



# MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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MYNŴY

Number/Rhif 191

Easter/Pasg 2011



## *A 'Taizé' Candlemas at Mynyddislwyn*

Young musicians provided the Taizé music for the Mynyddislwyn Benefice Candlemas service at St Mary's, Penllwyn. The majority of the service was organised by one of the young people, Vikki Jackson.

*Mary Humphries*



## *The Real Easter Egg: Putting Jesus back into Easter*

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is.

**The Real Easter Egg** is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

They are £4.50 each. Some supermarkets have agreed to sell them and they are available from Bishopstow (01633 263510) and The Tithe Barn, Abergavenny (01873 858787). Bishop Dominic will be taking some around with him during his Lent talks.

[www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

diocesan website: [www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## A New Visiting Team at Goetre

When the Revd Dr Stephen James arrived at St Peter's, Goetre, he soon realised that he wasn't going to be able to visit people as frequently as he wanted to in the time he had available. Forming a team of visitors was therefore a priority, which was included in the parish's Mission Action Plan.

Several people in the parish were identified as potential visitors, and offered to help and be trained. This coincided with the introduction of *Learning Alive!*, the diocesan lay training programme, so Stephen contacted Lisa Tregenza, the Learning Development Adviser, to arrange some training.

"The training was informal and friendly, yet very informative," says Stephen. "Lisa was able to adapt the content to our parish and personal situations, and the training was very well received." And Sue James, one of the visiting team, praised the training, saying that she thought it was excellent, with well-prepared resources. She described Lisa as "enthusiastic, friendly and humorous, with a good ability to respond to the needs of the group."

Jan Bennett, another member of the visiting team, commented that "all three courses – 'The Practicalities of Making a Visit', 'Visiting the Sick', and 'Visiting the Bereaved' – were enlightening. "If anyone is thinking of going along this path, please don't hesitate. Not only will you be helping your minister with his or her workload but you will be giving a welcome service to your community."

Those being visited by members of the team, and their families, certainly appreciate the initiative. One described her visitor as "a ray of sunshine in my life", and the daughter of another commented that "forming a visiting team was a great idea. Having someone visit is not only a benefit to my mother, but also gives us a break."

If your parish is thinking about training a visiting team, please contact the Learning Development Adviser, Ms Lisa Tregenza, on **07800 892171** or [LDA@monmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:LDA@monmouthdiocese.org.uk)



*Members of the Visiting Team at St Peter's, Goetre, with the Revd Dr Stephen James: from left to right, Sue James, Heather Smith, Jan Bennett and Geraldine Morgan. Another member of the team, Liz Entwistle, was not able to be there when the photo was taken*

## Festival at St Paul's, Blaenavon, with Capel Newydd



The idea of "A Week of Festivities to celebrate the conversion of St Paul" was hatched during a planning meeting on a dark November night to discuss outreach – and what an inspired idea Paul, the warden had! After several meetings, a programme was put together, posters were designed and put up around the parish.

The festival began on Sunday 23rd January when we celebrated the Conversion of St Paul with a Solemn High Mass. This service included a renewal of all our Baptism vows to emphasise our own commitment to Christ. It was also the start of a Gift Day, which proved to be very fruitful. During the service, Fr Jason Bray reflected on the feelings of St Paul: on the road to Damascus, he had met the risen Lord and spoken to him face to face; now, facing death, he would see him face to face again.

On Tuesday we held a service titled 'The Saints of Saint Paul's', not quite a Requiem Mass, more of a memorial giving people the opportunity to remember past worshippers and loved ones. This was again well-supported and was a moving service helped in no small way by the musical accompaniment of Phoebe Swaddling on the flute, and Robin, our organist.

On Saturday we held a Healing Mass. This was a special service for the parish as Mrs Joy Dash, the first of the lay Healing Ministers trained by Revd Sr Anita Woodwell, was commissioned. Joy then joined the clergy in the laying on of hands. The service was made even more memorable for Joy, by her family and church family coming out in numbers to support her in her new and exciting ministry.

Sunday, Candlemas, saw the culmination of the week's festivities, when I was privileged to celebrate at the Solemn High Mass, and then administer Benediction, with the Blessed Sacrament for the first time. This really was a fantastic way to finish what had been a thoroughly enjoyable week.

The outreach objectives of this festival week seem to have succeeded as new faces from the previous Sunday returned with others. Perhaps the grape vine had told them how good the wine was....?

*Fr Rob Lindsay, Curate*



## Dean is elected Bishop of St Helena

The Dean of Monmouth, the Very Revd Dr Richard Fenwick, has been elected as Bishop of St Helena by the Bishops of the Synod of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa. The Diocese of St Helena is in the South Atlantic Ocean and includes Ascension Island. He will be consecrated in George, South Africa, on 7th May and Bishop Dominic will be there to represent Monmouth and the Church in Wales.

The Dean knows St Helena well. He is chairman of the St Helena Diocesan Association in the UK and has worked on the island several times. During his last visit he installed a new organ in St Paul's Cathedral, which is situated up in the hills, some five miles from the capital, Jamestown. As well as being the Bishop he will also be the Dean and in charge of the cathedral parish. He says: *"It is a diocese with a wonderful church tradition, and through the 152 years since it was founded, it has sent so many 'Saints', both clergy and laity to serve the people of the world. It makes me very proud, and very humble, to think that I will be taking part in that long history of service."*

### *Bishop Dominic writes...*

I was stopped in a department store and asked, 'What has the Dean done to upset you? Why is he being exiled to St Helena?' I am sure that he has had similar quips since being elected as Bishop of St Helena because the island is best known as the place where Napoleon was exiled. I know that a number of people have dug out their atlas to find St Helena in the middle of the south Atlantic Ocean.

Whilst I have not had the pleasure of visiting St Helena, I have heard a lot about it because the last two Bishops of St Helena were members of the same Religious order as me, and three of our priest brothers have also served on the island. It must be the remotest and smallest diocese in the world where the Bishop has to wear at least three ecclesiastical hats – as bishop, dean and parish priest. He also has to play his part as having precedence after the Governor General and also as a bishop of the Anglican Province of Southern Africa. I am sure that Richard will make an excellent Bishop of St Helena and enjoy his time living on such a beautiful island and also visiting Ascension Island. I know that he will serve the clergy and people there with his inimitable good humour, love and pastoral care.



*The Dean tightens the last bolt in the scaffolding ready for work to begin on the Cathedral roof. While work is progressing, mid-week morning Services will be held in Chapter House (previously called Cathedral Hall), mid-week evening and Sunday Services will be held in the cathedral itself.*

Richard has been Dean for fourteen years and brought to our cathedral his experience as a parish priest, a musician, a scholar and having served Westminster Abbey and St Paul's, Rochester and Guildford Cathedrals. He has also contributed to the diocese his expertise as our organ adviser and served the Province as chairman of the Liturgical Commission. He initiated the restoration appeal at Newport Cathedral, and it is good to see major repairs underway.

I shall miss Richard's support and friendship and thank him for his service to the Church in Wales and in particular to the Diocese of Monmouth. I also want to thank his wife Jane for her quiet support and also for her wonderful playing of the harp. We shall miss them both and hold them in our prayers as they take on this new ministry and adventure.

I am grateful to those who have contributed towards the gift of a pastoral staff (crozier) that I shall present to Richard. It will be a symbol of our love for him and also a symbol of his new role as a shepherd to the 'saints' (as the people of St Helena are known). The Farewell Service will be Evensong and take place at the Cathedral on Sunday, 7th April at 6.30 p.m. and all members of the diocese are most welcome to attend.

Yours ever in Christ,

+ *Dominic*



The Revd Canon Jeremy Winston, Vicar of Abergavenny, is to be the new Dean of Monmouth. He will be installed in the Cathedral on Saturday 10th September.

Announcing the appointment, the Bishop said: *"Canon Jeremy Winston is a senior and experienced priest who will bring many gifts in serving as Dean of Newport Cathedral. He is aware of the need for the church to reach out into the community it serves and of the need to preserve the building for future generations. I know that he will work tirelessly to strengthen the Cathedral as the Mother Church of the diocese and to make it a place of prayer and welcome."*



## Green is good!

Young people from The College Rhymney are working with the community at St David's Church on small projects to benefit the environment and the community.

One project involved young people making bird boxes to encourage wildlife in the church grounds at St David's. Further plans are underway for the young people to provide and make seats for local people to use in this restored churchyard and church. These will enable space and resources for quiet reflection.

These projects also encourage young people to understand the needs of the community and help foster a feeling of ownership of our community. They aim to engage young people who come to the college, often having been excluded from main stream school, to work with them rather than against them. More often than not, this is the first encounter with the living church of God. It's a fabulous opportunity to take the Christian message out of the church and into the secular, meeting people where they are on their terms and in their comfort zone. We firmly believe this is the way forward with our young people and that all people are but a few conversations away from conversion.

Fr Mark Owen is extremely grateful for the time and effort of the College and its young people for their sterling efforts.



## Heart to Heart at Magor

Over five hundred brightly-coloured hearts decorated the Magor Church Centre on the weekend of 19th-20th February. Made by members of local churches and by children at

Magor and Undy schools, they had been produced for the Magor Benefice 'Heart to Heart' exhibition, the idea of Team Vicar, Revd Celia Jones.

Covering the walls, hanging from the ceiling, displayed on tables and in scrapbooks, the hearts made a spectacular show. Coloured paper, card, plastic, family photographs, and even an old bicycle chain, had been



used to make them. One sixty year-old had written out the story of his first love, 45 years ago!

Tied to each heart was a label explaining what it meant to the person who had made it. Some were funny, many were thought-provoking or poignant. The many people who visited throughout the day were amazed at the variety of materials and talents involved.



Mike Hall

## Raven House Christmas Appeal

Every year at the Mothers Union Advent Carol service, each MU branch in Bedwellty Deanery makes up food parcels of dry goods to be distributed by Raven House Trust. This year it was decided to make up a super-duper hamper which was to be raffled amongst everyone who attended the Carol Service, and to give the proceeds to Raven House to be used appropriately.

Of course, the weather intervened and the Carol service was cancelled. Each MU branch was contacted and raffle tickets sold in each individual church. Matthew, our Vicar, chose the winning ticket which had been sold in Newbridge branch to Mr D Powell. Revd Val Hodges collected the hamper and delivered it to the winner. A cheque for £250 was sent to Raven House Trust as a result of the raffle.

Janie Hughes, St Margaret's MU, Blackwood.





*Here I am – send me:  
Ministry and Calling Sunday,  
5 June 2011*

**Here I am – send me.** There are few more powerful affirmations of faith than these simple five words. They were the words uttered by the Old Testament prophet

Isaiah and they resonate with everyone who has offered themselves for ordination. They sum up the nature of ministry – a confident, complete and voluntary response of service to the work of God.

This is why these words have been chosen by the Church in Wales to help raise awareness of the nature of vocation – a calling to live a life of serving God by being ordained as a priest and leading the church into the future. In this busy, noisy world in which we live today, it's not always easy to hear the "still, small voice of calm" calling us to a different way of life. There are so many distractions and other demands it is difficult to pay attention to what we are really being called to do or to question the path we're on. Sometimes, it takes others who know us well to point it out to us before we start listening more carefully.

This year, for the second year running, we're putting one Sunday aside especially to pray for people who have a calling to ministry and to encourage others to consider whether they may have one too. **Ministry and Calling Sunday** will be held in Churches across Wales on June 5, the Sunday after Ascension. This Sunday comes just at that point of the Church's year when the disciples were waiting for the empowering of the Holy Spirit, as we are waiting for God's spirit to renew our Church in our own time.

Each church will be given a resource pack with relevant readings, reflections and prayers for those thinking about ordinations. There will also be postcards people can fill in if they feel they have a vocation and need advice about what to do next, as well as cards you can pass on to those you feel may have a vocation but who need a little nudge. These resources will also be available online at [www.churchinwales.org.uk/call](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/call) or, in Welsh, at [www.churchinwales.org.uk/galwad/](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk/galwad/)

We'll also be launching a website, which will be online at [www.vocationswales.org.uk](http://www.vocationswales.org.uk) from June 5, giving advice, contact details, news and resources for those who want to look into vocations more closely. If you're on Facebook then look up "Church in Wales Vocations".

The Church in Wales wants to seek and inspire a new generation of church leaders. In many ways, it's a practical desire – a third of our clergy currently serving are due to retire in the next five years. We don't believe God has stopped calling people but we do believe He is calling us to search out and develop new ways of being Church, and exercising ministry to sustain our life. Ordained ministry has still got an important role to undertake, and we all need to work together to seek out vocations – especially among younger people.

*Rt Revd Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph*



*Galwad i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru*

**St Mary's Priory Church, in Abergavenny,**

is holding a Festival of the Arts from June 1 to 5 which will feature music from brass bands to string quartets, and from Choral Evensong to a children's concert performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The highlight will be a Gala Festival Concert, complete with 27-instrument orchestra, on Saturday, June 4, featuring Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* and Mozart's *Requiem*. There will be exhibitions of art and ceramics, a photographic display from a local photographer and a quilt exhibition from London-based Vicki Glyn, who has recently exhibited at the V&A.

The Festival aims to bring a wide range of the arts to Abergavenny and to include as many of the community as possible - the performance of Joseph, for instance, will be free.

For more information please ring 01873 853168 or log on to [www.stmarys-priory.org](http://www.stmarys-priory.org)

**St Mary's Church, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran**

is holding

**A Flower Festival**

Arranged by the Pontypool & District Floral Art Society on

Friday May 20th from 10am - 6pm  
Saturday May 21st from 10am - 5pm  
Sunday May 22nd from 11am – 3pm

To view the flowers in the Church the charge is £5. This will include light refreshments

Address: Bryn Eglws off Woodland Rd NP44 2LF. It will be clearly signposted throughout the area.



## Glitter, glue and wiggle eyes:

### a new website to help churches be child-friendly

A new website packed with resources for Sunday School leaders and playgroup organisers aims to help make church a friendlier place for children and young families.

From advice on how to set up fun clubs or “messy church” to lists of store cupboard essentials for entertaining the under-10s (glitter, glue and wiggle eyes), the website is bursting with useful tips and suggestions for parishes keen to involve their youngest members.

It has been set up by the Children’s Network team of the Church in Wales who have pooled their extensive experience of organising activities for children in churches across Wales to help and inspire others.

Divided into different sections, it offers guidance on getting groups started, preparing for events, working with under-fives and finding resources, including those for the changing church seasons. Each section contains a comprehensive check-list of things to consider, including child protection procedures and regulations and training for leaders to ensure all young people in the church are safe and well looked after.

Launching the website, the Bishop of St Asaph, Rt Revd Gregory Cameron, said, “Children are a vital part of the life of the Church: worship is as much for them as for anyone else. It is important that we encourage and nurture them and look after their needs.

“Faith should be fun, and this new website has a whole host of new ideas and formats. It is full of expert advice from people who have done the job, know the pitfalls and the keys to success. It will undoubtedly become an indispensable toolkit for anyone worshipping with children and helping them to explore their young faith.”

Sue Collingbourne, the Children’s Network convenor, said, “We hope this website will put excellent resources and materials at the fingertips of all those who work with children in parishes. We hope it will encourage them to keep up-to-date with new developments and good practice and help ensure a welcoming church environment for children.”

The Children’s Network website can be found at  
[www.childrensnetworkwales.org.uk](http://www.childrensnetworkwales.org.uk)

## Dewi The Dragon



Dewi the dragon, he roams around Wales.  
His picture is on the Welsh flag, and it sails.  
Dewi the dragon, he stands tall and proud,  
“I am the dragon”, he booms right out loud.

Dewi the dragon, he plods towards fields,  
He sees loads of daffodils, they wiggle like eels.  
Dewi the dragon, he wants to see more.  
He wants to see daffodils, daffodils galore.

Dewi, he sees every good thing in Wales,  
From the tops of the mountains, to the books holding Welsh tales.  
He loves his country and he wants to know,  
What other places could he visit or go?

Dewi the dragon, he just wants to say,  
That he loves Wales in each and every way.  
Dewi, he wants you to love it too.  
It’s a brilliant country, for me and you.

*Ellie Courtman, aged 10,  
St David’s C/W Primary School.*

Ellie’s poem was a winner in the school  
Eisteddfod

## Welcome to Vicki Brackpool, Diocesan Children’s Adviser



Vikki (3rd from right) with some of the ‘Christmas Wrapped Up!’ team

### Vicki writes:

I was born and bred in Bristol but now live in sunny South Wales near Llantrisant with my husband Laurence and cat, Porsha! My degree brought me to Wales and I’ve stayed ever since. Following university I worked within education, running an administration department for UWIC. I then completed a PGCE and trained as a teacher with a sense that God was using it as a stepping stone for something else.

In 2006 I joined Scripture Union’s staff team and have enjoyed my time with them, working across Wales. I am excited about my new venture and the opportunities within Monmouth diocese for Children’s ministry to grow.

I am very encouraged to see so many great things already going on and the observant among you will have noticed my involvement already with Christmas Wrapped Up! in the Bedwellty Deanery.

I am looking forward to working with you and hope that together we can enable more children to be excited about the bible and Jesus, the centre of our faith.

*Vicki Brackpool, [children@monmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:children@monmouthdiocese.org.uk)*

## Usk's 'powerful' icon

Usk's Priory Church of St Mary possesses several significant treasures. To them has recently been added an icon of Christ Pantokrator. The Greek word *Pantokrator* is usually translated as 'All Powerful' and our new acquisition is indeed proving to be a powerful image to those who see it.

The icon was the result of a generous benefaction. The anonymous donor wanted to commission a work of art, something - to use his own words - 'that people will notice'. Eventually, an icon of Christ Pantokrator was settled upon.

Ian Knowles, an acclaimed iconographer, was approached to paint or 'write' our icon, icons being regarded in the Orthodox tradition as evangelical tools that communicate the Gospel in much the same way as do the written Scriptures.

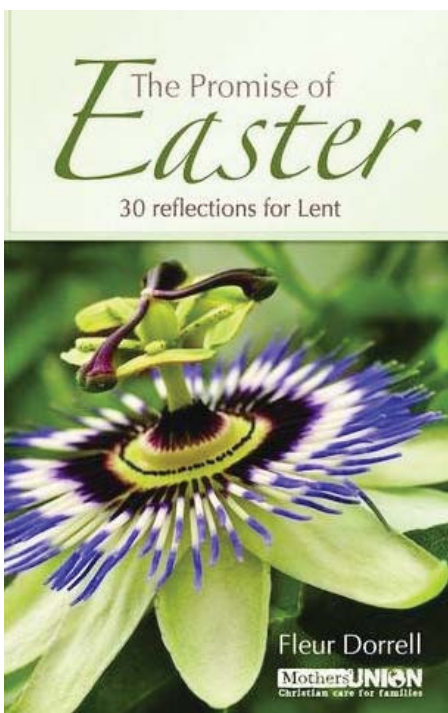
Ian, who teaches iconography in Bethlehem, travelled to Usk to write our icon in St Mary's. There, he was able to gain inspiration from the architecture, the colours and, above all, from the centuries of prayer offered within its walls.



People came to observe as Ian went about his work, learning more about the processes involved in creating icons and something of the rich spirituality associated with them. The fact that the icon was actually written in our church has engendered a sense that it belongs to the whole community.

St John of Damascus, the eighth century defender of icons, said that if a pagan asks a Christian to show him his faith, the Christian should take the pagan to a church and show him its icons. Those who visit St Mary's and see our Christ Pantokrator will quickly understand that Christianity proclaims an All Powerful God who, in Jesus, became human and 'dwelt among us, full of grace and truth'.

*Fr Julian Gray, Vicar of Usk*



*Lent Reading: "The Promise of Easter" by Fleur Dorrell*  
ISBN 9781 84101 788 4 BRF AND MU £4.99

Several years ago I reviewed *The Promise of Christmas* by Fleur Dorrell. Many readers will be glad to welcome a companion book by the same author, entitled *The Promise of Easter*. Busy church folk, clerics and laity alike, will value this Lent Book, which will help our journey towards Easter. As Fleur Dorrell writes in her introduction; "During Lent we are accompanying Christ in a unique way; on a journey that will lead to his death entirely for our sake .... Although we are spared all his agony, it is a time for us to pause and reflect, to pray and above all, stay close to Jesus".

In 30 scripturally-based reflections, this gifted and highly-qualified spiritual director introduces and considers six major themes: holiness, relationship, forgiveness, sacrifice, hope and love. Not only is fresh light thrown on familiar Bible readings, but the book also contains a series of creative exercises and suggestions for art images to aid prayerful reflection.

This small book is ideal for personal or group use, and is to be highly recommended. Copies are readily obtainable within our Diocese from the Mothers' Union enterprises – contact Mrs Anita Latham  
[email: aplatham3@btinternet.com](mailto:aplatham3@btinternet.com)

*Canon Terry Palmer*

## A Diamond Wedding Celebration stirs memories



Valda and Ralph Prosser celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a service of thanksgiving and blessing at All Saints Church in the benefice of Pontypool. Canon Brian Phippen and the Revd Malcolm Warren officiated. Present in the congregation were the couple's bridesmaids and close family.

Their wedding day songs were sung and the beautiful passage on Love from 1 Corinthians 13 was read by Judith Cahill. During communion, *Ave Maria* was sung and, after the couple's blessing by Fr Malcolm, Louise Hall sang *I will always love you* which she sang when she won *The Welsh X Factor* competition a few weeks before.

Valda and Ralph met at a dance in All Saints' Hall 63 years ago and they married in the mother church of St Luke, Pontnewynydd, which was sadly demolished in 1951.

Both Valda's family and my family have worshipped in All Saints for more than a century. My grandfather, who was a master stonemason, helped build the church in 1905 and Valda's grandmother was there at the opening. Both of us are now the third generation and still worshipping.

I would be interested to know if there is any other church in the diocese with a record like this.

*Christine Gittings 01495 759421*

## A retreat for the bereaved



Michaelgarth, Tymawr Convent (nr Monmouth) 16th to 19th June

We hope that this retreat will give you the time, and a safe space, to share your experiences, to explore where you are on the grief journey, and to share the resources for the work of grieving which we have discovered with one another.

Above all, this retreat is a time away from the demands of home, to be cherished and cared for, and to find some of the Peace of God in the present chaos.

**For more details please contact:  
Tymawr Convent 01600 860244  
Revd Jessica Aidley 01273 455 445  
or Helen Dacey on 01873 831037**

The suggested donation is £50 per night (£150 in all), but if this is too much, it can be waived.

## Parish Share 2010

'Thank You' posters are being sent to all parishes that have paid their 2010 parish share in full - have you received yours? If not, contact Stella Schultz at the Diocesan Office **01633 267490**

## Gwent's Living Churchyards Project draws to a close



The 3 year Gwent Living Churchyards project (hosted by Gwent Wildlife Trust and funded by HLF and CCW), has worked with individuals, groups and Local Authorities to inspire and educate people about our rich churchyard biodiversity. The project has been a great way of engaging local people with local wildlife in both urban and rural situations. Balancing the needs and

expectations of visitors, with the needs of wildlife can sometimes be a challenge, but when achieved can have special rewards for both.

The churchyard - 'God's Acre' - is one of the most enduring features of our landscape. Over the centuries, many churchyards have become sanctuaries for the living as well as the dead, where an abundance and diversity of wildlife can flourish. Taken together, Gwent's churchyards make a significant area of land that has survived untouched by wider landscape changes and development pressures.

The project has attracted interest from over 75 churchyards and cemeteries, and has worked most closely with its target of 25 sites. New data on the species and habitats of these churchyards has been collected and wildlife-friendly

care plans developed. In some churchyards this has meant identifying appropriate areas for trial wildflower meadow areas or delaying the cutting of margins, whilst in others creating reptile refuges, rebuilding stone walls or, in one case, building a new compost bin to replace an old pile located beneath a fantastic veteran yew tree. There have also been a diverse series of talks and training sessions including hedgerow planting and gravestone recording, as well as local churchyard open days and events from 'rake and bakes' to children's bug hunts.

Thanks are given to all those enthusiastic, active individuals and groups associated with Gwent's churchyards, who have embraced 'Living Churchyards' and encouraged others to join them.

Although the project itself has now finished, new churchyard web pages will soon be available on the Gwent Wildlife Trust website ([www.gwentwildlifetrust.org](http://www.gwentwildlifetrust.org)) - we hope the information, including examples of some of Gwent's Living Churchyards, will provide sources of inspiration and help to those of you considering developing your own living churchyard.

*Rebecca Price, 01600 740600  
Wildlife Projects Officer, Gwent Wildlife Trust*

## Parish Website Workshop

If your parish is thinking of having a website then do look at the parish website scheme which offers you a free website which is not dependent on an expert! There's a link from [www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk) Places are available on a workshop at 1pm on Friday 8th April - contact Janet Bone 01633 267490 (after 30 March)

# Passionate About Priesthood

The Additional Curates Society gives a grant to Newport Cathedral



The General Secretary, Father Darren Smith, was pleased to announce the first round of grants in 2011, which included payments to the Cathedral here in Newport, adding them to other parishes in this diocese that receive generous financial support.

For over 170 years the Additional Curates Society (ACS) has been strategic in the resourcing of the church's ministry throughout England and Wales, both in terms of the financial aid that it offers to parishes to help with the cost of assistant clergy and also with its vocational work organising conferences throughout the year and providing resource material for parishes to promote the sacred priesthood.

The founding Father, Joshua Watson, was genuinely concerned about the provision of priests for parishes. The Society has never lost track of its original charter; a Victorian Society with thoroughly modern aims, it recently re-launched with its new strap line "Passionate about Priesthood".



Revd Ray Hayter  
who has just taken  
up the post of Minor  
Canon at Newport  
Cathedral

ACS's links with Monmouth diocese have been numerous for many years both in terms of its giving to support ministry but also in its receipt of generous financial support from many within the diocese. In fact, two serving members of the Council are from this diocese, Canon Jeremy Winston and Father Malcolm Lane (the Treasurer).

Father Darren Smith says, "It is a real privilege for the society to be so involved in the diocese of Monmouth, a place that is well known for its missionary zeal. I am in no doubt that Joshua Watson would thoroughly approve of this ongoing relationship. Out of all the dioceses that we have links with there is not one to compare with Monmouth, both in terms of the support that we receive from parishes and the financial assistance we are able to return to you."

Full details of the Additional Curates Society can be found on their website [www.additionalcurates.co.uk](http://www.additionalcurates.co.uk) or by contacting the General Secretary at Gordon Browning House, 8 Spitfire Road, Birmingham B24 9PB, 0121 382 5533.

Why not visit their on-line shop or call Robert Jordan to discuss your printing requirements. The ACS still produce special bespoke Mass booklets according to the Church in Wales Rite.



Representatives from the 5 major world faiths, including the Bishop of Monmouth, joined the Chaplain, Fr Mark Soady, at the Dedication of a Prayer Room on the day the University of Wales, Newport City campus opened.

## BibleLands - so much more than a carol sheet.



BibleLands is a broad-based Christian charity working in partnership with local Christian organisations and projects in Lebanon, Israel/Palestine and Egypt. Our vision is to improve the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people, focusing on education, healthcare and community development.

I am a volunteer speaker, who has recently been on a tour in Israel/Palestine, and will consider any appropriate speaking opportunity for a cause close to my heart.

Prebendary Sam Ashton. 01873 860492 or email [sam.ashton2@btinternet.com](mailto:sam.ashton2@btinternet.com)

# Musical Interludes

## Australia Comes to Blackwood

The exotic sounds of the Australian Outback came to South Wales on the evening of Saturday 8 January 2011, courtesy of the fifty young voices of the St Peters Chorale. The choir, which is made up of students at St Peters Lutheran College, Brisbane, performed at St Margaret's Church, Blackwood, as part of its latest international tour, which included venues such as Singapore, Bayreuth, Rome and Florence, as well as a number of Cathedrals in the United Kingdom. Christine Taylor, one of the teachers accompanying the tour, said that they had been "bowled over" by the warmth of the welcome they had received in Blackwood.

The repertoire selected by the choir's director, Graeme Morton, included choral favourites by Palestrina, Bach, William Mathias and John Ireland, as well as introducing 'Northern Hemisphere' audiences to work by contemporary Australian composers. The atmospheric opening to the concert was provided by *Kondalilla* by Stephen Leek, with singers positioned all around the church giving voice to the sounds of Australian wildlife, in a challenging and complex piece. Later in the programme, tribute was paid to the country's Aboriginal heritage in a piece by Sarah Hopkins entitled *Past Life Melodies*, which showcased the technique called 'vocal harmonics', with two male voices producing sounds very like the didgeridoo.

The spirit of cultural exchange continued with the singing of the Welsh and Australian national anthems, and culminated in the choir and audience uniting for a spirited rendition of *Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer* to the tune *Cwm Rhondda*. Graeme Morton said that the choir were delighted to be able to experience genuine Welsh singing! Overall, the musical standard of the St Peters Chorale was impressive, with soloists and choir – aged between 15 and 17 – demonstrating high levels of musicianship and professionalism in their performances, as well as evidently deriving great enjoyment from making music together.

A total of £1,300 was raised from ticket sales, donations and from the generous donation by the choir of the proceeds of sales of their CDs, and was presented to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

[www.tyhafan.org](http://www.tyhafan.org)



The Revd Matthew Tregenza, Priest-in-charge of Blackwood, and Michael Wilcox, Director of Music at St Margaret's, Blackwood, present a cheque for £1,300 to Helen Young, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator at Ty Hafan, in front of the Handprint Wall

Lisa Tregenza

## The Llantilio Crossenny Music Festival 7th - 15th May

The first concert of the Llantilio Crossenny Music Festival took place in March 1960. A beautiful recital, it was arranged by Mrs Adams-Jeremiah, the county music organiser and Mr Charles Farncombe, a young conductor who both lived at the local village of Treadam.

In 1962, Charles Farncombe and Ceinwen Davies, with support from various organisations including the Arts Council of Wales, found enough money to put on the three Carissimi musical morality plays in May 1962 in which local schoolchildren took part.

The Festival is now an annual event. The week-long programme has included professional opera, an orchestral concert, a Jazz Concert, a children's opera involving Cross Ash School, talks, recitals, ballet, workshops for instrumentalists and wine tasting.

The Festival concludes with Choral Evensong, this year delighting in the newly installed organ. In 2012, its 50th year, the preacher will be the Archbishop of Wales.

This year, because of the Olympic Games funding, the Arts Council cannot support the Festival so that there will be no professionally-staged opera but the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet will play Mozart, Reicha, Ligeti and Francaix. Cross Ash School will stage the Magic Flute, and there will be a family musical fun day and an evening in Ronnie Scott style.



Revd David Osborn

## Music Sunday

The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) has set 26th June 2011 as the date for the next annual RSCM Music Sunday. Churches around the world are invited to celebrate the value of music in their services and the work of their musicians.

"Last year we had an enthusiastic response from all over the world," says Lindsay Gray, Director of the RSCM. "I'm encouraging churches, chapels, choirs and schools to make Music Sunday an annual celebration of all music in worship, whether it be hymns, worship songs, instrumental music or choral singing. It's also a celebration of the music-makers, both amateur and professional, who contribute so much to the life of their church."

Ideas and suggestions for RSCM Music Sunday, including reports on some of the 2010 initiatives, are available on the RSCM website, along with downloadable advice and resources to help churches organise and publicise their events.

[www.rscm.com](http://www.rscm.com)



## The Bishop's Lent Appeal



As usual, I am asking you to go without a meal on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays in Lent and to give the money that you would have spent on food to my Lent Appeal. Fasting is a prayer in action. It reminds us that we 'do not live by bread alone'. It heightens our spiritual awareness and is an act of solidarity with the millions of God's people who do not have enough food. You might also wish to give up something you enjoy like chocolate, alcohol, meat or cheese. As in the last two years, I shall divide the money raised from the Lent Appeal between projects at home and overseas.

### Overseas Project

The overseas project is to train **150 catechists for the Diocese of Niassa** in Mozambique. The Bishop of Niassa is Mark van Koevering, who with his wife Helen served in this diocese. Mozambique is the seventh poorest country in the world. The Diocese of Niassa is experiencing phenomenal growth and in the last seven years since Bishop Mark and Helen have been there, there has been a 97% growth in congregations with tens of thousands of people waiting and wanting to become Anglican Christians. This will only be possible if they can train catechists to go out and teach the people and plant churches. The catechists need to be trained and later many of them become priests. A residential training course costs £2,000 to train 30 people, so I hope we can send them £10,000 to train 150 catechists who in turn will each prepare hundreds of people for baptism and confirmation and enable them to plant new churches. As we struggle to grow our churches in this Diocese we can rejoice at being able to help to grow many churches in the Diocese of Niassa.

### Home Projects

This year, I have chosen three home projects, all run by volunteers. The first is to support the Monmouthshire branch of a Christian charity, **Farm Crisis Network**, to help provide expenses for the volunteers who minister to farmers facing hardship. The farming industry is facing many difficulties and farmers, by the very nature of their job, can feel very isolated. Sadly, the suicide rate among farmers is alarmingly high so it is good to have a Christian network that can provide support and friendship.

The other projects are two that we have supported over the past two years – the **Street Pastor scheme** and the **Newport Night Shelter**. Both projects have continued to grow and more volunteers are being trained. I hear wonderful stories of Street Pastors being able to have significant conversations with the young people they meet on the streets at night and I know that some of the people using the Night Shelter have found faith through the love in action shown by church volunteers.

## Ethical Savings

If you are looking for an ethical home for your money, why not think of joining your local Credit Union? Credit Unions are savings and loan co-ops, based in the local community and run by the members. Members' savings are used to make loans to other members, often at rates hundreds of pounds cheaper than they can get elsewhere. The interest paid supports the running costs of the Credit Union and pays a dividend on savings.

Gateway Credit Union now welcomes members from across Monmouthshire and Torfaen. Together with Newport Credit Union and Smart Money (Blaenau Gwent), they offer savings and loans services across the Diocese. Although their detailed policies vary, all three Credit Unions are dedicated to providing a practical alternative to doorstep lenders and loan sharks in our low income communities. Credit Unions in Wales have grown five-fold in the last ten years, supported by the Assembly. They now offer a competitive range of services, and are attracting members from all backgrounds. They are able to tailor borrowing to the member's circumstances, often lending small sums for household essentials and family emergencies. Most importantly, they encourage members to save, even if only a few pounds a week, and can help members with their money worries.

Credit Unions offer free life insurance on savings and loans. They offer a range of savings accounts including Christmas saver accounts, savings accounts for children, and Child Trust Fund accounts. While the Credit Union's face-to-face presence in your community is likely to rely on volunteers and hosted in a community building, all three Credit Unions now have staffed offices, and offer a range of payment methods.

Gateway Credit Union in particular is experiencing a rapid increase in demand for its low cost loans, and now seeks ethical investors to join and save. They are also keen to hear from new volunteers, especially in communities where they do not yet have a presence.

If you would like to know more, contact your local Credit Union.

**Gateway CU: 01495 750020 [www.gatewaycu.uk](http://www.gatewaycu.uk)**

**Newport CU: 01633 214913 [www.newportcreditunion.co.uk](http://www.newportcreditunion.co.uk)**

**Smart Money CU: 029 2088 3751 [www.smartmoneycreditunion.co.uk](http://www.smartmoneycreditunion.co.uk)**

*Sara Burch, Development Worker*

Bishop Dominic's Lent Appeal asks for help in providing basic ministry and training in Niassa, where **Helen and Mark van Koevering** have been serving for eight years. Their living costs have been paid in that time by USPG Anglicans in Mission, but this funding comes to an end this April and new funds have to be found if their work is to continue. Information about their work and ways in which you can support it is on

[www.niassa.anglican.org](http://www.niassa.anglican.org)

*Revd Patrick Coleman, 01495 212246*

### Ethics on the church agenda

Revd Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, principal of St Michael's College, Llandaff, will be looking at how churches can think ethically in today's world as he joins an international faith commission.

He has been appointed a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). The body, which was set up 40 years ago to promote unity between the two churches, will begin a new round of dialogue in May.

Its focus will be how local churches across the world can respond to a range of ethical issues such as abortion, capital punishment, cloning, the environment and consumerism. The talks are expected to last at least five years.

# GAZETTE

## Appointments

Revd Canon Jeremy Hugh Winston, Vicar of Abergavenny; to be Dean of Newport Cathedral (10 Sep)

Mr Arthur Thomas will be admitted as a member of the Order of St Woolos at the Cathedral on Sunday, 15th May at 6.30pm on the Sunday nearest his admission there as a Reader 60 years ago.

## Resignations

The Very Revd Dr Richard David Fenwick, Dean of Newport Cathedral; to be Bishop of the Diocese of St Helena (7 May)

## Confirmations

15 May	4.30pm	All Saints, Newport (+Richard Fenwick)
22 May		Bettws
29 June	6pm	St Dingat's, New Tredegar
3rd July	5pm	Nantyglo
18th September	10.30am	Ebbw Vale
20th November	am	Caldicot
27th November	am	Pontypool

## The Tithe Barn at St Mary's, Abergavenny,

stocks a selection of books including Bishop Dominic's recommended book, *Finding Hope and Meaning in Suffering*.

Titles based on the Rule of St Benedict include:

*Lent and Easter Wisdom from Saint Benedict* by Judith Suter, OSB  
*Seeking God: The Way of Saint Benedict* and other titles by Esther de Waal

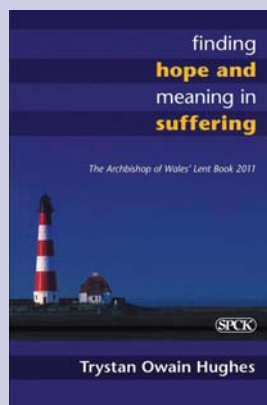
Crickhowell chocolatier, Jules James, will be demonstrating his art of truffle making in a **FREE** demonstration at the Priory Centre, Abergavenny, on Monday 18th April between 6pm and 8pm. This will be an ideal opportunity to purchase deluxe handmade Welsh chocolates in time for Easter!

**Real Easter Eggs** are on sale in the Tithe Barn.

The Tithe Barn is open from 9am - 5pm daily. Free entrance to the exhibition, with interactive displays, activities for the children and the chance to meet the ladies who worked on the 24 foot long Abergavenny Millennium Tapestry.

The Tithe Barn Foodhall now serves a traditional Sunday carvery. To avoid disappointment, please telephone 01873 851515 to reserve a table.

Follow the Tithe Barn on Twitter for latest news: [www.twitter.com/tithebarn](http://www.twitter.com/tithebarn)



***Finding Hope and Meaning in Suffering*** by Trystan Owain Hughes, the Anglican chaplain at Cardiff University who himself suffers from constant pain.

Chosen as the Archbishop of Wales' Lent Book, it is a remarkable and very readable book which has received outstanding reviews.

For Christians, belief in a loving God when there is so much pain and suffering in our world has always been a mystery. This book enables people to enter into this mystery and through pain and suffering to find resurrection joy in our own lives.



## LENT 2011

During Lent, the Bishop will be out and about in the Diocese sharing his love of St Luke's Gospel.

Each evening, he will talk for about 45 minutes and then answer your questions.

Those who have heard Bishop Dominic talk about the Scriptures, know how illuminating and inspiring these occasions are. In 2009 more than 800 people came to hear him talk about St John's Gospel. Will you increase that number in 2011? Even if you missed the first weeks, it's not too late to join in with the rest. Each evening (except Wednesday) starts at 7.30pm and finishes by 9pm.

**Monday:** St Cadoc's, Raglan

**Tuesday:** St Peter's, Blaina

**Wednesday:** Newport Cathedral **8pm**

**Thursday:** Pontprennau Community Church, St Mellons CF23 8LL

**Friday:** Magor Church Centre

**Please bring your Bible - and a friend!**

## Border Prayer Rooms

From Saturday 14th May to Saturday 28th May a relay of prayer will move along the border, linking churches in England and Wales who will pray for each other's communities.

Four churches in this Diocese are taking part. The 'baton' will arrive in Abergavenny on 24th May, pass to Overmonnow and then to Llandogo and on to Chepstow.

Look out for more information on [www.borderprayer.co.uk](http://www.borderprayer.co.uk)

## DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER - NEXT ISSUE

Articles should be no more than 300 words. 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**

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### NEXT ISSUE:

Copy Date: 28 April  
Publication on 19 May

**your diocesan website**  
[www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk)