



MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the new Dean of Monmouth



l to r: Fr Malcolm Lane, the Very Revd Jeremy Winston, the Bishop, the Archdeacon of Monmouth, Dean William Mostert of St Dunstan's Cathedral, Benoni, in the Highveld (our link Diocese), Fr Luke Irvine-Capel.

In a 'first' for Newport Cathedral, the installation of the new Dean, Revd Canon Jeremy Winston, was streamed live to a second congregation in St Mary's Priory Centre, Abergavenny, where Fr Jeremy has been vicar for the last eighteen years.

The liturgy was written especially for the service and focussed not only on the Cathedral as a place of prayer and worship but also on its role as a centre for learning and hospitality in both the church and the civic communities. Newport is a new city with a rich industrial and cultural heritage and its University is also new. As Dean Jeremy pledged to serve both, the Mayor of Newport presented him with a facsimile of the city charter and a representative of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Wales, Newport, presented him with a scroll of welcome.

As a reminder of the Cathedral's work of prayer and proclamation, Revd Ray Hayter (Minor Canon at the Cathedral) presented a Breviary and Ms Lisa Tregnza (our Learning Development Adviser) presented a copy of the Gospels.

Several pieces of music had been especially commissioned and were heard in public for the first time at the service. Fr Jeremy had himself written additional new verses for old hymns.

Modern music and technology blended with traditional ceremony to make this a day to remember in the life of the Diocese and its Cathedral.

[More pictures on www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk. See also page 4]



Join the Diocesan 90th birthday celebration
on Saturday 15th October - details on page 8

Hopes Realised for St Hilda's Hall



The vision of the Community of Griffithstown to renovate and refurbish the Victorian Church Hall has become a reality thanks to the National Lottery People and Places Grant of £329,131 which has been awarded. The Grant will fund improvements such as disabled access, new toilets and kitchen, improved staging, meeting rooms and parking, to a hall which has always been a focus for Community activities. The benefits gained will enhance the lives of all users now and for the future.

For Vicar, Revd Anne Golledge, and members of the Hall Committee it is truly wonderful news! They say: "After many years of hard work the award of the Big Lottery Grant will enable us to provide a modern facility to meet the needs of the whole community irrespective of age or disability and so continue to be a focus for wide ranging activities. It gives us the chance to put the 'heart back into Griffithstown' which was one of the main themes from the community consultation process we carried out in 2006. It's been a long time coming – now it's here we just have to deliver on a first class community facility, which will benefit everyone."

Revd Teg's Golden Day



On 25th June Revd Teg Greedy celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination at St Philip's Church, Lliswerry, in the company of Revd Helen Hall (Vicar), the Ven Kenneth Sharpe and Mr Donald Maxfield, guest preacher. Luncheon was served at St Andrew's Hall for parishioners, family and friends.



St Thomas's Tots

from Maesglas went to Cefn Mably Farm for the 'Barnardos Big Toddle'.

We raised money by being sponsored to walk around the farm, stopping at frequent intervals to feed everything in sight!

We had a wonderful day and hope to surpass last year's total of over £200.

Revd Sue Collingbourne

Music Festival at Redwick

It was not until she saw the church full for the first of the concerts in the Redwick Music Festival back in May that Magor Benefice Warden, Linda Hall, knew that her act of faith in setting up the series was going to be vindicated.

No-one who was there that night will ever forget the power and resonance of the Hermitage Ensemble, six Russian singers from St Petersburg, on tour in the UK. They were followed in June by Sarah Jones, singer-songwriter and Vicar of Ross-on-Wye, whose empathy with the audience and gifts as a poet ensured another memorable evening. In July, Redwick welcomed Strawhead, a folk band from Lancashire whose programme of *Popular Songs of the Olden Times* was performed with great gusto.

The final performer of the season was local girl, Heather Leighton. Her programme of flute music moved from the Baroque period through the Classical and Romantic periods to the twentieth century and contemporary music – and then back again.

However, this was not quite the end! Emboldened by the success of the series so far – and grateful for all the practical support she had received from people in the Magor Benefice – Linda has arranged an extra event: On Saturday October 1st at 7.30pm Johnny Coppin and Mike Silver will be "In Concert" in Redwick Church. Both are singer-songwriters well-known both in the West Country and on the national folk scene. Their songs include many inspired by the landscape and people of Gloucestershire. Tickets (£9, concessions £8), are available on the night or from Linda on 01633 889019. (Full details from Linda at hall.email@virgin.net).

Linda is especially grateful to Team Vicar, Jeremy Harris, for his help and support in setting up the concert series. The four concerts so far have made over £900 profit, which has been split equally between the church and the Redwick Village Hall rebuilding project.

Plans are already being made for a similar concert series in Redwick Church next year.

Mike Hall

The Bishop writes....

There is a children's story by Tomie de Paola called 'The Clown of God'. It tells of a poor street orphan called Giovanni who lived in Sorrento and used to go from door to door juggling and begging for food. He was such a good juggler that he joined a travelling group of entertainers and eventually gained fame and fortune for his juggling act until he became old. He lost his job and again faced poverty.

One cold night, he sheltered in a church and fell asleep. When he woke up he saw people bringing their Christmas gifts and he noticed the sad face on the statue of Mary and Child. So Giovanni put on his clown face and juggled before the statue. The priests thought he was being sacrilegious until they looked at the statue and saw that Mary and Jesus were now smiling.

The message of the clown is a serious message for those who can see beyond the costume, the make-up and the slapstick. At our 90th Birthday Celebration we shall, among many other things, be having a performance by Roly Bain, who is a priest and a professional clown. It will be entertainment for young and old alike but it will contain a serious message – and will put smiles on our faces.

Please make every effort to come to our Celebration at University of Wales, Newport, Caerleon where, following the formal business of the Diocesan Conference, there will be much to see and hear and do. There will be opportunities to learn of different ways of teaching and evangelising and various resources to see and buy. You will be able to relax and listen to the Bedwellty Deanery Choir and enjoy a cup of coffee and meet old and new friends.

It is a family celebration and it wouldn't be the same without you!

+ Dominic

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Thanks to your generosity, the 2011 Bishop's Lent Appeal raised over £20,000 which was divided between the Newport Night Shelter, Street Pastors, and the Diocese of Niassa.

In response to the cheque for £10,327.61 sent to Niassa, Bishop Mark van Koevering responded: Thank you for your message and the wonderful donation. We continue to be amazed by the generosity of our Welsh sisters and brothers. The money will be used to continue the community priest program and some much needed training for catechists (lay readers).

Warmest greetings, Mark

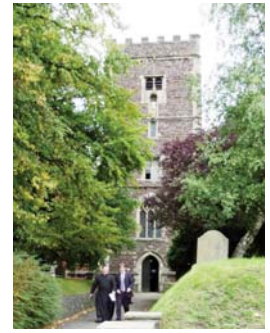


The Bishop was a welcome visitor to **St Teilo's Church, Llantilio Pertholey**, when he confirmed nine candidates watched by regular worshippers and the candidates' family and friends. Two special guests were also at the service - the Very Revd Walter Raymond, former Dean of Quebec and now Anglican chaplain of Monte Carlo, and the Revd William Derby, formerly a priest in Mexico who is now working in New York. Both are brothers of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd like Bishop Dominic.

Those confirmed were: Liam Trinder, Dafyd Trinder, Maddison Barrell, Mary Heading, Alexander Evans, Drew Heffernan, Emily Bayes, Margaret Gordon and Jane Thompson. They are pictured with the Bishop, the vicar of St Teilo's Father Robbie Dennis and the church wardens Peter Griffin (left) and Maurice Rolls (right).

What is your church built on?

In his sermon at the installation of the Dean, the Bishop spoke about the role of the Cathedral, but much of what he said is equally applicable to every parish church and its local community. The Gospel reading was Luke 6: 43 - 49. Here is an edited extract of the sermon. The complete text is on the diocesan website: www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk



This cathedral, built on a hill, is indeed a holy site, hallowed by years of prayer.

The gospel reading reminds us of the importance of building on a solid foundation and not on sand. There are many shifting sands in our society, and in the recent riots Britain has witnessed what happens when society lacks the values of respect, discipline and justice. There is no point blaming it on parents, teachers, politicians or the police – we all need to ask questions about the society that we have created or with which in various ways we have colluded. A society built on shifting sand will not survive, but a society built on the values of the gospel where there is love, truth, justice, mutual respect and forgiveness is a society built on the rock that will survive the test of time.

A cathedral is primarily a place of teaching. It is where the bishop has his cathedra, his chair, and from which, in former times, he would sit and teach. A cathedral is a place where the preaching and teaching should be biblical, inspirational and challenging. The gospel reading challenges us, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and never do what I tell you?” Yes, there should be no distinction between what we believe and how we behave – word and action should be in perfect harmony.



At the reception in St Woolos School, the Mayor of Newport presented the Dean with a framed copy of the Newport City Charter.

A cathedral set on a hill is a reminder to the city that the ‘Big Society’ is not a new idea – it is something the church has been doing for two thousand years. The Christian faith teaches that men and women are made in the image and likeness of God and are infinitely precious. It reminds us that we are given stewardship over God’s creation and entrusted with the task of making the world a place of peace and justice. The teachings of Jesus fly in the face of many modern values that are about achieving wealth, beauty and fame. We are called to bring faith and hope and love and to seek those values and virtues that are of eternal significance because they are built on rock, not sand. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice – and then everything else will be given to you”. Justice (or to use the old fashioned word, ‘righteousness’) lies at the very heart of the Christian faith and the lack of justice made Jesus angry. The account of the Cleansing of the Temple reminds us of how Jesus reacted when he saw poor people being exploited and of how we are all subject to God’s judgement.

A cathedral is also the Mother Church of the Diocese where clergy and people from all over the diocese will be welcomed. Hospitality is a sacred duty. It is about opening your home and your heart in unconditional love. The New Testament reminds us of the need to welcome the pilgrim and stranger and St Benedict reminded his monks of the need to welcome others as we would welcome Christ. A Dean is not just called to be a teacher and preacher

but also a welcoming host who will seek opportunities of welcoming people as visitors so that their visit is not just a tourist event but a spiritual experience in which they feel they have been welcomed, nourished and loved in the name of Christ.

A cathedral is also about building living circles of community. At the very heart will be that community of love which we call the Holy Trinity where Father, Son and Holy Spirit are joined in a dynamic of perfect love.

As the circles move outwards, there will be the community of regular worshippers, musicians and volunteers who valiantly maintain the worshipping and serving life of the cathedral. Then there will be the parish served by the cathedral, and then the city and the diocese, our link diocese in South Africa and beyond.

So a cathedral must be like a bicycle wheel with spirituality at the centre but with spokes that reach out into the wider community of parish, city and diocese – and beyond. It should be a place of prayer that uses the best of traditional and contemporary music and liturgy. It should be a place of teaching and preaching. It should be a reminder to the city it serves of the values of the kingdom of God where justice and peace are paramount. It should be a Mother Church for the diocese where all feel welcomed, and not just for those great diocesan occasions presided over by the bishop, but at other times as well. A cathedral is a Christian community called to serve and build communities.



Dean Jeremy with Dean William of St Dunstan’s Cathedral, Benoni, in our link Diocese of the Highveld.

A Night on the Town

Have you ever had a beery hug from a stranger on the streets at 2am and felt completely safe? On a mild Friday evening in August, I went out as an Observer with a team of four experienced Street Pastors in Newport. I was given a fluorescent yellow tabard to wear, with 'Street Pastor Observer' on the back.

We walked slowly past the clubs and bars, chatting to police, door staff and clubbers. We had several longer conversations, cheery if rather boozy, as well as wacky theological discussions, initiated by people who, despite being tipsy, wanted answers to difficult questions. Someone who was distressed asked us to pray with them. There was a fight outside a club, and within seconds, the police were there. One of the clubbers kept expressing admiration for the Street Pastors, and apologising to us for what was happening. I failed to evade that hug!

Many people were familiar with the Street Pastors, and I was struck by the respect and admiration they received. Young people trusted them, and were able to ask confidently for a bottle of water, a lollipop or a pair of flip-flops (to protect the feet of girls who lose their shoes).

In all of this, I felt safe. Why? Because the whole Street Pastors initiative is bathed in prayer. Individuals pray in their own homes as the teams go out. In Newport there is a twice-monthly prayer group, and those staffing the Night Base pray as well as make tea.

There are Street Pastors in several communities across the diocese, bringing the love of God to our streets. Please pray for them, and do whatever you can to support and encourage this important work of God.

Revd Margaret le Grice

The Mothers' Union in Monmouth is 90 years young

Each year on the 9 August the church commemorates Mary Sumner who founded the Mothers' Union. From its local beginnings the MU has grown into a worldwide organisation. Rosemary Kempzell, Worldwide President of the MU says, "the Worldwide Mothers' Union is a rich pattern of different parts that make up the whole, where each part has different ways of working, different priorities, challenges and different ways of being Mothers' Union. Every Diocese does something different to fundraise; Fetes, Fashion Shows, Sharing Days and many other activities."

Rosemary recently visited the Monmouth Mothers' Union, which is celebrating 90 years of being part of the Mothers' Union this year. She was fascinated by the visit to the Big Pit Museum in South Wales, which gave her an insight into communities that have ancestors who were involved in the colliery and steel industry, and their inherited strength of family and community.

Rosemary was introduced to the Gateway Credit Union at Pontypool. Originally started by Mothers' Union, it continues great work assisting families to save regularly, as little or as much as they can afford.

There was added excitement at spending time with the parents and toddlers at the award winning 'Tommy Tiddlers' group in Monmouth. Many young families live away from their parents and this group enables interaction between families and carers.

Her final engagement was at Newport Cathedral. The Archbishop of Wales, Dr Barry Morgan, said that the Mothers' Union plays a key role in supporting family life in Wales. Rosemary confirmed that everything that she had seen throughout her visit to Monmouth Diocese confirms this. Local Mothers' Union groups have the skills, knowledge, contacts and (wo)man power to make things happen.



3 MU presidents at Big Pit (l to r): Mrs Alma Bridges, Pontypool Deanery President; Mrs Rosemary Kempzell, Worldwide President; Mrs Kathy Palmer, Monmouth Diocesan President.



MU Rainbow Fayre strikes a pot of gold

The MU Rainbow Fayre, held at St Paul's Church, Newport on Saturday 16th July, raised £1,400, which will be shared between the homeless and the Street Pastors in Newport. Each stall was dressed in a colour of the rainbow creating a colourful display. Children enjoyed the colouring corner and competition.

Meet the MU at the Diocesan 90th Birthday Celebration at Caerleon Campus on 15th October.

Shelley Miller, MU Diocesan Publicity Officer

www.themothersunion.org

Bells will ring to mark Diocesan Anniversary

Bell-ringers around the diocese and beyond are preparing to mark its 90th anniversary. It is hoped that a quarter-peal will be attempted in as many churches of the diocese with bells as possible between Sunday 9th October and Sunday 23rd October. Look out for details on your church notice board of when a quarter-peal will be attempted in your church.

A quarter-peal is a special piece of ringing lasting for approximately 45 minutes and comprising at least 1250 strikes of each bell (Full peals last 3 hours and comprise at least 5000 strikes of each bell). A successful quarter peal (or peal) is the epitome of team work. The ringers work together, with no opportunity to take a break and each having to place their bell in the correct place in each row or change. The anticipated result is a glorious sound which we hope reminds people that the church is still alive in that place.

In order to keep our bells ringing to celebrate the Diocesan Centenary in ten years time, we always have vacancies for new ringers. If you would like a hobby that can provide fun, fellowship and some gentle physical and mental exercise, then contact the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell-ringers Public Relations Officer, Nick Jones on 07746946670 or by emailing Nick.ringing@googlemail.com .

Nick Jones

St Margaret's Church, Risca, Centenary

The celebration of the one hundred years of the life of this well-loved church, was marked by a Flower Festival which lasted three days and was organized by Mrs Geddes and her Ponthir and Torfaen Flower arranging class. The church was ablaze with flowers which illustrated the hymn *All things bright and beautiful*. The imaginative flower arrangements were breathtaking. This was a huge community success, bringing people into church who had not attended St Margaret's for many years.

A most interesting exhibition of items which marked the history of the Church attracted much attention and it was inspiring to see photographs of the first curate who officiated at our altar when the church opened for the first time.

The formal opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Caerphilly Borough Council and the celebration was well supported by local tradespersons and by the generous donations of so many people who wanted to commemorate the lives of loved ones no longer with us.

A Solemn Eucharist followed on the Sunday after the Flower Festival, concelebrated with Bishop Dominic. The church was full to capacity and this was the highlight of the entire celebration. Then followed a lunch for those who regularly worship in St Margaret's. A strong spirit of the wide church family was evident. The celebrations concluded with Festal Evensong. We have been truly blessed.

Dr John Herbert

Walsingham Pilgrims



In August, Bishop Dominic again led the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. This year he talked about the letters St Paul wrote to young Christian churches and drew out lessons for our church today.

Celebrating

90 years of Mission and Ministry

Doors open at 8.30am for the Conference

The Marketplace opens at 10am

- 90 years in memorabilia
- Parish Resources
- Godly Play
- The LAB Worship
- Messy Church
- Prayer Bunting
- Meditative Spiritual Journey
- Bell ringing
- FairTrade
- Parish development
- Stewardship
- The Mothers' Union
- Churches Together Bookshop

And more.....

A coffee shop is open throughout the morning – or bring your own food.

Please be aware that it is not possible to provide creche facilities.

The car park is pay and display.

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk/

CELEBRATE90



Come and Celebrate!

MONMOUTH DIOCESE
90th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday 15th October 9am - 2pm

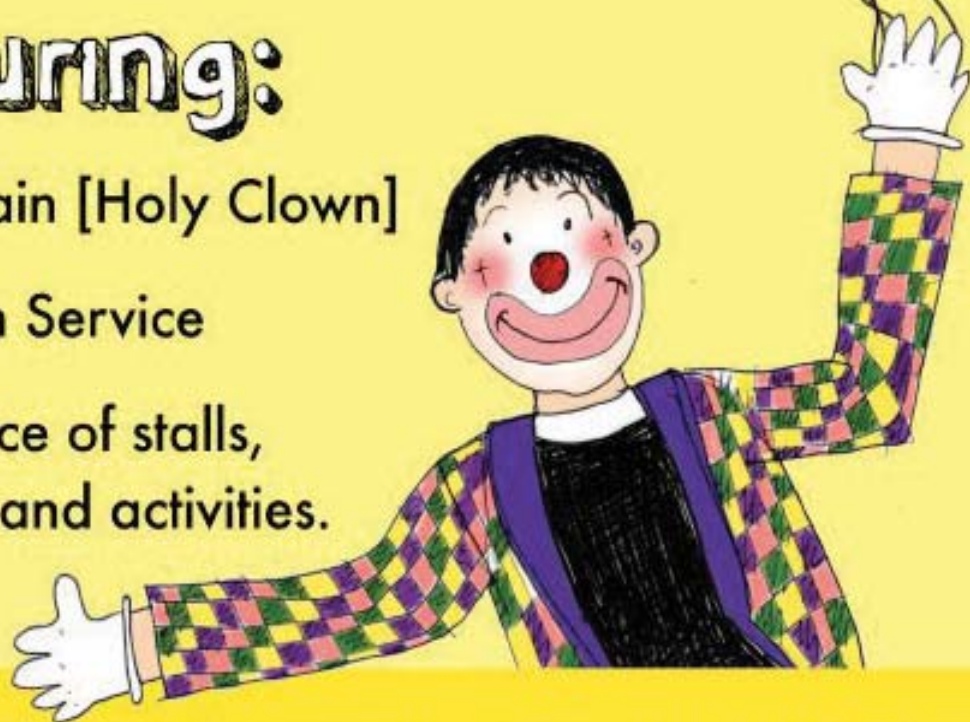
Main Hall, Newport University, Caerleon Campus.

Featuring:

Rev Roly Bain [Holy Clown]

Celebration Service

Market place of stalls,
exhibitions and activities.



COME AND TRY - COME AND BUY - COME AND HAVE FUN!

Diocesan Strategy - how can I help?

Lisa Tregenza, the Learning Development Adviser

I co-ordinate the **Living Faith** learning for discipleship programme, which has groups all round the diocese, and I also lead a team which comes into parishes to provide short courses on things like welcome, reading intercessions and pastoral visiting. I am available to discuss training lay people in your parish, and to advise on suitable programmes and courses, and ways in which the church can help people to fulfil their potential and grow in relationship to God.



Learning Alive!

Do you know about the opportunities for training which are available in the diocese? A range of short courses (two to four sessions each) make up the *Learning Alive!* programme. Subjects covered include:

- ♦ Training for visiting teams
- ♦ Leading intercessions
- ♦ Reading in church
- ♦ Welcome
- ♦ Singing the Faith (an introduction to hymns)
- ♦ Architecture – Walls, Worship and Witness

You don't need to travel anywhere to take part in these courses – the training comes to you! Ms Lisa Tregenza, the Learning Development Adviser for the diocese, says 'I believe it's important to bring training to people where they are, and to make the training relevant to their circumstances. Working with individual parishes, I can tailor the training to what you need.'

You can contact Lisa on 07800 892171 or LDA@monmouthdiocese.org.uk

Book Review

To launch her new book, *Making Sense of God's Love, Atonement and Redemption*, Revd Dr Lorraine Cavanagh entertained friends and colleagues on 30 July in the Chapel at Llantilio Crossenny Church, by kind permission of the Vicar, Revd David Osborn. The evening was arranged with Lorraine by Les Taylor and Andrew Dawson who also presented their first impressions of the book, and there then followed discussions about themes which Lorraine's book had raised. People attended from several local areas as well as from Cardiff University where Lorraine is Chaplain.

The book sets a whole series of questions, many of these created by looking at a previous question. There are two sections: first, making sense of atonement, and then, making sense of redemption. Interestingly, in many places Lorraine has reassembled the word atonement to read 'at-one-ment' which helps a great deal in defining the concept of atonement and in particular in explaining how destructive is the view that God is a controlling, punishing being. Lorraine invites you to work with her in her journey through this series of developing and iterative questions.

Living Faith groups

here and in Swansea & Brecon!

The **Living Faith** learning for discipleship programme, which was launched in Monmouth diocese last year, continues to go from strength to strength. At the time of going to press there are ten groups meeting across Monmouth Diocese, studying various modules.

Living Faith is now also running in Llandaff diocese, and the latest Welsh diocese to adopt it is Swansea and Brecon. Following a presentation to the clergy of that diocese by Lisa Tregenza and Canon Ambrose Mason, ten groups are starting in September, with another six hoping to start soon.

For further details of the **Living Faith** programme, please see the Monmouth diocesan website www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk/learning/discipleship or contact Ms Lisa Tregenza

The text is rich with challenges to improve our Church and our relationship with God and our own existence. Out of many potential quotations, I eventually managed to select one short passage:

"Luther's idea that a person is put in right relationship with God solely on the basis of trust challenges denominational exclusivity. It also challenges the right of any one group to appropriate truth and to distort it into immovable absolutes in a literal and unquestioning way of reading the Bible. Real faith frees the intellect. In fact it requires that we continually move on intellectually, asking the kind of questions which keep Christians in touch with secular society, without viewing it as an enemy to be either conquered or appeased. Christians are called to think intelligently from within a living relationship with God, believing in the goodness of society and in His love for it."

I commend this book to you if you are looking for ways of dealing with difficult questions.

Dr Andrew Dawson, Llanvetherine, Abergavenny

Making Sense of God's Love: Atonement and Redemption by Lorraine Cavanagh. The Modern Church Series. SPCK, London, 2011. ISBN 978-0-281-06403-8.

Miss Rachel Herbert Almshouses Charity: Registered Charity No. 254711

A residence is available for a lady of limited means of 55 years of age or over at Trinity Square, Baker Street, Abergavenny.

Applicants should be members of the Church of England or Church in Wales. Although preference will be given to those born in one of the communities of Abergavenny, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Llantilio Pertholey or the Coldbrook Ward of Llanover Community or widows of persons so born, or those who have been resident in one of these communities for at least 2 years. Consideration will also be given to Applicants living in Monmouthshire but outside these areas.

Apply for details to A H B Candler of 32 Monk Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5NW. An application form will be provided which should be completed and returned on or before 20 October 2011.

Dated 22 September 2011.

A H B Candler, Clerk to the Trustees



Getting the Vicar onto Twitter

You may recall that Bishop Gregory Cameron, Bishop of the Diocese of St Asaph, recently suggested that clergy and churches should make use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Three young men made contact through a local production company and put an idea to the vicar of Tredegar who (a little reluctantly) agreed, both to set up and use a twitter account and to be filmed doing so.



So it was that one Monday afternoon Henry Powell (21), Thomas Brooks (20) and Daniel Felvus (21) found themselves in Tredegar meeting our vicar, Fr John Davis (ancient!). Henry, Tom and Dan are studying Documentary, Film and Television at the University of Wales, Newport, and will begin their final year this autumn. For work experience they had been asked by Micro Broadcasting Centre – based in Tredegar – to make a short documentary film about a vicar on twitter.

Some of the parish met the film crew at luncheon club on Tuesday where they filmed Fr John telling everyone what was going on. They joined us for a great lunch before interviewing some of those present for their opinions about the idea. They went with Fr John anywhere that people would agree to be filmed: the mid week service, the weekly staff meeting, meeting the heads from two of the local primary schools, and filmed him at home setting up the account and sending and receiving some ‘tweets’.

I think it is fair to say that they had no idea that a vicar’s life is so busy! In return, we enjoyed having three courteous and amenable young men in the parish, who were polite and discreet at all times, and we wish them well in their final year of study.

We’re looking forward to viewing the finished film, and the vicar is looking forward to gaining many followers of his tweets over the next few months. If you would like to know what Fr John is up to you can find him at www.twitter.com/tredegarvicar

Revd Victoria Ashley



MonmouthDCO, ChurchinWales, MarkTweet (Rector of Magor), TitheBarn, Ilanelv (Bishop Gregory Cameron)



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/monmouthdiocese
www.facebook.com/newportcathedral



Richard Morgan, Churchwarden at St Teilo’s, Newport, and manager of the Tithe Barn in Abergavenny, would like to thank all those who supported him in his charity trek in the Himalayas of Nepal. Thanks to the generosity of church members across the Diocese, Richard managed to raise £6,706.60 for Dogs for the Disabled, a charity

which trains dogs to assist disabled people and help them live more independently. A group of 30 trekkers took part in the 10-day challenge which took them through remote villages in the Himalayas experiencing the culture of the Nepalese mountain people.

For Richard, the trek was in memory of a relative who benefitted from having an assistance dog from the charity. Dogs learn tasks such as picking up pens, opening doors, helping a person undress, even emptying the washing machine. For some people this help makes the difference between living alone and needing full-time care. But the benefits a dog can bring do not end with practical tasks. They also help build confidence, break down social barriers and provide companionship.

Since the trek in April, Richard has received more donations which has helped to boost his fundraising total. If you would like to make a donation, or to read about the trek in more detail, please visit Richard’s blog: www.treknepal2011.wordpress.com



Richard and mascot Amber on the summit of Poon Hill (3,190m)

Two Knitting Circles



The Knitting Circle at **St Mary's, Portskewett**, was started at the beginning of 2011 by co-wardens Mrs Moira Ayres and Mrs Frances Curwood. They have gradually grown from a nucleus of 8 to a group of 15 drawn not only from the village of Portskewett but also from our other two parishes in Caldicot town and Rogiet village. They knit for Children in Distress, the neo natal unit in a Bristol hospital, and other charities involved with Africa, India and Hungary. Everyone enjoys a chance to meet once a month in Portskewett church hall, to bring their contributions of blankets, jumpers, hats, jackets, baby clothes etc. and to have a chat and a cup of tea whilst continuing to knit! Patterns and ideas are exchanged and a supply of wool maintained by means of donations and monthly tea money.

Revd Den Richards

Pupils at **Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales school** completed a colourful blanket which will keep an African baby warm on cold nights.



Mrs Carol Howells and some of the girls from Llantilio Pertholey Primary School with their completed blanket.

The members of the knitting club knitted more than 50 squares which were sewn into a blanket for the Chavuma Mission in Zambia where new mothers are given a blanket and other items for their baby. The school contact for the charity is Mrs Joan Smith, a retired teacher who runs the school library.

Class 6 teacher Mrs Tracey Pugh set up the knitting club to ensure that the art of knitting did not die and it has proved very popular. Many friends of the school as well as parishioners from St Teilo's Church have completed items for the Mission.

Friends of St Arvan's Church



Fr Michael Gollop, Vicar of St Arvans, has officially launched the 'Friends of St Arvans Parish Church Scheme'. This is an initiative set up by the Vicar and the Friends Committee, Mike Taylor and Jeff Gravelle, to assist in the preservation of this historic building of peace and beauty.

A 'Friend' can be anyone who has any form of connection with the church including those who may not share the faith of the church but are happy to support the upkeep of an historic and beautiful building.

Our Friends will help contribute towards the cost of preservation of the fabric of the church and replacement of major items, and help with the maintenance costs of fixtures of special importance so that the church is kept in good condition to hand on to future generations.

An illustrated brochure has been prepared outlining the history of St Arvans Parish Church and how a 'Friend' can join the scheme.

Contact the Friends via the Membership Secretary, Friends of St Arvans, c/o The Vicarage, St Arvans, Chepstow, NP16 6ET

Mike Taylor & Jeff Gravelle, St Arvans Parish Church



Arriva is running 'Club 55'

Those aged 55 or above can travel anywhere on the Arriva Trains Wales Network for £18 return. Anyone with a senior railcard or disabled person's railcard travels for £16 return.

It is a 'walk up' fare: advance booking on specific trains is not necessary. You can travel between 4 September and 14 December 2011 inclusive. You can travel anytime at the weekend and on any train Monday to Friday apart from those arriving into selected destinations before 9.30am/10am. Proof of age may be asked for when travelling but is not required when booking.

Please see www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/55



Children's leaders enjoyed a first aid training day at St. Hilda's Griffithstown. These are some of the people who gained their First Aid Certificate practising on one another.

Revd Sue Collingbourne

History made at Tintern Abbey



l to r: Prebendary Norman Wallwork (Methodist); Rt Revd Dominic Walker OGS, Bishop of Monmouth (Anglican); His Excellency The Most Reverend Kallistos, Metropolitan of Diokleia (Greek Orthodox); and the Most Revd George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff (Roman Catholic)

Before the Reformation in 1536, Vespers was a daily occurrence in the life of Tintern Abbey. In recent years, by permission of Cadw, the service of Vespers has once again been held on the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (8 Sept).

But probably never before in its history has the preacher in the Abbey been a Greek Orthodox Metropolitan (Archbishop).

On 4th September the annual Ecumenical Vespers was addressed by His Excellency The Most Reverend Kallistos, Metropolitan of Diokleia, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain. In the beautiful setting of trees framed in stone-mullions, he spoke of the need to care for creation and humanity's duty to bless rather than curse.

Chris's Big Swim



Earlier this year, one of our parishioners, Christine Baker, who has been blind since infancy, completed a sponsored swim in aid of Cancer Research, as a tribute to a dear friend who is currently being treated for cancer.

Chris, encouraged by husband Don, trained hard for months, building up her strength until she reached her target of 64 lengths, one for each year of her life, which equals 1 mile. The swim took her 1 hour and 10 minutes, officially supervised by coach Sheila and accompanied by her friend Marina, who was also swimming for Cancer Research.

Chris had the great pleasure of presenting a cheque for £692 to Cancer Research last week, the same week that she and Don celebrated their 49th Wedding Anniversary.

We all congratulate brave Chris, pictured with her guide dog Lauren, on this truly outstanding achievement

*Denis Taring, Michaelston-y-Fedw
picture by Elfed Rees*

Stay-at-home Christmas?



Are you staying at home for Christmas? Would you open your home and share Christmas with a student from China, India, or some other part of the world, who would otherwise be stuck at an almost deserted UK university?

HOST invites you to give Christmas, perhaps for the first time in their life, to someone who is a guest in this country, who would love to experience your way of life and make your stay-at-home Christmas special. HOST will match you with one or two guests to suit your household.

More volunteer hosts are urgently needed for 2-3 days at Christmas, and weekends all year round.

Please see www.hostuk.org or call your local voluntary organiser for a chat: Lynette Chappin 02920 693903

Pathways to wholeness: the church's response to mental health in today's society

Gweini Annual Conference
on Tuesday, November 15th
at Glenwood Church, Cardiff.
for Christians, church leaders and
those involved in Christian ministry.
£10 incl lunch

To Book: contact Jim Stewart
07921080464 j.stewart@eauk.org

The Gifts of God in the Personality

You are warmly invited to an all-day workshop from 9.30am to 5pm on Saturday 8th October at Panteg Church Hall, The Highway, New Inn, NP4 0PH

Please bring a packed lunch.

NB You will need to stop by Sr Anita's house at some point before then, to fill in a simple questionnaire. (This takes about ½ hour.)

Please ring Revd Sr Anita Woodwell on 01495 753195 to book, and to arrange a time to do the questionnaire.

GAZETTE

Appointments

Revd Mark Soady, Chaplain to the University of Wales, Newport, and Priest-in-charge of Newport (Brynglas); to be Vicar of Abergavenny w Llanwenarth Citra (6 Jan 2012)

Mrs Isabel Thompson, to be diocesan Care of Churches Officer (19 Sept)

Resignations

Revd Janet Bone as DAC Secretary; to continue as Communication and Press Officer (30 Sept)

Revd Canon Iain Doull, Vicar of Christ Church, Newport; on reaching retirement (31 Jan 2012)

Revd Canon Arthur Edwards, Vicar of Caerleon; on reaching retirement (31 Jan 2012)

Readers Licensing

Apologies to those newly-licensed readers whose surnames were omitted from the Gazette in the last issue. Readers licensed on 26th June were:

Nicholas Cox to the Llanddewi Rhydderch group
Allan Randall Davies to the Rectorial Benefice of Magor
Gillian May Wright to the Govilon group
Jeffery Alun Pearse to the Abergavenny group.

Confirmations

16 October	10.30am	Holy Trinity, Christchurch
23 October	11.00am	Michaelstone-y-Fedw
6 November	10.30am	St Peter's, Goetre
20 November	am	Caldicot
20 November	6.00pm	St Peter's, Blaenavon
27 November	am	Pontypool
30 November	10.00am	St Teilo's, Newport
11 December	10.30am	St Mark's, Newport

A prayer for Harvest or Rogation tide

Sandy Blair writes: I thought I would share the following prayer which was prepared at my request for Rogation by Sue Johns, a colleague of mine at HSE, who is a member of the Business Committee of the General Synod of the C of E. I think it is equally valid for Harvest time:

Heavenly Father, we bring before you all those whose lives and livelihoods revolve around land and season.
We pray for all who till the soil and tend the crops.
For all who cherish beast and fowl.
For all who harvest and prepare our food.
We ask that you will protect them as they go about their daily duties.
Guard them from the dangers of fatigue and loneliness.
Share the burden of climate and financial worries.
Above all, Father, bring them home safely at the end of each day.
We ask this in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER - NEXT ISSUE

Copy date: 28th October **Publication date:** 24th November

Editor: Revd Janet Bone janetbone@churchinwales.org.uk 01633 267490
Monmouth Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Rd, Newport NP20 4HJ

Your news is welcome. Articles should be a maximum of 300 words and pictures should be in .jpg format or as professional prints.

Pictures of children must have parental permission for publication in print and online.

Blessing of Pets

Sunday 2nd Oct at 11am at St Michael's Church, **Llanvihangel Crucorney**. All pets including ponies, donkeys and lambs are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service. St Michaels is just off the A465 Abergavenny to Hereford road.

Ceilidh with Parsley Hay

in **Ponthir Village Hall**
Friday November 25th
7.30pm until late.
Dancing starts 7.45pm
Light buffet. Bar. Raffle
£10 adults and £5 children under 16

Contact: Carol Carpenter
carol_ytc@hotmail.com

St Bartholomew's Llanover Harvest Flower Festival

by Abergavenny Flower Club
Friday 7th October – Sunday 9th
October 10am – 5pm
Finishing with a Harvest Festival
Songs of Praise Sunday on 9th
October at 6pm

Contact: Jilly Jones, 01873 880192

St Michael's, Michaelston-y-Fedw An evening of Chamber music

performed by the
Gwalia String Quartet
from the Orchestra of Welsh National
Opera to include music by Haydn and
Dvorak 6pm Sunday 27th November

Tickets £10 to include sparkling wine
and canapés in the interval
**Contact: Chris Rowlands 01633
681122**

St Pauls', Newbridge Quiz Night

St Paul's Church Hall
Saturday 1st Oct 7pm
Adults £3 under 16 £1.50
Light buffet & soft drinks

Church Embroidery

Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Beryl Dean, a major gallery is planned to celebrate the work of this seminal figure of 20th century ecclesiastical design. Further information is available from events organisers, Creative Exhibitions Ltd on 0208 692 2299 or on the website **www.twistedthread.com** from which tickets are also available.