



MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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Michaelmas 2010



A coachload of pilgrims from the Diocese spent four days at the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in July. Each day, Bishop Dominic talked about the story of the early Christian Church as told in The Acts of the Apostles. We heard familiar scenarios of fellowship and fallings-out, successes and failures, hopes and disappointments, and, through it all, the work of the Holy Spirit in growing the church. As he brought the experience and faith of these fellow-Christians to life, the Bishop inspired us to see that we are part of the same, ongoing church - see his letter on page 5.

We ate together in the Refectory (excellent catering!) and worshipped together in the Shrine Church. We joined in the Shrine services. One evening this was a moving liturgy of healing which offered the opportunity to be washed in water from the well, to have hands laid on for healing and to make a formal confession - all optional as each pilgrim felt appropriate. In contrast to the quiet of that service, the following evening was the joyful candlelit procession carrying the Statue of Our Lady around the garden. There was a trip out to explore the surrounding countryside and plenty of opportunity to explore the village - and the local shops!

For those unused to 'the Walsingham way' it may seem rather 'over the top' but if you enter into the experience you may discover, as I did on my first visit, the power of Word and Sacrament working together in a place hallowed by centuries of prayer, a place which invites you to leave everyday life for a time and accept the hospitality of 'England's Nazareth', a place which focusses on the Incarnation and breathes the reality of God's presence with us.

If you are interested in joining a pilgrimage, contact Pam Griffiths pvgriff3@btinternet. See also www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

One coachload of pilgrims have already booked their place for next year's pilgrimage (22 - 26 August 2011) but if there is enough interest a second coach could be arranged.

Revd Janet Bone

All Creatures Great and Small

Upstaged by a cow....a MOOt point...



The Family Pet Service on the field next to Panteg Church Hall was a great success. Situated beside the main road running through the village of New Inn, no one passing by on Sunday 11th July could have failed to notice the Church having a good time.

There were dogs of all shapes and sizes (some having been shampooed for the occasion!). There was one cat who curled up in her basket and slept through the event, and the Rector's cat who welcomed everyone and was there to say goodbye but who chose not to be at the service...!! The people who couldn't bring their pets brought photographs of them and those who had no pets brought animal cuddly toys.

But, without doubt, the star of the morning was Sandy, a one-year-old Charolais heifer who mooed at exactly the right times for maximum effect. Thank you to Mary and Trevor Edwards for bringing Sandy. Every Pet Service should be enhanced by a participating cow.

Canon Jennifer Mole

This year, Animal Welfare Sunday is on October 3rd

An invitation from St Michael's, Llanvihangel Crucorney

After the resounding success of last year's first Blessing of Pets at the ancient St. Michael's Church in the historic village of Llanvihangel Crucorney near Abergavenny, it was decided that on Sunday 3rd Oct. the Church would once again welcome all pets no matter how great or small to join in the Service of Blessing at 11am.

St. Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of Animals whose Feast Day is 4th October. It is therefore fitting that this service to celebrate the lives of our devoted furred and feathered friends should take place. All are welcome, even naughty pets under control! Last year there was a wonderful variety of much loved four-footed friends including Sebastian the miniature Shetland pony who is the Ambassador for The Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies, the Monmouth Horse Hospital that takes in abused and neglected horses and ponies from all over Wales and the Borders.

Sebastian is once again looking forward to his trip to Church and to receive a Blessing which his keepers say is needed, judging by his naughty antics at the recent Monmouth Show!

Access to the Church is very easy through the pathway and all are very welcome to join us. There will be suitable refreshments for all after the Service.

Sian Lloyd

Lee rides to help MU Wheels Appeal



On Saturday 5th September, Mr Lee Woodford cycled over 100 miles to raise funds for the MU Wheels Appeal. The appeal is to fund vital aid transport for the MU's family support projects.

Lee started his journey at 8am and was seen off by his mother and the Vicar. He arrived back at St Mary's, Risca, at 2.30pm to be greeted by an excellent tea prepared by members of the Risca branch of the MU and shared with other members of the parish.

To date, Lee's efforts have raised in excess of £400. Well done!

John Price - this is your life!

John Price is a very well known figure around New Tredegar and the Upper Rhymney Valley. Now aged 73, and Verger of St Dingat's Church, he has served generations of residents in New Tredegar and Phillipstown. For a time he was at St Paul's Church, Abertyswg, and more recently in Bedwelty Parish as well. John looks after the practical details of services at St Dingat's Church, has been 'right hand man' to many vicars in the parish, and has helped make sure all the details are in place for countless weddings and many funeral services. Thus he has helped his fellow residents at some of the happiest and also the most difficult times of their lives.

This year, John has reached a milestone - he has served as Verger for 50 years! To mark the occasion, members of St Dingat's Church organised a very special celebration. A festive Evensong was followed by a buffet for well over a hundred of John's friends from near and far. Many members of the local community were present as well as clergy from at least four Dioceses!



At the Evensong, all were impressed by a newly-formed choir from the Parishes of Bedwelty and New Tredegar who sang a setting of the Nunc Dimittis composed especially for the occasion by Curate, Heidi de Gruchy. The latter part of the evening was compered brilliantly by Revd Alan Silverthorn, a former Vicar of the parish. One by one, friends whom John had known over the years were invited up to have their photo taken with John and some hilarious memories from the past were shared. Guest of honour was the Bishop. The picture shows John being presented with his very own 'This is Your Life' book.

Local residents have been invited to come and enjoy a quiet moment in the ornamental garden which has been created in John's honour in the Garden of Remembrance behind St Dingat's Church.

Revd Rosie Dymond, Vicar of Bedwelty

A year of JAM at St Marks Community Church, Llanhilleth

Sunday 4th July was the first anniversary of St Marks JAM Club (Jesus And Me). To celebrate we held a God Given Talent morning in which the children showed off their talents ranging from painting and drawing to dance and various musical items. The children who were unable to attend were remembered and their talent recognised.

The congregation was joined by the Deputy Mayor and representatives of all the local schools and everyone enjoyed the versatility and effort put in by all the children. Each child received a medal as we had no winners or losers in our talent show, just a celebration to show that each and everyone of us has a "GOD'S GIVEN TALENT". We thank God for this opportunity of sharing His love with the wider community.

Jeanette Hopkins

St Cath's is a blooming success



The Community Garden at St Catherine's, Crosskeys, had a first award in Caerphilly In Bloom in the community garden section.

A new post for Linda



l to r: Revd Dylan Bate, Revd Linda Griffiths, the Bishop, and Ven John Blackburn in St Mary's church, Risca, after Linda was licensed as NSM curate on Sunday 5th Sept.

Open again - against all the odds!

Closed for regular worship since 1973, the beautiful 13th century church of St Michael & All Angels, at Llanfihangel Rogiet, near Caldicot, has recently reopened its doors to the public. The fascinating building has undergone renovations costing almost £50,000 and its former glory is now clear for all to see and to enjoy and includes the carved 13th century tombs of a Lord and Lady of the Manor!



Ownership of the church has been transferred from The Church in Wales to a national charity, The Friends of Friendless Churches, who restore and care for some ancient and historic churches which are no longer required for regular worship.

At Llanfihangel Rogiet, the charity was keen to secure a local partner organisation who would manage, steward and use the building for the benefit of the wider community, and the Caldicot & District Local History Society stepped forward to take on the role. Project manager Richard Jones said "As a local history group we obviously had an interest in what is a very significant local historic landmark but, more than that, we had a vision of a church open to the public each day, which would also be the location of a community history centre and which could be used for other community events and groups".

This vision has now become reality. Following generous financial support from Monmouthshire County Council Welsh Church Act, 02 Community Fund, Monmouthshire Building Society Community Foundation and the Cooperative Community Fund, the church has been equipped as a community history centre and an exhibition tells the story of the local community. "For a tiny settlement there are an incredible number of important historical connections" said Peter Strong, secretary of the local history group. Notable former clergy include the founder of the first non-conformist church in Wales at nearby Llanvaches, and an infamous 19th century rector who twice served time in prison during the period of his ministry! Not to mention the marriage of the inventor of self raising flour, that took place in 1858.



The first public event took place at St Michael's on Sunday 11th July, to a capacity audience – a harp concert by talented local girls Lowri and Ffion Edwards, raising £360 for local teenagers Sarah Bray and Harriet Smith to travel to Uganda in August to work in an orphanage operated by Christian charity 'Edith's Home'.

The church will host its first act of worship since 1973, on Sunday October 3rd at 3pm in conjunction with the Rectorial Benefice of Caldicot, which will be a commemoration for St Michael's day (29 September), our patron saint.

The church is now open each day during daylight hours until the end of October and visitors should park in the road lay-by and walk to the church through the adjacent farmyard.

Bishop Dominic writes....

It was a great privilege and joy to lead the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham once again this year. We spent much of the time looking at the Acts of the Apostles and finding inspiration for today from the early missionary Church with its emphasis on the Holy Spirit and growing new Christian communities.

We were reminded that the early Church went through much persecution, many hardships and internal squabbling, especially when it was decided to admit Gentiles into the Church. We were able to see how some of the issues faced by the early Church are issues for us today. They needed good leadership, constant teaching and encouragement, and they witnessed the activity of the Spirit in healing and growth.

They also had a deep love and commitment to Jesus and to one another and a real experience of God in their worship. They met constantly to hear the apostles teach, and to share the common life, to break bread and to pray. A sense of awe was everywhere, and many marvels and signs were brought about through the apostles. Acts 2:42-43.

My own passion is to try and encourage Christians to learn more about their faith and not only to celebrate the Eucharist but to live eucharistically. My own passion is for churches to have a sense of awe and to see marvels and signs.

This is what I would love to see in the churches of the diocese:

- churches that hear the apostles teach and are learning communities. Most learning takes place in groups and it is good to see **Living Faith** groups springing up all over the diocese as well as pilgrimages and Lent courses taking place.
- churches that share the common life and that are loving communities where congregations care for one another and reach out together to care for the community around them. It is good to see Street Pastors and other initiatives growing. Sharon Smith is available in the Diocesan Office to help parishes to develop community projects.
- churches that break bread (celebrate the Eucharist) well, and where the Revised Common Lectionary is used to provide a breadth and consistency in scripture and where the biblical message is thoughtfully related to life today. Services where intercessions are concise and use silence; where liturgical action is simple and dignified and where music is used to enhance the action; where people leave wanting more rather than looking at their watches!
- churches where people are enabled to pray. So many people tell me that they have never been taught about prayer. Sister Anita, our Adviser in Spirituality, and others can help parishes with weeks of guided prayer and one-to-one retreats and how to pray with other people.
- churches where there is a sense of awe everywhere, so that people go to worship with an expectation of having an encounter with the living God in word and sacrament; worship that is beautiful and contemplative as well as lively and uplifting.
- churches that experience many marvels and signs because they listen to the Holy Spirit, take risks and are bold, and where the ministry of healing is high on the agenda.

Perhaps PCCs would like to reflect on these things. It is not just a matter of doing new things but also of doing the old things better.

+ *Dominic*

Celebrating Anniversaries

100 years of the MU at St Woolos

Many of the records of the past hundred years have been lost, but it is understood from Lambeth Palace, who hold some of them, that a Mrs Mary Ann Dawson, of Rothbury, Stow Park Circus (as it was then called), was the enrolling member of St Woolos Mothers Union branch in July 1910. What a pity that those records have disappeared, they would have made very interesting reading today!

For the record, twenty seven members and guests attended a Holy Eucharist in St Woolos Cathedral on Thursday 1st July 2010 to celebrate the centenary. The celebrant was Father Robbie Dennis assisted by Sister Avice; Jeremy Blasby was organist; Mrs Joyce Stinchcombe and Mrs Glenys Rowe read the lessons.



left to right: Mrs Joyce Stinchcombe, Branch Leader; Fr. Robbie Dennis; Mrs Barbara Marsh, Branch Secretary.

After the service we all retired to the hall for scones, strawberries and cream.

Barbara Marsh, Hon Sec St Woolos Mothers' Union

Congratulations, Maud



Mrs Maud Baskerville, the oldest communicant in Christ Church, Ebbw Vale, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Maud has worshipped at Christ Church all her life and was baptised, confirmed and married there. She still attends regularly with four generations of the family.

Birthday visitors included the Bishop, Rector Geoff Waggett (who gave her Holy Communion), and the Mayor of Blaenau Gwent. She received greetings from the Queen, the First Minister, the Welsh Secretary and the Minister for Works and Pensions.

A party was held in the local Rugby Club. The entire Ebbw Vale rugby squad paid a visit bringing a card and flowers for Maud. They also sang *Happy Birthday*.



10 years of SOUNDS FUN!



Children of all ages came and joined in the fun when we celebrated ten years of Sounds Fun at St Anne's Church Hall in High Cross. The first meeting of the weekly music group for babies and pre-school children with their parents was held on Friday 5th May 2000, when St Anne's Church Committee was considering its own mission as members of the church and the issues connected with its Christian outreach into the local community.

Practical steps to address the gaps were taken, one of which was starting the 'Sounds Fun' group, led by Carole Loftus and Claire Cowper.

Over the ten years, hundreds of children have come to 'Sounds Fun' AKA 'singing group' or 'music on Fridays' from near and far. They have sung the 'Hello' Maori song along with many other well-known rhymes and songs. The oldest children will now be teenagers and the youngest are babes in arms.

To celebrate, Tim White and Mark Hibbert from Drumming Solutions led a Samba drumming workshop, teaching amazing Brazilian rhythms so that by the end of the workshop the children were able to complete a performance involving the native rhythms and call and response.

Thank you to all those involved in making the celebration such a success. It was a memorable party which aptly marked the beginning of the next ten years of Sounds Fun!

Claire Cowper

50 Years of ordained ministry



On 24th June, the Venerable Peter Woodman (a former Archdeacon of Monmouth) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. The photograph shows Peter (right) with the Revd Dr Stephen James, Priest in Charge (left), and Terry Green, Crucifer, following a service at St Peter's church Goetre on 27th July at which Peter celebrated and preached.

Congratulations to Peter on fifty years of active ordained ministry.

150 years at Holy Trinity, Pontnewydd



On a warm, overcast Saturday afternoon, the 17th July, the crowds flocked to Holy Trinity Church in Pontnewydd to take part in the celebration of our 150th Birthday. Well over four hundred people came from all walks of life in our community, from neighbouring parishes, and from across the border. A great festival atmosphere prevailed. During the afternoon, entertainment was provided by the Pontnewydd Male Voice Choir, Pontnewydd Ladies Choir who performed intermittently with songs from popular musicals, joined by Derek Williams, one of our young members, an accomplished trumpeter, who charmed us with his virtuoso performances. As the sun began to shine, the children took part in many activities in the grounds of the church: football, cricket, tennis, a treasure hunt and other lively events.

The Church was vibrant with many people renewing old friendships over teas and refreshments. Limited edition commemorative mugs were produced, together with fridge magnets and a commemorative booklet chronicling a brief history of the Church from 1860 to the present. A display of photographs, was also mounted, exhibiting the various aspects of church life over the years; this display will be added to and will continue throughout the year.

On Sunday morning, the 18th July, a Commemorative Festive Service took place when Bishop Dominic presided at the Eucharist attended by many dignitaries. The Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Torfaen, the Right Honourable Paul Murphy MP, many Borough and Community Councillors and, of course, that great body of wonderful and faithful people who have made our church the vibrant and lively place of worship that it has always been. An exhilarating two days of celebration, and one which will remain in our memories. The last words in the commemorative booklet says it all:

“Holy Trinity Church has been a house of prayer, a place of peace, a source of blessing on work and life for 150 years in Pontnewydd. And so we thank God for the heritage of the past, the privilege of the present, the opportunity of the future, and we look forward with confidence and with faith to the next fifty years and our bi-centenary, and to seeing you at that celebration!”

The Revd Harald Thomas

*Photograph: I to r:
Revd Canon David Brunning (a past incumbent), Revd Harald Thomas, the Bishop of Monmouth, Revd Dorothy Thomas, Revd David Dunn (Vicar).*



Prisons Week 2010 - "Be with Me"

Prisons are seldom out of the public gaze and, sadly, the portrayal is often negative and the response of the public is often caricatured by equally negative media comment. How does the Christian respond and how does this relate to the Gospel? This is always at the heart of Prisons Week which, this year, is from **21-27 November**.

Prisons Week was established to pray for and raise awareness of all affected by the reality of prisons. This year the theme is 'Be with Me', a theme that comes from the encounter of Jesus with the Penitent Thief on Good Friday. The prayer leaflet says "The Gospel Reading for the Sunday in Prisons Week takes us to the Cross where we see entwined the horror of a broken world being overcome by the wonder of the love of God. In a place where isolation and division seemed dominant, we hear the words of Jesus to the penitent thief, "You will be with me in Paradise", words that brought hope to an isolated and broken person. The challenge of the theme of "Be with me" is to pray and work for all affected by prisons, and for all who seek to bring this hope and assurance, that all may respond to the call of God and know the blessing of being with Him."

The Prayer Leaflet can be downloaded from www.prisonsw.org. The website also has other resources for study and worship including Prayers and Reflective Diaries from victims, prison staff, prisoners, families, volunteers and other people active in the justice system.

If you would like to know more about Prisons Week and the work of prison chaplains contact:
Revd Prebendary Bob Payne by email at bob.payne@ukgateway.net
or Gareth Barton by email at garethbarton@talktalk.net

Prison Chaplains in this area are
Fr Nick Sandford, the Coordinating Chaplain of H.M.Prison Usk and
Fr Mark John, the Coordinating Chaplain of H.M.Prison Cardiff and
Area Chaplain for Wales.



PRISONS WEEK

One of the most difficult things we can humanly do is to stand alongside someone in different circumstances to ourselves. Few of us can understand the isolation, loneliness and hopelessness of prison. And this not only affects those within the prison system but their families, their victims, and those who work there. Judges and police too, often work alone and the responsibilities of directly and justly deciding the future of another human being must weigh heavily on them. Christians rejoice that Jesus himself shares that same sense of imprisonment, and that he walks alongside all who live in loneliness. This Prisons Week is a chance to identify in prayer with those who need compassion and understanding, those whose lives have been broken through their own mistakes and the deeds of others. I commend this Week in a spirit of freedom, recalling always that Jesus came to proclaim liberty to the captive and freedom to those imprisoned.

+ **Barry Cambrensis,**
Archbishop of Wales

Arriva Trains Wales - Club 55

Travel anywhere on the
Arriva Train Wales network

for only
£15
return

We are told that, until 11 December, Arriva is again running an offer called 'Club 55'. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/Club55> but essentially the offer is that those aged 55 or above can travel anywhere on the Arriva Trains Wales Network for £15 return. (Anyone with a senior railcard or disabled persons railcard travels for £13 return.)

There appear to be relatively few restrictions on the offer. It is a 'walk up' fare: advance booking on specific trains is not necessary. The only trains excluded from the scheme are those arriving into Cardiff Central (or other termini) before 9.30am and trains to Cardiff on Rugby International Days (6, 13, 19 and 27 November). Proof of age may be asked for when travelling but is not required when booking.

Channel 69 compensation

Ofcom have published the details of a compensation package for users of licensed wireless microphone systems whose equipment may effectively be made redundant following changes to spectrum allocation due to take effect in 2012.

This is likely to affect large churches and cathedrals currently using Channel 69, which tend to be those using four or more wireless microphones, or those in dense urban areas which have experienced problems with interference in the use of unlicensed channels. Compensation of up to 55 per cent of the cost of replacement equipment, or modification costs up to the same amount, are likely to be available to such churches if they held a valid Channel 69 licence during 2008.

It is, however, vital that such churches register with the scheme administrator between September and December this year, in order to be eligible for the compensation. For more details on how to register, see Ofcom's detailed material on http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/pmse_funding/.

Your PA installation company should also be able to help with further advice.

Monmouthshire's Strategy for Older People

Monmouthshire County Council has drafted a strategy that sets out how the accommodation and support services for older people will be developed in the County in the coming years.

For details and/or copies of the draft strategy (including alternative formats), please contact: **Chris Robinson on 01633 644480 or 07530167996** or by email to: chrisrobinson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Rural Hub

From bovine TB to affordable housing – the challenges facing rural Wales will come under the spotlight in a year-long programme of seminars which was launched at the Royal Welsh Show today by Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones and has been organized by the Church in Wales, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, to address and tackle the needs of today's rural communities.



The Hub was based on feedback from the Church's Rural Life Advisers and clergy who serve in rural parishes. It aims to bring people together to find robust and creative ways to regenerate rural communities. Each seminar will have a speaker and round table discussions.

The seminars will be open to all who are interested, and will take place at the Royal Welsh Showground. Free parking is available. Each seminar will cost £12 per head (payable to 'RBCIW' at 39, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9XF) but clergy attending from this diocese can apply for a bursary.

Chinese Sky Lanterns

The last issue of the newsletter featured the use of a sky lantern to illustrate Pentecost.

Since then, I have been made aware of concerns about these lanterns. Not only can it be dangerous lighting them in what may be an excited group of adults and children but also the smouldering remnants falling onto crops or property are a fire hazard and the wire frames potentially lethal to livestock. Coastguards may mistake them for distress flares.

There are safety guidelines for their use. Google 'sky lanterns' to find information on the internet.

Janet Bone

Programme: all seminars run from 10.30am to 3.30pm

7th October 2010	The nature of rurality in Wales and the churches' involvement
3rd December 2010	The pastoral care of agricultural communities and families
4th February 2011	CAP changes, and terminology or farming 'speak'
11th March 2011	Livestock husbandry, crop production and sustainability
27th May 2011	The rural economy
24th June 2011	The role of statutory agencies in rural areas
16th September 2011	Identity and belonging within a rural context
18th November 2011	Doing theology in a rural context
3rd February 2012	Leading and managing the rural church
23rd March 2012	Science, technology, engineering, maths, medicine – the ethical issues

For information leaflet, booking form and details of bursaries, please contact: Revd Tim Clement, Diocesan Rural Life Adviser on 01873 880258 or timtherec@talk21.com

@ Communication Matters @

More and more of us are using email these days. Diocesan communications are now routinely sent electronically and the Bishop expects all the clergy to be on email. But, email is a mixed blessing, great when it is used well, not so good when some basic guidelines are not observed. Here are some pointers which will help your business emails be read, acted on promptly, and filed for easy future reference.

When you set up your email account, either using an email programme on your computer (such as Outlook) or using a webmail service (such as gmail) you will be asked to fill in the name which will show as 'sender'.

Do put your name as something which clearly identifies you. Messages coming from 'John' or 'Mary' or 'Superman' are much more likely to be filtered straight into the spam folder and never read.

Do put a subject line which sums up what the email is about - just as you would in a formal letter. When the recipient is looking through hundreds of emails all headed 'hello' or 'faculty', it is very hard to spot yours. If the subject line says: 'Parish of St Blog's: PCC question about parish share 2011', then it is more likely to be dealt with promptly.

Do not reply to one email with another on a different subject. **Do** send a separate email for each separate subject - it really helps your recipient file your messages where they can be found again when needed.

Do think twice before you hit the send button - just as you would before posting a letter! Is this clear? Is this all I need to say or do I need to gather more information? Is the attachment attached and the subject clearly stated? Do I actually need to send this message or will it just fill up someone else's inbox?

And how do you deal with all the emails that drop into your own Inbox?

Do clear your Inbox regularly. Read the messages and file them in another folder. So.....

Do set up folders into which you can move messages to help you find them later. 'Work', 'PCC business', 'party', etc.

Do find out about and use the 'labels' or 'tags' that your programme provides. eg 'Needs reply', 'To Do', 'Information'.

7 steps to great emailing - if only I always followed my own advice!

Janet Bone, Diocesan Communication Officer

St Mellons Church in Wales School does it again!

I wonder how many people realise that Church Schools always have two inspections? The one that everyone knows about is the Section 28 General Inspection. The other one is the Section 50 Religious Education (RE) Inspection. Most Church Schools choose to have them running side by side – no mean feat!

Six years ago we had an inspection which was so good that the Registered Inspector (himself a churchman) told us to go out and celebrate. This year we had the dreaded brown envelope and wondered if we could repeat the process. We were actually very impressed with the inspection team who reported back on the very day they completed the inspection. The inspection process is governed by Estyn who ask teams to award gradings in seven areas – called The Seven Key Questions. Grading varies from 1 (top of the shop) to 5. The inspectors awarded us five Grade 1s and two Grade 2s. In two areas they actually increased our grading from 2 to 1 “because of the number of outstanding features identified in standards and teaching”. Very good stuff indeed.

The Section 28 Inspectors acknowledged the Christian/Church in Wales ethos of the school and parents’ choice of our school as a Christian place of learning. In their judgement of Standards and Quality of Education and Training they were able to tell us that the grading 1 was well above the national average in Wales.

Now if you think that the Section 28 report excelled all expectations wait for Section 50 – RE. In this section the inspector awarded Grade 1s in every area. It was not possible to improve on this judgement. I was really proud of this as this is, obviously, the area where I hoped a Church in Wales School would shine. The inspector complimented the school on its ethos, acts of worship (including the eucharist where learners take part in the planning), links with the parish of St Mellons and the Christian leadership and management of the school as well as the quality of lessons.

Well done to all concerned and thanks to the Diocese for its help and support.

David Kellen, Vicar of St Mellons and Chair of Governors

We've been to Lambeth and Number 10

Few people can say they have been invited to lunch by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, but this is what happened to some Abergavenny pupils on their recent trip to London. Year 6 pupils from Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales Primary School enjoyed lunch in the grounds of Lambeth Palace on their first day in the capital city. They spent three days and two nights in London and also managed a visit to No10 Downing Street, arranged for them specially by their local MP, David Davies.

Other highlights were a ride on the London Eye, a boat trip on the Thames, a visit to the Science Museum and to see top West End musical The Lion King. They walked all around London including the 312 steps of the Monument!

Some of the cost of their trip was raised by the children themselves with a duck race in Swan Meadows. They sold ducks to members of the public in Abergavenny town centre and want to thank everyone who supported their own fund raising efforts.

Money was also raised by staff who held a sleepover at the school for all age groups.



To keep in touch, visit the diocesan website: www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Do not say to your neighbour, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" when you now have it with you.
Proverbs 3:28 (New International Version)

How many times have I resented someone wanting something when it is inconvenient to me? How many times has this happened to you?

It is said that John Wesley had a motto, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

I think about how short I really fall from this. But, as a servant to Christ, I should be willing surely to try and meet with the Wesley motto.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

When God puts someone in need right in front of us, he is giving us the opportunity to grow in servanthood. We may miss many occasions for serving because we sometimes lack sensitivity and spontaneity. Great opportunities to serve never last long. They pass quickly, sometimes never to return again. We may only get one chance to serve that person, so take advantage of the moment.

Sometimes we reason that we are not good enough to live in the moment for God, or that we do not have the skill, or that we are worried about mucking it up. When God is in charge we should not muck things up. We will be given what we need to complete the task. Stepping out in faith sometimes means stepping out of the boat into the water like Peter did. We take the first step just like a child takes their first step, we may wobble and fall down, but the Lord will always pick us up again, brush us down and set us on our journey again. Remember, we learn from our mistakes.

St Benedict had a rule that, "First of all, every time you begin a good work, you must pray to God most earnestly to bring it to perfection." If we try to undertake any good work to perfection, then we are trying our best at all times, whether in our everyday jobs, our work within our church family, or the work we do at home with our friends and families. To aim at bringing it to perfection means that whatever we do and whenever we do it, we will hopefully come near to meeting Wesley's motto.

So let us try and never let that moment pass without us doing something about it there and then. Remember: Do not say to your neighbour, "Come back later, I'll give it tomorrow", when you now have it with you.

Rick Hayes, Diocesan Evangelist

Music and Flowers

Organ and Flute Recital St Mary's Church, Risca 23rd October 7pm

ENTRY £5 (inc. a free drink)
in aid of St Woolos' roof appeal

Organ: Christopher Denton
Flute: Helen Vaughan

For tickets or more info contact:
Helen Vaughan: 01633614477 / 07929902113
or email
helenv392000@yahoo.com

West Gallery Music Workshop and Concert

Saturday 9th October at
St Thomas's Church, Redwick

The Christminster Singers led by Dave Townsend (nationally and internationally renowned in early music and folk music fields and a fantastic workshop leader)

West Gallery music as sung in churches in the C18 and early C19, go to www.christminster-singers.org.uk where you can hear samples of the music - it's fun!

Workshop £5, 3-5pm, starting with tea/coffee at 2.30. No previous experience necessary.

Concert 7.30pm. £7 (concessions £6)
NB if it turns chilly, remember to wrap up warmly!!!!

Linda Hall needs workshop numbers by the end of September.
Tel 01633 889019.

Christmas Past and Christmas Present

at the Greenmeadow Golf & Country Club, Treherbert Road, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran.

Christmas Afternoon Tea

1.45pm – 5pm
on Thursday 25 November

Compare bygone days to Christmas Present! An expert from Newport Museum will be giving a talk and showing examples of Christmas Past. 'Simply Christmas' will be presenting examples of Christmas Present.

There will be stalls, a raffle and a quiz with lots of prizes and surprises!
Tickets £7

Contact Kate Staton 01633 881281

All profits raised for The Mothers' Union to be donated Home & Abroad.

Knightsbridge comes to St Woolos...take 5

For the fifth year running, the Cathedral is holding a gala evening of music sung by its renowned choir, interspersed with seasonal readings read by local celebrities. Following the Concert there will be a Champagne Reception. Proceeds from the event on Thursday, November 25th at 7pm will go towards the one million pounds needed to restore the cathedral roof.

Book your tickets (£25 per head) by calling 01633 212077 or from the cathedral shop.

**Further information: Fr Mark Soady
Tel:07968753978
info@newportcathedral.com**

Flower Festival.....AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD....

inspired by G F Handel's *Messiah*
St Cadoc's church, Caerleon, 24th - 28th November
Newport Floral Society; Designer: Elizabeth Graham

Wed 24: Preview Evening 7.30pm with Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Tickets £8

Thurs, Fri, Sat: festival open 10am - 4pm. Sun: festival open 12noon - 3pm
Tickets £3. Refreshments available

7.30pm **Fri 26**: **St Cadoc's Chamber Choir** featuring music used as inspiration for the festival. Tickets £6, concessions £5

4pm Sun 28: Festival closes with the **Advent Carol Service**

For more information or group bookings for meals on site:
contact Carolyn Benavides 01633 423242

GAZETTE

Appointments

Revd Linda Betty Griffiths, NSM curate, Newbridge;
to be NSM curate, Risca (5Sep)

Resignations

Revd Dr John Kenneth Plessis, Assistant Curate of Abergavenny;
to be Chaplain to The Cathedral School, Llandaff (31 Oct)

Confirmations

17th October	10 am	St Mary's, Monmouth
24th October	6 pm	St John's, Maindee
31st October	10 am	St David's, Troestry
17th November	6 pm	Cathedral
21st November	10 am	Caldicot
23rd November	7.30 pm	Griffithstown
28th November	11 am	Pontypool
5th December	10 am	Tredegar
12th December	10.30 am	St Mark's, Newport

Thank you, Roz

Some 23 years ago Roz Capper (wife of Bob, then Vicar of Malpas) was 'head-hunted' to come onto the Monmouth and Llandaff Diocesan Housing Association to help with Monmouth Diocese's interest in the association and to be able to help if medical factors were relevant to assessing possible housing residents. Quite quickly, she became involved in the more general work of the housing association. She continued on the board during the processes of merger and amalgamation, first, with the former British Legion Association, into 'Gwerin', and then with another south-east Wales association into 'Melin homes'.

She has just announced her retirement from this work and, although the Monmouth and Llandaff Diocesan Housing Association is now a distant memory in the life of this diocese, it is right to acknowledge that, having taken on the work in response to Archdeacon Barrie Evans' request all those years ago, Roz has continued that commitment to social housing because she felt it was a really practical way of being involved in helping people down the bottom of the social ladder.

Diocesan Newsletter - can you help?

Mary and Malcolm Jones are now counting out and delivering all the newsletters to the deaneries. It is a lot of work for the two of them and they would appreciate some help.

Can you come to the Diocesan Office at 10am on the Thursday before the fourth Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November to help count out the newsletters into bundles and then deliver them to the deanery distribution points? Coffee is provided and mileage paid.

If you can help in this way, please contact Gail Horton in the Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Road, Newport; 01633 267490;
gailhorton@churchinwales.org.uk

Thank you.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

Articles should be no more than 300 words. Please send text in a text format or typed. Photos need to be either .jpg format or professional quality prints.

Photos of children MUST have parental permission for publication in the newsletter and on the website

Editor:

Revd Janet Bone, Monmouth Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Rd, Newport NP20 4HJ
janetbone@churchinwales.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE: Copy Date: 31 October Publication on 25 November

Ceilidh

On Saturday November 6th there will be a Ceilidh (a barn dance) at 7pm at **Ponthir Village Hall**. The music and a caller will be provided by the ever popular 'Parsley Hay' and the admission charge of £10 (£5 for children under 16) will also include a light buffet.

Tickets are available from Mr Ray Sambrook (01633 420660)

The Railways Of My Youth

On Friday 15th October at 7.00pm at **St. Paul's Church, Newbridge**.

A talk based on the railways locally and wider afield. It will be well worth coming, and the donations will help towards the Church Roof Repair Fund. Contact Father Ron Jefford on **01495 243975** for further information.

Swansea University, Theology Public Lectures

Swansea may seem a long way to go but the University Chaplain, Revd Nigel John, organises a series of top-class public lectures. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

The next in the series is

"Sisters Of Sinai"

by Professor Janet Soskice
at 7pm on Friday, 22nd October in the James Callaghan Lecture Theatre

Sisters of Sinai (a book recently written by Professor Soskice) tells an extraordinary story of 19th century exploration; how two Scottish sisters made one of the most important ancient manuscript finds of the age. Hidden in a cupboard beneath the monastic library at St Catherine's in the Sinai desert the twins discovered what looked like a palimpsest: one text written over another. It was Agnes who recognised the obscure text for what it was - one of the earliest copies of the Gospels written in ancient Syriac.....

Janet Martin Soskice is a Roman Catholic. She is Professor of Philosophical Theology at Cambridge University and a Fellow of Jesus College Cambridge. As well as lecturing around the world, she writes for *The Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement* and is a frequent contributor to radio and television.

For further information please contact the Revd Nigel John, Anglican Chaplain at Swansea University on telephone 01792 205678 ex. 4442 or email n.john@swansea.ac.uk

Details of the series are posted on the Monmouth Diocesan website
News / Noticeboard

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk