divorced people – we need to wait for the Church as a whole to decide the matter – and we are beginning that process at this Governing Body."

You can read the full address, after delivery, here <http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/presidential-address-governing-body-april-2014>

# Reflections on 40 years of Priestly Ministry

Archdeacon Philip Morris and Canon Stephen Ryan were ordained as priests together on the same day at Llandaff Cathedral in 1973. Over the years they have worked throughout the diocese in a variety of posts from parish priest to diocesan roles. Here the friends, who these days sit in adjoining stalls at Llandaff Cathedral, reflect on the past four decades.

## Archdeacon Philip



**Q:** Why did you enter the priesthood?

**A:** Because I felt a clear call from God that this is what he wanted me to do. Definitely a vocation – shaped by being brought up in a Christian family, and nurtured in a lively Church.

**Q:** Is the priesthood different today from when you joined?

**A:** The essentials are still there – administering the Sacraments, leading worship, preaching and teaching, and pastoral care in the local community. That will never change. What is different is that today there is much more a sense of shared or collaborative ministry, with fellow clergy and with lay people.

**Q:** Would you enter the priesthood today?

**A:** Definitely. It is as exciting, fulfilling and needed calling as it was forty years ago

**Q:** If you could give a new priest one piece of advice what would it be?

**A:** I think those last words of St David: “Be joyful, keep the faith, do the little things well.” I would add “Keep a sense of humour – and remember you are not alone.”

**Q:** What role in the Church has given you the most satisfaction? Parish priest? Diocesan Missioner? Archdeacon?

**A:** I can't say that any one role has given me more satisfaction than the others. They have been different, but in actual fact each of my previous roles has continued into the next – so at the heart of everything I have done has been those essentials of priesthood, but with added responsibilities or a slightly different emphasis.

**Q:** What changes have you seen within the Church in Wales in the last 40 years?

**A:** Obviously a decline in numbers attending worship, a reduction in the number of clergy, closure of church buildings etc. However, still a deep sense of commitment and faithfulness, and more of a desire to reach out into the community. The Church is more ‘professionally’ organised to relate to the demands of today’s society, but that means more support of clergy and parishes.

**Q:** What are your plans for the future?

**A:** Obviously I will retire at some point in the next few years, but in the immediate future there are plenty of exciting things coming up both in the parish and in the diocese.

## Canon Stephen



**Q:** Why did you enter the priesthood?

**A:** I was always involved in church life in Penarth and

while at University in Swansea felt the call to the priesthood, and I was happy to accept the call and haven't looked back since!

**Q:** Is the priesthood different today from when you joined?

**A:** The heart of priest hood is the same now as it ever was, sharing God's love with all.

Obviously there have been changes over the decades. We didn't have mobiles or emails when I was ordained.

**Q:** Would you enter the priesthood today?

**A:** Yes I would enter the priesthood today. We must all encourage vocations to ministry especially in these days of change and development in The Church in Wales.

**Q:** If you could give a new priest one piece of advice what would it be?

**A:** My advice would be to keep cheerful in all things, keep busy with the things of the Lord and to remain focused on the work of the Gospel.

**Q:** What role in the Church has given you the most satisfaction? Parish priest? Area Dean?

**A:** My main vocation has been as a parish priest in The Rhondda, Aberdare and now in Neath but I have also enjoyed my times as Area Dean, Youth Chaplain and as Chairman of the Stewardship Department.

**Q:** What changes have you seen within the Church in Wales in the last 40 years?

**A:** There have been many changes in all sorts of areas of the life of a parish and a parish priest. All of us might have our own views as to whether these changes are the better or not. The change in our worship and services has been very beneficial and also the ordination of women to the priesthood has been a great blessing to Christian Ministry.

**Q:** What are your plans for the future?

**A:** The future is for the future....at present my plans are for the day-to-day work of the parish...with perhaps the odd holiday to two to look forward to!



Philip and Stephen as they are today

## The Archbishop writes:

**M**y Dear Friends,  
As you know, the Church in Wales is committed to new patterns of ministry in ministry areas throughout this diocese and every diocese in Wales. What this entails is clergy and laity working together across parishes, sharing resources and providing mutual support. This may be, for many people, a new way of thinking, but the idea behind it has been around for a long time and some of our Rectorial parishes are modelled on this concept. In an attempt to define ministry areas more clearly, I have asked each deanery four questions:

- 1) Please identify groupings for working as potential ministry areas within your deanery and explain the rationale behind your thinking.
- 2) What characteristics did you identify for the formation of such areas e.g. geographical proximity, community development, mission opportunities,

financial resources etc?

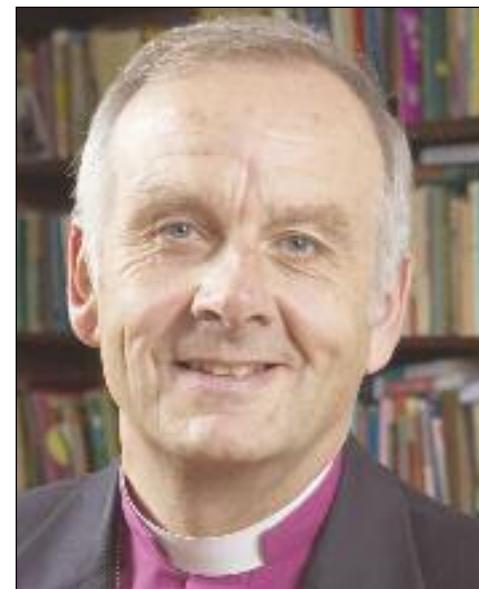
- 3) What will be different in terms of your mission and ministry by working in this way?
- 4) What is the diocesan role in the formation of ministry areas?

I have asked these questions because people on the ground in deaneries need to have the greatest input into these discussions. They cannot be imposed from the centre as some people suggest nor must one or two people locally impose solutions – there have to be real discussions with everyone who wants to be involved.

If we do not adopt this collaborative method of working of clergy with other clergy and clergy with laity, then I fear that what will eventually happen is that parishes with falling numbers will be forced to be joined together in ever larger areas dependent on one cleric. This will lead to more stress for the cleric concerned and a cycle of

stagnation and decline since he or she will not be able to cope with what will be expected.

The concept of ministry areas however is not primarily about changing structures but about changing the way in which the church delivers its ministry. Instead of one cleric trying to deal with the ministerial needs of a particular community, in a ministry area a variety of clerical and lay ministries serve a group of churches with one person responsible for driving forward the mission of the church in each church community. In this way, the talents and gifts of many people are harnessed. This is why we put such great emphasis on training lay people through the Living Faith course and Seven Sacred Spaces. That is why we are thinking of the best way of training clergy for their roles. The mission and ministry of God is entrusted to the whole church. The work of the ordained person is to lead



and inspire so that the Gospel can be proclaimed and new disciples made Yours in God's love,

# Comings and Goings . . .

## Jon's 'New Stage' in Ministry



**The Revd Jon Ormrod**, former stage manager, was licensed as priest in charge of the parishes of Sully and Wenvoe with St Lythans recently, by Assistant Bishop David Wilbourne. Jon, previously assistant curate in Llantrisant, takes over from Canon Edward Dowding, who retired last year.

The Revd Andrew James will be licensed as associate priest of these parishes and, in a reciprocal cluster arrangement, Jon will also be licensed as associate priest in Andrew's parish of St Andrews Major with Michaelston-Le-Pit. Jon, 50, originally from Neath, has worked as a stage manager at the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company before becoming verger at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, Shakespeare's church. He is married to Sheonagh and has two grown-up daughters. "I've been a churchgoer throughout my life, and when my vicar in Stratford asked if I had ever thought about ordained ministry, I said I'd been thinking about it for 20 years!" said Jon. This led to selection and training for ministry, and a first curacy back in Wales at Llantrisant.

In his spare time Jon enjoys the theatre, film, music and supporting the Ospreys rugby team. Bishop David said, "A native of South Wales, Jon has proved very popular in Llantrisant. . He is a good listener, caring, patient and taking time with people. His skills in parish administration and in the theatre have enabled him to be efficient and creative in his ministry. His friendliness and good sense of humour, crowned with a deep desire to bring others to an exciting faith, means he will enjoy the challenge of his new parish. I was privileged to lead morning services there on Easter Day, when all were looking forward to Jon and Sheonagh joining them, and rightly expecting great things."

## New Registrar



A new Diocesan Registrar, Mrs Harriet Morgan, has been installed for the Llandaff Diocese.

Mrs Morgan, who was installed during a service at Llandaff Cathedral in April, is a senior associate at Geldards Solicitors, specialising in commercial property

transactions.

Brought up in Cardiff and from a clerical family she now worships with her husband and two sons at Llandaff Cathedral.

The Registrar is responsible for the operation of the Diocesan Court, including the Faculty procedure, for drafting licences and other legal documents, and is legal advisor to the Diocesan Bishop. She is available to answer queries on such matters as marriage and burial laws and the application of the constitutions of Diocese and Province. She can be reached at registrar.llandaff@gmail.com She succeeds Mr. David Lambert who retired last September after 28 years as Diocesan Registrar.

## New Deacon for Mountain Ash



A former developmental psychologist has begun a new life in church ministry in Mountain Ash after being ordained deacon by a delighted Archbishop Barry.

**Liz Rees**, 34, a stay-at-home mum for a few years, serves as

a non-stipendiary minister alongside her family commitments. Liz, from Clevedon, worked as a developmental psychologist in Portsmouth, where she gained a Doctorate in psychology, before work as voluntary children's and family co-ordinator for the Church in Bristol. "I grew up as a regular yet infrequent church attender, but during my twenties I became more involved and began outreach work, running youth clubs and after school clubs. In Bristol, with a full-time voluntary Church post, and people asking if I had considered ministerial training, I slowly realised that it might be for me." Completing her training at St Michael's College Cardiff, Liz began at Trinity College, Bristol, where she met her husband Revd Ceirion Rees, now priest-in-charge at nearby Hirwaun, where the couple live with their two children. Liz and Ceirion are keen rugby fans. "I spent my honeymoon watching the Six Nations in Rome where Wales played Italy. But the England v Wales games are tough clashes in our house as there is always someone who is disappointed!" she said.

## New challenge for former nurse as Porth's new Vicar



**Revd Jeff Thomas** has been licensed as Priest-in-charge of the parish of Porth Newydd by the Archbishop of Wales, taking over from Revd Chris Coles.

A Swansea boy, Jeff worked as a nurse at Morriston Hospital before training for the ministry at St Michael's College, Cardiff. "I came to faith as a teenager at around 16, was baptized, but

then drifted away for a time and came back to the Church at 29. On holiday in Salisbury I picked up a leaflet about ministry and had a very strong sense that it was for me." He was ordained priest in 2012. "I am really looking forward to working with down to earth people in an area with a strong sense of community; getting to know everyone and building up good relationships with local schools. During training, I spent a placement in a nearby parish so the area is familiar." Dr Barry Morgan said, "I am pleased to welcome Jeffrey Thomas to Llandaff and hope that he will be happy in our midst."

In his spare time Jeff enjoys fishing, walking and spending time with his five children.

## St Michael's College appoints Acting Principal



The Archbishop of Wales has appointed **Revd Dr Mark Clavier** as Acting Principal of St. Michael's College, Cardiff. He joined the college last year as Dean of Residential Training, and took up his new role at the end of June. Archbishop Barry Morgan said "Dr Mark Clavier is highly

thought of at St Michael's, and I am delighted for him to bring his considerable academic, pastoral and spiritual gifts to this new position." Canon Sedgwick, former Principal, added, "Mark has strengthened the community spirit enormously, and emphasized our Anglican identity. His warmth and energy will make him a wonderful leader for the college."

Dr. Clavier, 43, a former parish priest in Oxfordshire, said "I'm both astonished and delighted to have been asked to become the Acting Principal. I'm very grateful for the confidence of the Archbishop, the College Committee and my colleagues. I am known to have a great passion for theological formation, and I look forward to working with colleagues here, and within the wider Church in

Wales, on a programme that will inspire people, root them deeply within a vibrant Anglican identity, and nurture the kind of active, imaginative, faith-filled, and loving disciples that our Church so badly needs. We badly need to confront the 'narrative of decline' in the Church; it is my conviction that this rediscovery of the 'Gospel of Hope' must begin with formation."

Dr Clavier has extensive experience of parish ministry: 12 years serving parishes in Maryland and North Carolina, three years as a 'house for duty priest' in County Durham and a year as Priest-in-Charge of three churches in the diocese of Oxford.

## Business Manager of St Michael's College Retires



Mrs Judith Lewis retired in March after five years as business manager of St Michael's College. Recently retired Principal, Dr Peter Sedgwick, said, "She has transformed the place. She came in 2009 when training was going very well, but the buildings were in a poor state.

Her greatest achievements

have been refurbishing the college in 2010 - when in 15 weeks we spent over £1m - and merging the college with the Representative Body. She has made such a difference to so many people, and has shown her characteristic warmth, humour and determination to improve the college."

Judith, a grandmother from Pontyclun, will remain treasurer of the Friends of the College. She has also rejoined her local PCC and joined the visiting team at Llantrisant Hospital. She is treasurer of the Making Music Changing Lives project in Ely, a trustee for Hafan Cymru and treasurer of Soroptimist International of Barry. In addition to voluntary work, Judith is looking forward to having more time for her grandchildren, gardening, reading and travel. "What I miss about working at St Mikes are the stimulating people, staff, students and visitors, and the Wednesday College Eucharist services in the beautiful Chapel. Seeing the students progress in confidence and ability over the years was delightful," said Judith. "However, I am looking forward to new opportunities, such as being part of the Spiritual Care visiting team at Llantrisant hospital, inspired by what I have learnt about Chaplaincy at the college." Her successor, Mrs Julia Lewis, took up her post in May.

## Resignation

**The Revd Martin Colton**, Team Vicar in the Rectorial Benefice of Canton, has left after resigning his position to become Vicar of St. Mark's, Reigate, Diocese of Southwark. Revd Colton was a curate in Whitchurch from 2003 to 2006, before moving to Canton as team vicar in 2006.

## Retirement



**Revd Huw Rhydderch** has retired after 20 years as rector of St Andrews Major with Michaelston le Pit. Beginning with curacies in Gelligaer and Penarth All Saints, he became Vicar of Resolven in 1978. He moved to Ystrad Rhondda with Ynyscynon where he was Vicar from 1981 to 1993. He was Rural Dean of the Rhondda from

1989 to 1993 when he moved to Dinas Powys as Rector.

Since retiring last summer, Huw has been kept busy helping out taking services in Fairwater, Cardiff, where he is now living.

# Diocesan Secretary Retires after 14 years at the Helm

**The Archbishop of Wales has paid tribute to the Llandaff Diocesan Secretary who is retiring after nearly 14 years of leading the legal and administrative work of the Diocese.**

Mr Peter Atkins will leave the Diocese of Llandaff at the end of July, after handing over the reins to Rowena Small, who joins the Diocese from the Cambridge Theological Federation, where she was Registrar. The Archbishop Dr Barry Morgan said, "Peter has been a diligent and hard working Diocesan Secretary who has used his pastoral gifts in carrying out his work as a Reader in the diocese. We are grateful to him for his ministry and wish him a long and happy retirement."

Peter, 65, has been involved with the church throughout his life – from his days as a choir boy in St Paul's Church Barry, to serving as rector's warden at All Saints Barry, to taking up the post of Diocesan Secretary in November 2000. "I saw the role of Diocesan Secretary as very much a continuation of my work for the church as I was very involved in my local parish and was the parish representative at Diocesan Conference," said Peter, who became a licensed lay reader to the East Vale group of parishes in 2008.

"Throughout my career I worked in jobs that were designed to help others and I have seen this job as very much following in that vein. There have been many changes over the years, not least in the field of technology. When I arrived there were just two computers in the office, electric typewriters, no mobile phones and everything was paper based! One of the first things that I did was to get a mobile phone for the parsonage board inspector which I saw as a necessity."

Initiatives that Peter was involved in ranged from the Mission Action Planning which helped parishes focus on their outreach work, to the parish share system introduced in 2002 which helped make collection more easily understood. "These days I think the office is far more user friendly, and we are more proactive and focused in helping parishes. I'd like to think that parishes turn to us when they run into a problem. The thing that I will miss most when I leave is the friendships, particularly with colleagues and people in the parishes, that I have built up over the years."

Peter joined the Llandaff Diocese after a career which began in the civil service working in the Welsh Office, including a time in the Secretary of



State's office in London. While with the Welsh Office he spent time on attachment to the WDA's international department, working with the North American team. Through these links with the States he was headhunted by American company Amerex Fire and became their British MD for 12 years until 2000. He worked as a consultant for the fire protection industries and was national secretary of a fire trade association for a short period before becoming Llandaff Diocesan Secretary.

Peter, who has three grown up children and two grandchildren is

looking forward to spending more time with his wife Jill, who is also retiring this summer from her job running a playgroup. He will also have more time for his hobbies of gardening, walking and reading and plans to take up watercolour painting again. He also plans to do some sort of voluntary work in the future in addition to continuing with his lay reader duties. "After a career spent working in the private sector, public sector and third sector, I would like to offer my services in some form to a local charity," added Peter.

## Former lecturer is Archbishop's new Chaplain



**A cleric who had a career in both marketing and academia before training for ministry has taken on a new role as Chaplain for the Archbishop. The Revd Dr Mark Dimond, 46, has been appointed as Chaplain by the Archbishop, Dr Barry Morgan, and is based at the Archbishop's office in Llandaff.**

Ordained in 2011 after training at St Michael's College, Cardiff, Mark has served as assistant curate in the benefice of All Saints Penarth for the past two-and-a-

half years. Prior to that, he taught history at Cardiff, Swansea and Glamorgan universities and was also an examiner for the International Baccalaureate.

The son of a diplomat, Mark was born in Japan and lived abroad for much of the first 30 years of his life, latterly working as a marketing manager for an international company. The countries he lived in included Sweden, Czechoslovakia, France, Russia and Hungary and he can speak French, Czech and Russian. Mark is married to Samantha, a marketing executive, and the couple have three school age children. His hobbies include walking and tennis.

Archbishop Barry said, "I am delighted to have Mark as my new Chaplain. He brings many gifts and much experience and I am sure will be a huge help to me." Mark said, "I have always had a thirst for doing different things and getting new experiences – I find it very enriching. So I am greatly looking forward to my new role as Archbishop's chaplain and the varied and the exciting work it will entail."

## New Diocesan Secretary

**The Registrar of the Cambridge Theological Federation is looking forward to taking up her appointment as the new Diocesan Secretary for the Llandaff Diocese.**

Mrs Rowena Small arrives in early July – taking over the reins from the current Diocesan Secretary Mr Peter Atkins, who retires after nearly 14 years at the end of July.

Rowena, whose father was originally from Brynmawr, has three grown-up daughters and will be moving to Wales from Cambridge along with her husband Nicholas.

The Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff, Dr Barry Morgan, who appointed Rowena said, "Rowena brings a wealth of experience to the post having worked in a bishop's office, at Lambeth Palace, and the Cambridge Theological Federation. I hope she will be very happy in our midst."

Rowenna said, "I was immediately drawn to this job because of my father's Welsh roots and the more I found out about the diocese, the more interested I became. I was delighted to be offered the post and I am looking forward to all the new challenges it will bring.

"This is going to be a different church structure from what I am used to so in my first few months I aim to spend time in each of the archdeacons, getting out to meet as many of the clergy and the congregations as possible – I want to find out what the issues are for them and find out where the diocesan office fits.

"My vision for the diocesan office is that we do our jobs well to enable everybody to do their jobs better – so that the clergy on the frontline can concentrate their energy on mission."

Originally from Cambridgeshire, Rowena spent 20 years working in London before returning to her childhood home in the village of Waterbeach,



where her father was a GP.

As Registrar of the Cambridge Theological Federation, Rowena leads the central administration of the ecumenical Federation which co-ordinates the teaching of nine member institutions, preparing individuals for lay and ordained ministries within the Christian churches.

Rowena has spent most of her career in church-related jobs – working for the Bishop of Stepney and the Archbishop of Canterbury or university related jobs or both as in her current post where she leads the central offices of the Cambridge Theological Federation but also has responsibility for the degrees that their students take through the University of Cambridge.

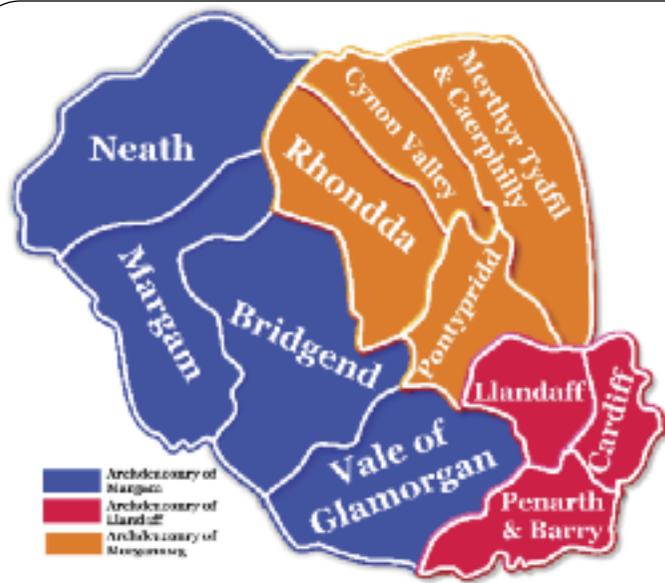
With the Federation she is also a Company Secretary, Compliance Officer and a member of all major committees including the Management, Resources (Finance) and Curriculum Committees as well as being involved in strategic planning, drafting policy and the preparation of briefing papers for the Governing Council. She has HR responsibility for the central staff team and has shared responsibility with the President for representing the Federation on external bodies.

During her time with the Federation she introduced a new financial model which transformed the way finances were understood and last year she led it through a successful QAA Review.

High on her list of priorities for her new job is a Sat Nav to help her find her way around the diocese.

"Despite reading Geography at university, it's a standing family joke that I'm hopeless at map reading so a Sat Nav is a must have for my new job," she admitted.

"I hope to live in Bridgend so that I can walk or cycle to work," said Rowena, who is a keen bell ringer – along with her husband, whom she met through the hobby. Her other interests include leading a Brownie unit, gardening and reading.



# Around the Diocese

## The Pentyrch Hill Race

**A fell race which began 29 years ago which is marshalled by parishioners in Pentrych is still going strong and is one of the best supported in South Wales.**

Back in 1986, 77 athletes completed the 7.5 mile Pentyrch Hill Race which includes around 1,700 feet of climbing. By 2012, entries had risen to 134 and within the last two years, they have nearly doubled to reach 248 runners who competed in April this year.

John Gough said, "We had thought it would finish at the 30th event. But how can we stop when its popularity is increasing? Over the next two years we will be encouraging members of our congregation to be involved, not just in the marshalling of the event, but taking over some of the administration of the race as well. Athletes say that the race is superb, a real challenge with beautiful views. We must find a way for St Catwg's Church, Pentrych, still to be able to claim being involved in a Fell Race, and, as far as I can see, the only reference to a church in the annual UK Fell Running Calendar."

## Rio meets Jesus in Cardiff

**Question: How do you get 75 boys and girls learning about the relevance of Jesus in their lives – every day for 4 consecutive days over the half-term holiday?**

Answer: Easy – invite them to a Church Soccer School!

That's exactly what St Mark's Gabalfa did when they organised their eleventh annual soccer school for the surrounding communities (a complete sell-out, with a waiting list!). Dovetailing with the World Cup theme of Rio 2014, youngsters up to the age of eleven were set in teams with their own soccer coaches drawn from volunteers from St Mark's and a supporting Church from Leicester.

Each day teams learnt a new soccer skill,

and played their own tournament games in the afternoon. Between these events the children enjoyed small groups looking at what it means to be a follower of Jesus today. Hearing testimonies of faith from the coaches and singing songs together capped off a jam-packed lunch-time.

Every child received medals at the end, with trophies for participants demonstrating particular talents and for the winning team (Germany), handed out at the final presentation in St Mark's Church at the end of the soccer school. Over 120 adults and children attended the presentation, when Revd Melanie Prince used puppets to show the importance of sharing the love of Jesus with their friends and neighbours.



## Charity Shop Celebrates its 15th Birthday



**A Valleys charity shop, raising £40,000 for good causes over the last 15 years, celebrated its anniversary in April with a party, cake, candles and banners.**

The Shalom charity shop in Abercynon first opened its doors in April 1999, selling nearly new clothes for babies and children, accessories and toys. Run by volunteers from the parish, the

shop has been a huge success, moving from its original location in Margaret Street to larger premises in Ynysmeurig Road. Open Monday to Friday, the shop now also sells ladies' clothes and bric-a-brac, and new knitted stock including tea cosies, blankets, lavender bags and cardigans, after the parish ladies' 'crafty' Lent.



## Double Duties for Vicar at his Best Friend's Wedding

**Two for the price of one took on a new meaning when Cardiff vicar Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes not only conducted the wedding for a friend but was also the best man!**

Trystan started the service standing by groom Perry Buck's side as his bride Nel Khuttan walked down the aisle – before switching places to stand in the vicar's spot to lead the couple through their vows – and then returning to the best man's spot for the rest of the ceremony. He also had to undergo some swift outfit changes - keeping his dog collar on throughout– but throwing his stole on and off as he switched from best man to vicar and back again to best man!

And in another role reversal – just over two years earlier Perry had been Trystan's best man when he married his wife Sandra at St Mary's Church, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

Groom Perry Buck, Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes and bride Nel Khuttan at Christ Church, Roath Park (picture credit [www.ashanphoto.com](http://www.ashanphoto.com))

## REFURBISHMENT OF LLANTRISANT PARISH HALL



**Photo: Vicar of Llantrisant, Rev Viv Parkinson with Parish Wardens Phillip Williams and Robert Jenkins outside Llantrisant Parish Hall**

We are very fortunate to have received £50,000 from Biffa Award- a multi-million pound fund that helps to build communities and transform lives through awarding grants to community and environmental projects across the UK

'An ambitious two stage programme to completely refurbish the hall has included the installation of new windows and a lovely new kitchen. Our thanks go to Howden's Joinery for their generous gift of the cabinets and worktops. We are grateful also to RCT for their help with funding. The Award has enabled us to have an upstairs meeting room and storage area. We now have a wonderful new facility, used extensively over the Christmas period. We have plans for many more activities when the works have been completed.'

We are sure that the newly refurbished Parish Hall will be a great asset to the Parish and to the community.

## A church group wins lottery cash for WW1 Centenary project

**A church Friends group is celebrating after being awarded a cash boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund for its project to mark the centenary of World War One.**

The Friends of St Augustine's Church, Penarth, have been given £9,200 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for their project 'World War One Roll of Honour - Restoration and Remembrance'.

## St Catherine's win award

A project to restore a large Victorian community hall next door to St Catherine's Church, Pontypridd has landed a top community award jointly sponsored by the Welsh Government and the quarrying industry. The award was given for the best community project supported by the Aggregates Levy Fund for Wales in 2013.

## Trees planted by Pupils at St Illtud's Church

**Pupils from local primary schools in the benefice of Llantwit Major have planted three trees in St Illtud's churchyard.**

The tree planting ceremony followed presentations by pupils on Welsh Saints at St Illtud's Church to celebrate the opening of the restored Galilee Chapel last November. A fourth tree will be planted later when the builders have finished on site. All pupils took a turn with the spade, after which the rector, the Revd Huw Butler, said a prayer and a blessing to thank God for his gift of life.

The trees are three different types of Magnolia and a Serviceberry, which are all small deciduous spring

flowering trees. They are located in an area of the churchyard behind the Galilee Chapel beside the brook, where there are already seats for people to sit quietly. As the trees mature, the area is designed to become a haven for peace and contemplation. Permission was granted from the Vale of Glamorgan for the trees to be planted to replace those that had to be removed in order to restore the Galilee Chapel.

The primary schools involved included St. Illtud's, Llantwit Major, Llanilltud Fawr, Ysgol Dewi Sant, Eagleswell, Llantwit Major and Wlck and Marcross C inW Primary School.



## How far can you roll a Jammie Dodger?

**We're very fortunate at St Denys Lisvane to have a large number of young people and children in our church, and very recently a group of 14 of our younger members aged between 5 and 11 years completed a 'Jesus and Me' Course (or JAM as it came to be known!)**



at the Last Supper. The Course was compiled and delivered (with the help of St Denys volunteers) by the church's Ministerial Assistant, Miriam Beecroft, when several children with strong faith asked when they could receive Holy Communion.

On the 23rd March, the church family celebrated the first communions of 12 children, one also baptized on the same day. The children from the JAM Course took a big part in leading the services that day for our various Sunday congregations, teaching the rest of the church what they had learnt, and demonstrating their personal faith in Jesus.

It was a great day for all of us, and demonstrates that our children are not just the church of the future but very much the church of today too.

**Revd Chris Burr**

It was aimed at preparing the youngsters to receive Holy Communion for the first time. Games and activities challenged the children to deepen their relationship with Jesus. The favourite game was called 'how far can you roll a jammie dodger?' (quite far as it turned out!), and a favourite Bible story was the transformation in Zacchaeus the tax collector when he became friends with Jesus. Most importantly, we learned how and why we remember Jesus in Holy Communion, as he commanded



## Carved in Stone

**Pupils from Llantwit Major Comprehensive have been able to try their hand at stone carving, at an event organised as part of the Galilee Chapel Project.**

Fifteen GCSE Applied Art students spent a day at the recently restored Galilee Chapel at St Illtud's, after local schoolchildren were invited to help design a new stone that will be set in the floor of the Chapel. Gareth Kiddie, the Project Activities Coordinator said, "The workshop was organised to help them become familiar with the tools and techniques used for carving stone. The pupils spent the whole day at the church making drawings and taking photographs of the stone monuments that encapsulate over a thousand years of history. When they

return to school they will be concentrating on developing their own designs, under the guidance of Welsh Sculptor, Dilys Jackson, who has been brought in to assist in the process."

Simon Thomas Head of Art at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School said, "This has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils. It's great that they are involved in a real life design project and they've benefitted immensely from having a go at carving a stone for themselves. I think it's shown them just how skilled the masons were all those centuries ago." Cardiff based stonemasons Architectural Stone donated the stones and provided a mason for the day.

## Choral Evensong enjoyed by Neath Deanery

Members of the Neath Deanery got together in St David's, Neath to sing Evensong.

Members of various church choirs from throughout the Deanery joined forces to form one large Deanery choir which led the singing and performed an anthem – an arrangement of "Amazing Grace" by Huw Smitham. The service was led by the area dean, the Revd Zoe King, and the guest preacher was the Revd Jon Durley, Community Development Officer. The service showed how closer links had been fostered between various parishes in the deanery – an unexpected benefit of the many vacancies over the last few years.

## A First for Saint Peter's Fairwater

**St Peter's Community Garden in Fairwater, along with gardens at St Fagan's C/W Primary School and St Michael's College, is now part of the National Garden Scheme which opens gardens to the public to raise money for charity. In 2013 they gave away £2.2 million.**



plants welcome.)

Lots to see - large pond and nature reserve, long herb border, raised vegetable beds, Welsh heritage apple trees, wild flower circle with hotel for bugs, and small alpine rockery; a History of the Garden in the Hall; free gardening advice and library of gardening manuals to consult. Do come and see!

The Garden is behind the Community Hall next to the Church, 100 yds from Fairwater Green shops on the St Fagan's Road.

St Peter's NGS weekend will be on 19-20th July 10am-5pm. Home-made refreshments, available all day, may include pizzas or Welsh cakes cooked al fresco in our clay oven! There will be a plant and bookstall and some garden activities. £5 p p, children free, money raised for NGS charities. (Normally our garden is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - no charge - donations towards new

## New Chapter for a Merthyr Church

Hundreds of children took part in a literacy festival in Merthyr Tydfil to celebrate World Book Day. Organised by the Stephens and George Centenary Charitable Trust, it was staged in a number of locations, including St Tydfil's Church Merthyr High Street, the S&G Book Shop and Tiffins Restaurant.

A performance in St Tydfil's by the Stagecoach Arts and Drama School of a medley of songs from the Lion King, Frozen and other popular chart hits was followed by live readings at various venues from popular children's story books. Wacky Woodhouse, a local magician, entertained youngsters with his magic tricks, and children could record reviews of their favourite books via a video booth in Tiffins Restaurant

Revd Mark Prevett said, "We were delighted to take part in this fantastic community event which now looks set to become an annual occurrence."

## Daffodil Festival

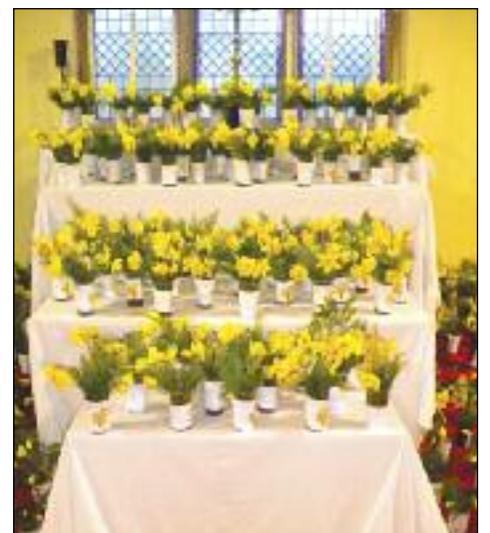
**More than 2,000 daffodils lit up St Dunstan's Church, Ferndale, during its annual Daffodil Festival.**

The day began with a short service of dedication and blessing of daffodils by Father David Jones. Throughout the day children from eight Rhondda schools visited and treated spectators to a rolling programme of entertainment.

Memorial cards were sold to visitors to write their own personal messages, which were placed around the pots of daffodils.

Alongside the festival, an art exhibition was held in the church hall with church records on display. The day concluded with an evening variety concert.

Jacqui Llewellyn of St Dunstan's Church said, "The festival was a huge success – the pots of daffodils formed a beautiful display in the church."



# Diocesan Links Strengthened between Swedish and Welsh Churches

**Links between churches in Sweden and Wales were strengthened when delegates from Uppsala visited Llandaff for a three day conference.**

Fifteen delegates from the Diocese of Uppsala were joined by fifteen delegates from the Diocese of Llandaff to share experiences of structural and cultural changes in the Church of Sweden and The Church in Wales.

The conference at St Michael's College, Cardiff, also engaged in theological reflection on leadership in a time of change and explored ways of empowering the faith-seeking community.

The delegates from Uppsala including the Bishop of Uppsala, Bishop Ragnar and the Dean of Uppsala, Dean Annika were officially welcomed by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, at the start of the conference.

The Archbishop said, "It's great to have you here as this diocese greatly values the link that we have with Uppsala which has been enormously fruitful and valuable. People have travelled back and forth between our two dioceses and parishes have been linked."

The diocesan link between Uppsala and Llandaff, which was established in 2007, was renewed during a service at Llandaff Cathedral during the visit in

March.

"The signing of this agreement signifies our continuing commitment to further co-operation and work between the two dioceses," added the Archbishop.

During their stay, delegates visited Sacred Spaces in parishes following a presentation on Seven Sacred Spaces by Canon Richard Lowndes. They visited Penarth All Saints, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama which is linked to the Ely Music Project and the Fairwater Garden Project. They enjoyed a traditional fish and chip seaside lunch while in Penarth and also visited the Senedd.

## The Journey

As part of the continuing link a group of young people from Sweden visited Llandaff and met up with members of the young Christian group – The Journey.

The 10-strong party, including eight young people and two leaders, spent a week in Wales in April. During their stay, two special evenings featuring games, chat and food were held at St Michael's College, Llandaff – one with a Welsh theme and one with a Swedish theme.

"We had about 40 to 50 young people at both these evening which I thought was absolutely fantastic as it was a wonderful way of young people from

different countries being able to share their faith together," said Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes, who oversaw the visit in his outgoing role of co-ordinator of The Journey.

"Real links were established between the young visitors from Sweden and young people from throughout the Llandaff Diocese and many are keeping in touch now through social media such as facebook," added Dr Hughes.

"The aim of this visit was to gather together young people from Sweden and Wales so that they could get to know

each other and share their faith."

The visit, which had EU funding came about through the diocese's links with Uppsala and it is hoped a return visit may be arranged in the future.

During their stay, the group visited a number of places including St Fagans National History Museum, Cardiff Castle, Cardiff Bay and various churches including Christ Church, Roath Park, St Mark's, Gabalfa and Llandaff Cathedral.

The Journey is for 16 to 24-year-olds who attend Anglican churches, school or chaplaincies and aims to support them and offer opportunities to meet other Christians of their own age. It holds a number of events a year and often meets at the University Chaplaincy in Park Place, Cardiff.

Photo:

Some members of the The Journey and the visitors at St Fagans National History Museum.

## Bells rang out to Celebrate Centenary

**Bellringers in Cadoxton celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first peal of bells rung at St Catwg's Church by repeating the feat – on the exact same day 100 years later.**

On March 27th 1914, six members of the now defunct West Wales Association of Church Bell Ringers rang the first peal on the bells of Cadoxton. On March 27th 2014, local bellringers repeated the peal.

A peal is a length of ringing that consists of 5040 changes - a non stop continuous piece of ringing which normally takes about two hours and 40 minutes on the St Catwg's bells. Peals are organised and rung to celebrate special occasions and also personal achievements in ringing. The current band of ringers is ten strong and ranges in age from teenagers to pensioners. They practise every Wednesday evening and ring the bells for all Sunday services and also special occasions such as weddings.

Alwyn Lewis, one of the ringers said, "Ringing is traditionally a service to the church. It is a great hobby and is also a great way to make friends from all walks of life. St Catwg's, like many other churches, are always looking for and welcome learners to keep the art and tradition going."

Revd Andrew Meredith of St Catwg's said, "It was a great way to celebrate the

centenary and what a great job the ringers do every week with their dedicated and skilful bell ringing creating such a joyful sound."

**Left: Bell ringers (l to r) Lynne Brunt, Keith Tucker, Andrew John, Rebecca John, Peter Kirk, Yvonne John**



# Bringing the past to life

**The history of a small Vale village has been brought to life thanks to a new exhibition in St Mary's Church, Bonvilston.**

The exhibition charts the history of the village dating back to the earliest records right up to the present time and centres on a series of wall panels, graphic displays and a floor covering featuring the 1877 Ordnance Survey map which allows visitors to take a virtual walk through the village.

It has been put together by a group of villagers and was made possible thanks to a £3,400 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a £9,000 grant from the Pride in Our Heritage programme, awarded by the Creative Rural Communities in Cowbridge through the Rural Development Plan for Wales.

Paul Fisher, one of the History Group, behind the exhibition said, "The aim of the exhibition was to bring the history of the village into one focal point and create a sense of place for villagers and visitors alike. It recognises the importance of St Mary's Church as the place where everything begins and ends – it is in the centre of the village and is the oldest building, dating back to Norman Times.

"We are delighted with how the exhibition has turned out and we hope that it is going to attract more visitors to the church and to the village."

"We have had donations of old pictures and even sketches dating back to 1840 which might have otherwise been lost but now they are here for everyone to see," said Mr Fisher.

"There has been lots of interest already in the exhibition which will be a permanent fixture in the church. We have five history panels on the walls but these could be added to in the future as more information is gathered.

"Our next step is to set up a website for information that we have not been able to include in the exhibition and is something that we will look at applying for further funding for."

The wall panels group information and pictures together into the five topics of Sports and Celebrations; Bonvilston Connections, Early Bonvilston, Building and People and Agriculture and WW11.

The exhibition is open in the church Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. **Picture show Paul Fisher with exhibition at St Mary's Church, Bonvilston**



# Vicar's Pet takes a Pew

**The Revd Andrew James took his most loyal parishioner with him when he moved churches – his labrador, Coco.**

For the past seven years Andrew's chocolate brown pet pooch has been a popular fixture at All Saints Church in Rhiwbina – but now the pair have moved to Dinas Powys.

Andrew was licensed, at St Peter's Dinas Powys by Archbishop Barry Morgan, as priest-in-charge of the parish of St Andrews Major with Michaelston-Le-Pit, where he takes over from the Revd Huw Rhydderch who retired last year after 20 years as Rector.

"I think my new parishioners are looking forward to meeting Coco as much as meeting me," admitted Andrew. "Coco comes along to all my services and lies down at the front and is very well behaved.....although he does occasionally do a big yawn during my sermons or even falls asleep and snores! He even used to join in when I said The Peace, and would sit up and lift his paw to be shaken when I got to him – but he's stopped doing that now as he realises he's not going to get a treat! Everyone knows him as I take him with me on my visits in the parish and he is a real ice breaker."

Andrew is married to Karen and they have a daughter Olivia who is now 12; when she turned five, the couple decided to get a dog as a pet for her to grow up with. But Andrew also decided to take the dog to work with him, as, during his training, he witnessed a vicar with a dog, and saw what an effective ministry tool they could be. Andrew

said, "We knew that we needed a friendly well behaved dog and a show labrador is very docile. He was christened Coco because his kennel name, Amazing Clown at Amberside, was a bit of a mouthful. Many of the large congregation at All Saints came to church, and stayed, after I'd met them out walking Coco."

On his day off, Andrew likes nothing better than to take off for a ride on his motorbike, which, to celebrate his 10th anniversary of being a priest, now has a number plate ending in REV. "Going off on my bike on my days off is to have a break away from the vicarage but now, with the number plate, people are always asking me if I'm a vicar – despite the black leather and big sports bike – and that one simple question often leads to many interesting conversations. As a result it means that I am doing ministry on my bike as well."

Originally from Yorkshire, Andrew moved to Wales to study Behavioural Science at the University of Glamorgan before training for the priesthood. Ordained deacon in 1999 and priest in 2000, he served as curate in Roath parish, Cardiff for two years and then in Radyr for five years. For the last eight years he has been team vicar for Whitchurch with responsibility for the 100 plus congregation at All Saints Church, Rhiwbina. "I knew from a very young age that I wanted to be a priest. There was a local vicar who used to come into our school assembly – whom I never spoke to and who didn't know me – but who made a massive impression on me. I have done a lot of work with



Revd Andrew James with his labrador Coco

schools in my ministry and hope to continue with this here. I love working in a school environment as faith has to be explained in such simple terms and it is a wonderful way of rediscovering the bible – children can have an insight that is often very illuminating."

Andrew will be responsible for St Andrew's Church, St Andrew's Major, St Peter's Church, Dinas Powys and St Michael's in Michaelston-le-Pit. "My full name is Andrew Peter James – so I nearly got the full complement of

namesake churches!" Andrew has also been licensed as associate priest of the Parishes of Sully, and Wenvoe with St. Lythans in a cluster arrangement. He continues in his diocesan role as ecumenical officer.

The Archbishop, Dr Morgan, who appointed Andrew said, "Andrew will bring his gifts of encouragement and enthusiasm to Dinas Powys and people will find in him a good pastor and listener."

## The Magnificent Seven!

**Seven new Canons were installed at a special service at Llandaff Cathedral led by the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, who is also Bishop of Llandaff.**

- The distinguished Welsh writer, the Revd Gwynn ap Gwilym, was made a Metropolitan Canon in recognition of his work across Wales. The well known Welsh language poet, writer, editor and translator is the Language officer and Bishops' Adviser for Church Affairs for the Church in Wales. A chaired bard, published poet and novelist, he has written extensively on Welsh literature, as well as having translated modern liturgy for the Church. As a priest, he has served in the dioceses of Bangor and Llandaff. He grew up in Machynlleth.

- The Revd Aled Edwards, OBE and chief executive of Cytun (Churches Together in Wales) was made a Metropolitan Canon. Mr Edwards, who is originally from Trawsfynydd, is Chair of Displaced People in Action, one of Wales's most active asylum and refugee organisations, and is a member of the Wales Committee of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. He also serves as Chair of the Wales Migration Partnership and is a director of the Millennium Stadium Plc.

- The Revd Edwin Counsell and the Revd Bob Capper were made Honorary Canons. Mr Counsell has been the provincial adviser on Education since 2006 and the Llandaff Diocese director of Statutory Education since 2000. He is vicar of Pendoylan with Welsh St Donats. Mr Capper is vicar of Gabalfa, priest-in-charge of Tremorfa and also Area Dean for Cardiff.

- The Revd Mark Preece, Rector of Canton; the

Revd Stewart Lisk, Vicar of Roath and the Revd Ruth Moverley, Vicar of Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch were appointed as Canons to Llandaff Cathedral. As Canons of the Cathedral they will preach there a few times a year and become members of the Cathedral Chapter, which oversees the running of the Cathedral.

In addition Canon Graham Holcombe was made a Canon Residentiary.

The Archbishop said, "I am delighted to recognise the long and faithful service that these priests have given to the Church in Wales. Canons are ideally people who both govern and trust, decide and support and to get the balance rights needs sensitivity, loyalty

and attentiveness. It is an honour and a responsibility to be a Canon of any cathedral and I know they will contribute greatly to the life and ministry of Llandaff Cathedral."

Mrs Harriet Morgan was also welcomed at the service. as the new Diocesan Registrar. This magnificent occasion took place on Saturday, April 12th,

**Photo: (l to r) Revd Canon Bob Capper, Canon Aled Edwards, Canon Graham Halcombe, Harriet Morgan (Diocesan Registrar), Graham Hardy (Archbishop's virger), the Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne, Canon Mark Preece, Canon Stewart Lisk, Canon Ruth Moverley, Canon Edwin Counsell, Canon Gwynn ap Gwilym and Dean of Llandaff, Gerwyn Capon.**



## DIOCESAN PARISHES COME TO THE CATHEDRAL

An invitation has been sent out to parishes inviting them to visit their Mother Church on a Sunday, perhaps on a date special to them.

Although many people come to the Cathedral individually, or are welcomers or help in the shop, the Cathedral Churchwardens are inviting parishes to enjoy a guided tour, attend Evensong where one of their number could read, then enjoy a cup of tea afterwards. Here is what parish visitors have to say:-

"Thirty of us from the Benefice of Pentyrch with Capel Llanilltern thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon visit to Llandaff Cathedral. An informative tour of the building, its history and artefacts, was followed by a delightful Evensong and refreshments in Prebendal House. We were able to renew old friendships and to meet the new Cathedral Dean. An afternoon we will all remember fondly, thank you so much for your arrangements and hospitality."

And:- "Members of St. Mary Magdalene Church Cwmbach send our warmest thanks for our truly memorable visit to your Cathedral Evensong on Sunday 23rd March. From our greeting at the West Door, the fascinating insight into the Cathedral's history given by John Bethell, the singing of the choir at Evensong and the warmth of our welcome over tea and biscuits - all contributed to a most enjoyable experience. We would like to make this an annual event, and we encourage other parishes in the diocese to do likewise. It is very important that we in the parishes support the work done within our Mother Church, Llandaff Cathedral."

You can arrange a Sunday parish visit (or a tour for any of your groups) by contacting Mrs Katharine MacDonald, Visitors Liaison Officer on tours @llandaffcathedral.org.uk or by telephoning her on 029 2056 9002

Linda Quinn



The Parish of St Mary's, Garth, Maesteg

## Get inspired by Generosity

Christians have a great message to share and proclaim, but how often does your local church reflect and review on how it shares and proclaims?

The Parish of Porthkerry and Rhoose recently undertook an initiative to renew and encourage Christian giving to the work of their churches when a group of around 18 people met weekly to follow a new discussion course called 'Seasons of Giving'.

Meeting each Sunday evening, in place of a formal service, the group enjoyed exploring and discussing generosity in four areas of life - time, talents, money and giving. Using the connected themes of time and seasons, Seasons of Giving studies the variety of generosity in the Bible, drawing out key principles for small groups to grapple with.

Feedback included comments such as "People opened up within the group"; "It was fun, interesting and easy to follow, engaging without being exhausting and I especially enjoyed the Bible studies"; "It was fun being in a group and we had a good leader!"

"It was heartening to see people's enthusiasm and passion for the work of their local church," said Richard Jones, Parish Resources Adviser for the Llandaff Diocese.

Mike O'Neill, CEO of Stewardship, the Christian giving charity, said, "Generosity is at the heart of the Christian faith. It sparked Creation, fuelled Salvation and is intrinsic to any understanding of the Trinity. Seasons of Giving is a great opportunity to be re-inspired by the value of generosity, from time and talents to money and possessions."

In these two four-week courses, your own small group could explore what it really means and feels like to be re-inspired by the value of generosity. There are lots of resources available at the Stewardship website including templates for small group.

Visit the website <http://www.stewardship.org.uk/special-articles/seasons-of-giving-a-group-resource-from-stewardship-1> or contact Richard Jones, Parish Resources Adviser to find out more. 01656 868860 or richardjones@churchinwales.org.uk

## GLIMPSES OF GLORY

### Parish of Dulais Valley

Snapshots of less well-known churches in the Diocese, and their hidden treasures



**A glorious spring day saw us out and about in the Dulais valley, beginning at the top in the village of Banwen. The little church, officially St David's Dyffryn Cellwen, is one of the few remaining cast-iron churches, a 'tin tabernacle', its exterior very plain with bell and cross, but inside a beautifully cared for space, with wood-panelled walls and cross-braced ceiling. The church, full of flowers and a lovely set of kneelers, was being swept and garnished in preparation for a funeral.**

Built as a mission church, daughter of St Mary's Seven Sisters, in 1924, its immediate area has many links with early Christianity, and churchwarden Tom Marston's fund of stories and legends was fascinating. The village, with the remains of two Roman forts, lies on a Roman road, the Sarn Helen, from Brecon to Neath. One astonishing legend tells of St Paul (no less!) coming on retreat here in his 'missing years'; the place name 'Cellwen' means white cell. Later

raided by Irish pirates, St Patrick is said to have been captured here, his father being an early Christian priest. Two standing stones, 5thC-9thC, possibly marking parish boundaries, are close to the village, one part of a Celtic cross which depicts the Christ figure supposedly delivering the Sermon on the Mount, and wearing a kilt! In the 19thC when coal was king, the valley had 13 pits, the largest at Banwen. All gone now of course, but on the site of the colliery offices and pithead baths is the Dove Workshop and Café, a project which grew out of the efforts of women during the miners' strike. And today,

young women can study, sometimes up to degree level, at the very place where, 200 years ago, working underground was one Katy Jones, aged seven.

In recent years, the little church had its floorboards replaced, the pews were sold, and now a fine set of chairs, many donated by parishioners, ensure Sunday morning comfort. The clear glass windows too have been enhanced by stained glass plaques, several made by Mr Marston who, though an amateur, has shown great artistry in depicting Jesus with the children (dedicated to a Sunday School teacher), and a most expressive one of the Resurrection. His wife too, now deceased, made the fine little symbolic angel. Made from recycled stained glass, they add great beauty to the little church. St Patrick's Day is marked, along with other saints' days and Harvest, and on March 1st a Daffodil Festival is held, well supported by the village and



the local school. The congregation, though small, looks outwards by having regular collections for the local foodbank,

Down the valley lies a very different church, St Mary's Seven Sisters, a huge barn of a building, designed by J. Cook Rees of Neath, and erected in 1911 by colliery owner Evan Evans Bevan. In fact, the village itself is named for his seven daughters. In Early English style with clerestoried nave and aisles, it is packed with pews and must seat 400-500. Its best feature is a brilliantly coloured east window, the Adoration of the Shepherds and Magi with angelic choir, made by Clayton & Bell in 1921. Writer John Newman says, 'It redeems the church'. Christmas Crib Service, Harvest and concerts take place, but the building is in sore need of repair, with damp walls and leaking roof, too great a project to be taken on by the small, elderly congregation. Sadly, the parish has been in an interregnum since June 2013, and two services out of three are taken by lay people. The prospects of a new dynamic leader being attracted to the parish seem remote and the outlook rather bleak for this once vibrant, populous community. But hope must spring eternal!

St Margaret's Crynant, probably the valley's best church, also has its problems, the walls having been

largely scraped about 7 years ago because of the damp. It does however have a fine set of Celtic Studios glass, the east window showing Christ in Majesty between Ss Margaret and James the Great in vibrant colour being perhaps the best. In the south wall are scenes from the early life of Jesus, with his ministry, Deposition and Road to Emmaus on the north. All are in paired lancets; probably the finest set from Celtic to be found anywhere. Again, a small congregation fights on valiantly, with help from the Area Dean, and the church still maintains a midweek Communion service, and is popular for baptisms and funerals. Another large church, also by Cook Rees, built in 1910 in the heyday of mining, in this case replacing a medieval church, single cell with pointed windows, which stands adjacent surrounded by its graveyard, and still used occasionally, especially at Christmas.

We wish the parish of the Dulais valley very well, and are grateful to Wardens Tom Marston, Jeanine Bishopp, and parishioners Hazel Roderick and Ann Atkins, for their time and their warm welcome, and for introducing us to the Dove Workshop, which seems a place of real hope for the future.

To contact the church, call Rev'd Zoe King (Area Dean) on: (01639) 635738



# Archdeacon Peggy Jackson Licensed in New Parish



**One of Wales' most senior female clerics, Archdeacon of Llandaff Peggy Jackson, has moved to a parish closer to Cardiff, and was licensed by Archbishop Dr Barry Morgan as priest-in-charge of St Fagans and Michaelston-super-Ely .**

Archdeacon Peggy, a qualified pilot who enjoys circle dancing, moves to St Fagans from the parishes of Penmark with Llancafarn with Llantrithyd where she was priest-in-charge and also associate priest of the parish of Porthkerry and Rhoose. Her move follows the retirement last year of the Revd Anthony Wintle.

She continues as Archdeacon of Llandaff - covering Cardiff, Cardiff Bay, Penarth and Barry - a post she took up in 2009 when she joined the Llandaff Diocese from the Diocese of Southwark, where she had been Dean of Women's Ministry for five years, Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral for six years and the Ecumenical Borough Dean of Richmond. As the senior member of Chapter in Llandaff, Peggy also held responsibility in Llandaff Cathedral over a period of around nine months, until the new Dean was appointed in February this year. The Archbishop said, "Peggy Jackson has proved her worth as Archdeacon and parish priest. She continues as the Archdeacon of Llandaff but will now be the priest-in-charge of St Fagans which is a more central location for her archidiaconal work."

Peggy, who became Wales' first female Archdeacon when she arrived in the Principality five years ago, has always been something of a trailblazer - becoming one of the first female deacons, and in 1994 one of the first female priests to be ordained in the Church of England. And she is looking forward to this September when the Bill allowing women to become Bishops in the Church in Wales comes into effect. Indeed it was Peggy who helped speed its introduction by putting forward a successful amendment to the Bill before it was passed by the Governing Body of the Church in Wales last September.

"It's unbelievably important that discrimination against women in the Church is coming to an end. Anybody coming into the Church in Wales now is joining a Church that opens all its offices to women - we can't have people joining this Church, with the expectation that it will continue to discriminate - that is absolutely unacceptable. It is shame on us that it has taken this long," said Peggy, who has seen the role of women change hugely since she began her training in the 1980s. "Because of the generation that I am, I have lived through these changes and there has been no other way to be. One of the highlights of my life was the day that the vote in favour of women priests was taken in England - it was five minutes to 5pm on November 11, 1992. I was outside Church House in London. The vote had been expected to fail but when it passed it was amazing - a fantastic moment."

Despite being at the forefront of church history, religion had not always played a part

in Peggy's life. In fact, it was during a time of crisis that she turned to the Church. After growing up in the Midlands and graduating from Somerville College Oxford with an honours degree in history, she became a chartered accountant. She married and moved to Edinburgh with her husband who left shortly after she had her daughter Alison - leaving her devastated. "I had a horrible time; I carried on working and struggled through but life was pretty bleak until one day I crept into the back of a church - I started going and have been going ever since. I kind of tumbled into faith - that first visit to Church was in 1982, I was confirmed the following year and by 1985, I'd left my job and was off to theological college. I didn't even really know what I was going to be when I came out of theological college, but by the time I left women were allowed to be deacons and so I became one of the first batch of female deacons in 1987." Peggy's first job in the Church was as a curate in the Derby Diocese before she moved on to be a member of a team in the St Albans Diocese and then a Team Rector in the Diocese of Southwark, where she remained for eleven years before moving to Wales.

One of the first things she set about doing in her new parishes was ensuring the doors to all three churches were kept open during the day. "Churches belong to their parish and they need to be available to everybody. I believe that buildings have a ministry of their own - quite apart from the people who look after them and worship in them. It's quite simple - if you open the doors then people will come." Also during Peggy's time at Penmark with Llancafarn with Llantrithyd, major conservation work was carried out on a 15th Century reredos screen at St Cadoc's, Llancafarn, which has been conserved to reveal its former glory. Medieval wall paintings were also discovered in 2008 and are still in the process of being conserved. "The project was already underway when I arrived but it was a great privilege to have been involved - Llancafarn has learnt how instead of just being a church for the village, to become a church for everyone as it takes responsibility to look after and present these treasures for everyone to share.

"I am now looking forward to settling into a new part of the Archdeaconry - getting to know people in my new parish and building up links with the St Fagans National History Museum," said Peggy, who is a grandmother. "For the future we will be looking at ways of extending collaborative working and bringing more parishes to work together in clusters," she added.

*Celebrating 60 years*  
**Llangasty Retreat House**

*Saturday 19th July 2014*  
**Celebration Eucharist 12 noon**  
**Fete 2:00 to 4:30pm**

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## "Crossing the Threshold"

**A day conference to mark  
the opening of the Episcopate  
to women in the Church in Wales**

Opportunities to listen-discuss-question-celebrate  
in the company of (among others)

The Rt Rev'd Geryl Wolf former Bishop of Rhode Island

The Rev'd Preb. Dr. Jane Tillier (C of E)

The Rev'd Dr Jenny Hurd Chair, Synod Cymru (Methodist Church)

Jane Williams Theological writer and educator

**The day will end with a Eucharist  
at 7.45pm in Llandaff Cathedral  
President The Rt Rev'd Geryl Wolf**

**St Michael's College, Cardiff  
4th September 2014**

Further details and booking form from the Rev'd Jan Gould  
jan.gould2@btinternet.com Tel. 029 2056 3116 / 07981 082548



## Llangasty - Sixty Years a Retreat House

**Sixty years ago, in post-austerity Britain, when Roger Bannister ran the 4 minute mile, and rationing came to an end, the Rectory at Llangasty was deemed surplus to Diocesan requirements.**

Miss Dorothy Raikes decided to establish it as a Retreat House, a place of peace, where God's people could draw closer to Him. She was a great admirer of the Celtic Saints and thought that the more Spartan the regime, the more powerful the spiritual message would be. However, the House was well suited to retreat: peacefully remote but easily accessible, with stupendous views of Llangorse Lake and the surrounding hills. A "thin place", where St Gastyn established his "llan" in the fifth century and Howell Harries, a founder of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, had a formative spiritual experience in 1735.

The House was supported in prayer and financially by the Friends, initially Miss Raikes' own circle, but today promoting the House's Sixtieth Anniversary Appeal. In her 80's, Miss Raikes gave the House to the Sisters of Charity, they and their wholemeal bread recalled with affection by many. In 1996, the order withdrew and a charitable trust was formed as a joint project between the Dioceses of Llandaff and Swansea and Brecon, to manage the House.

In 2014, the Retreat House continues, for fellowship, conferences and training events, and for spiritual renewal for individuals and groups. An emphasis on Christian hospitality has replaced the Spartan approach! There is a varied programme of events and each group, day or residential, uses the House in its own way. On 19th July 2014 we mark sixty years with a Celebratory Eucharist at noon. Do join us: bring a picnic lunch and stay on for the Annual Fete. Or come another day and experience a sacred space for yourself...

### croeso

This edition has been produced by the editorial team: Rev'd Caroline Downs (Convenor), Rev'd Mike Lewis, Jean Rose, Alison Young and James Downs with contributions from people in all parts of Llandaff Diocese. Please send your articles, stories and pictures for the next issue to: Alison Young, Diocese of Llandaff, The Court, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5HF or, preferably by email to: alisonyoung@churchinwales.org.uk clearly marked for Croeso Letters, articles and features should be typed and where possible, submitted on computer disk saved as Word or text files. The next issue will be published on Thursday 2nd October 2014. The copy deadline is Tuesday 16th September 2014. **croeso** can also be seen at our website [www.llandaff.org.uk](http://www.llandaff.org.uk) where other articles are sometimes published when demand for newspaper space has been high. **croeso** is funded by the Diocesan Board of Finance and is free to parishes.

Check out our web-site [www.llandaff.org.uk](http://www.llandaff.org.uk)



# Eleven pupils admitted to receive Holy Communion

**Eleven pupils from Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School have been admitted to receive Holy Communion after having successfully completed a course delivered by local vicar Fr Anthony Beer.**

The children, who come from villages throughout the Vale including St Athan, Marcross, St Donat's and Wick, were welcomed into communion by Revd Huw Butler as well as by their teachers and friends.

During the course they learned about prayer, how to use the Bible, getting to know Jesus and the importance of how and why Christians remember Jesus through the act of breaking bread together and sharing bread and wine.

Revd Butler, Rector of Llantwit Major said, "There is a long-standing tradition in the church to welcome people into communion during the joyful season of Easter when we remember the new life of the risen Jesus Christ and the power of God's love. These children also bring new life to the church just as they receive new life from it, and we pray that they



will enjoy a lifetime of learning and growing in an active faith which inspires them to live life to the full."

**Photo: The children admitted to communion with (l to r) Revd Anthony Beer, Revd Huw Butler and Revd Rachel Simpson**

## RE Lessons brought to life with Mass Baptism!

Teachers and pupils from a small village school brought their RE lessons to life with a mass baptism of 15 people.

Local vicar Lynda Newman normally uses a doll to carry out mock baptisms at Tonmawr Primary School near Neath to teach the pupils all about baptism as part of their curriculum work. But when a parent asked her if her baby could be baptised to show the children a 'real' baptism, it started the ball rolling with teachers, pupils, siblings and a parent all deciding that they also wanted to be baptised. In the end 15 people, including eight pupils, two teachers, a baby, three former pupils and a parent from the 61-roll school were all baptised in a joint ceremony at St Teilo's Church, Tonmawr.

"It was absolutely wonderful as it all just escalated- it's a small community and school and this really caught everyone's imagination," said Revd Linda, team vicar for Neath. "In the end I had to hold a meeting as there were so many people who wanted to be baptised. Parents saw it as a wonderful opportunity to have the whole family baptised. I am thrilled that God is working in this way. It's lovely to have these good relationships with people and to walk where they walk. Today people are not going to come into church unless they feel relaxed and welcome and if we talk their language."

All the children were given a welcome gift of a knitted or felt dove, to symbolise the dove of love from above on Jesus' shoulder. The service on April 30th was followed by a celebration party at the school. Among those baptised were deputy head David Thomas, teacher Zoe Evans, 18 month old baby Brooke Prosser and her sister Amelia, 5, Menna Evans, 3, Daniel Edwards, 10, and his brother Dylan, 8, Mason Davies, 3, Steffan Toomey, 3, Caitlyn Hart 10, and her brother Daniel, 13, mum Melanie Fermandel and her children Ellie Winstone, 4, Chloe Seppman, 17, and Kori Seppman, 13.

Deputy headteacher Mr Thomas said, "The church is a growing part of my life and when I heard what was happening I realised that it was something that I wanted to do. This school has a great bond with the local church and this joint baptism service is only going to strengthen that bond. Another factor is that as a teacher I also want to be a good role model for my pupils." Helen Booth, headteacher at Tonmawr Primary School said, "It's fabulous the way that this service has spiralled from using a doll to a real baby, to then a total of 15 people, which is a fantastic achievement especially for a school of this size. It all started when we asked Linda for advice on how to cover some aspects of RE in the curriculum."

## New service launched

A new service has been launched by the Church in Wales to help settle conflict when it arises between parishioners or clergy.

The new mediation service aims to help manage workplace conflicts positively and resolve them constructively.

Clergy or parishioners in dispute will be able to apply to seek the help of a mediator who will then organise a series of joint and private meetings in which both parties can talk and listen to each other.

Mediators, both lay and clergy, from each of the six dioceses in Wales have been specially trained and will be supported by the Church's Human Resources team. In cases of bitter dispute, however, external professional mediators may be called in. The new service does not take away an individual's right to invoke the formal grievance procedures where more appropriate



## It's Goodbye from her and it's Goodbye from him and it's Goodbye from me!

**After seven and a half years, this issue of Croeso is our last as an editorial team. As Covenor, I would like to sincerely thank my co-editors of Croeso, namely Jean Rose and Rev'd Mike Lewis for all the hard work they have put into this publication over the years. I must also thank the faithful souls who have assisted with the formidable task of sorting and packing the papers.**

It has been really helpful to work as part of a team and share discussion, decision making and the task of editing the articles. Positive feedback on this publication from a variety of readers has really encouraged us in our time and we have seen Croeso develop from an eight page issue to twelve and we are now receiving more articles than we are able to include.

We would like to say farewell as we hand over now to Alison Young and a new team and offer a heartfelt thank you to all who have contributed over the years. We hope you have enjoyed reading the Diocesan news and we wish the new team every success as they take Croeso on into the future.

**Caroline Downs, Jean Rose and Mike Lewis.**



## Llandaff Diocesan Conference

The Llandaff Diocesan Conference will be held on Saturday, September 27, at St John the Baptist Church in Wales High School, Glan Road, Aberdare, from 9am to 4pm.

Among the items for discussion will be the proposed changes to the Parish Share system, the new Church Mediation Scheme and a report on the three Ministry Area Conversations

## CAPTION COMPETITION

Thank you for all the entries to the Caption competition! Remember this picture from the last issue?



This edition's winner is: OF COURSE WE ONLY LET THEM SLEEP HERE IF THEY ARE STONE COLD SOBER!

**Michael Gable was the winner of the last Caption comp.**

We mistakenly thought it was Mike Komor. Sorry Michael. **ED**

Thank you to all of our readers for faithfully sending in your captions. We hope you have enjoyed the Caption Competition as much as we have enjoyed reading your entries.

**Jean, Mike and Caroline. Eds**

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