



MONMOUTH DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

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NEWYDDION
ESGOBAETH
MYNWWY

Number/Rhif 196

Candlemas/Gwyl Fair 2012



Boy Bishop Sam with Grace, his attendant, at St Nicholas, Grosmont, on 5th December...see story on p3

*2012 is a
Year of Pilgrimage*

www.monmouthpilgrims.org.uk





Pudsey Bear visits St Augustine's, Pontllanfraith

The children of St Augustine's Sunday Club had a surprise helper one Sunday morning.

The Children in Need mascot, Pudsey Bear, made an appearance to assist them in their collection after the service.

The children raised £80.

Mary Humphries

A Wriggly Nativity at Holy Trinity Church, Pontnewydd

After weeks of rehearsals with children from the Early Years Department (ages 3-4 years) of Pontnewydd Primary School, A Wriggly Nativity (by Peter Fardell) was performed at the church in front of parents, friends and church family.

There were two performances, each with a unique cast due to the nursery children attending morning or afternoon sessions. Both performances were outstanding.

A sum of £76.08 was raised from both acts of worship for the Dhaka Orphanage, which the church supports. Mr Kerry Waters, Headmaster, was delighted with the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers from Holy Trinity who had worked alongside the children.

Bronwen Summers



A New Chaplain for the University



Fr Mark Soady (right) hands over the Chaplaincy of the University of Wales, Newport, to Fr William Ritchie.

Fr Mark was inducted as Vicar of Abergavenny on 6 January and Fr William inducted as priest-in-charge of All Saints, Newport, on 8 January.

St Michael's church, Michaelston-y-Fedw

St Michael's church hosted a concert given by the Gwalia String Quartet who all play with the Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera. The church was lit by candles and was a beautiful backdrop for the music. During the interval, canapés and sparkling wine were served. The



Photo by Anton Attard

brainchild of Chris and Orma Rowlands, the evening was such a success that plans are afoot to do it again.

*Denis
Tarling*

Bishop Dominic writes. . . .

May I begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year. I am sure that 2012 is going to be a busy year within the diocese, and I want to outline some of the things that will be happening.



Our **Year of Pilgrimage** will be an invitation to deepen our experience of our walk with God. Some people will be going on diocesan pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Iona and Walsingham. Some will take part in parish pilgrimages and all are invited to visit pilgrimage sites within the diocese. The cathedral in Newport will have a special pilgrimage route and parish groups or individuals will be invited to visit. Everyone who takes part in a pilgrimage will be given a special badge to wear.

- ♦ As part of experiencing our walk with God, I shall be visiting each Deanery Chapter to invite clergy to look at the Ordinal (Ordination Service) to re-kindle their sense of calling and to reflect on our journeys in ministry, the need for companion support and our hopes for the future.
- ♦ On 31st March, we shall be installing a new Dean who will be charged with the task of developing the ministry of the cathedral as a place of prayer, hospitality and mission for the diocese.
- ♦ There will be my **Pastoral Letter** to be read in place of the sermon in each church on Sunday, 19th February. It will call us all to a faithful observance of Lent and give details of the Lent Appeal with a home and overseas project.
- ♦ The Pastoral Letter will also challenge churches to use the fifty days of Eastertide to ask if they show the signs of being a pilgrim church – marked by prayer, welcome, serving and giving.
- ♦ At the end of the summer I shall be taking the clergy on a pilgrimage to Nantes in France. We shall be accompanied by Bishop Lindsay Urwin OGS, the administrator of the pilgrimage shrine in Walsingham, to explore in prayer and visits what it is to be pilgrim priests leading a pilgrim people.
- ♦ During 2012, we hope that the Province will put in place plans to provide local training for lay and ordained ministries, and to explore pioneer ministry.
- ♦ On a practical but necessary level, we shall need to look at structure, finance and pastoral reorganisation. The Provincial Review Group will produce its report for us to consider. The Area Deans have also been working on local plans to identify 'ministry areas' for the future.
- ♦ We shall need to have a major drive to teach Christian giving, so that the ministry and mission of the diocese is not hampered by lack of financial resources. In many of our churches, 10% of the people provide over 80% of the income. We need to teach proportional giving because a recent survey has shown how churches that teach proportional giving to the church give 84% more than those that do not.

This year will be a year of opportunity, growth and challenge but we shall all need to play our part as members of the diocesan family. God calls us to be a pilgrim church and he takes us by the hand to walk with him, so we need to cast off the spiritual enemies of despair, cynicism and fear, and enter this New Year with trust and hope and excitement in a God who will bless each one of us in our 'avowed intent to be a pilgrim'.

+ Dominic

Grosmont enthrones a Boy Bishop

This year in St Nicholas' church, Grosmont, we celebrated the feastday of St Nicholas by enthroning a Boy Bishop. Sam, aged 8, sings in the choir with his sister and writes his own hymns for the choir.

The tradition of enthroning a Boy Bishop for the feast day of St Nicholas goes back to early medieval times and continued for at least 300 years until banned by King Henry VIII. We have no records for Grosmont, but there are records in Hereford Cathedral from 1250, so we can be reasonably sure that such an important church as Grosmont, with its royal connections, would also have celebrated its Patronal festival in this way.

In former times, the handover of the power of the Bishop to a boy chosen by the lay clerks from among their number, was real. He would preside at moot courts and make decisions in the church during his reign from St Nicholas Day (6th) to Christmas Eve, and in some places, until the feast of the Holy Innocents. Sam has decided that he will preach a sermon to us and we are really looking forward to that.

Revd Jean Prosser

Revival at Llanvaches

A joint service was held on November 20th in St Dubritius Church, Llanvaches, to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the induction in 1611 of Rev William Wroth (1576–1642) as Rector of Llanvaches. He was also the founder of the Tabernacle, the first Independent Church in Wales.

In the photo, taken at the service are (l to r) Rev Dr Kevin Snyman, minister of the Tabernacle, Canon John Heales, Rev Dr Ernest Lucas from Penhow Baptist Church and Rev Shem Morgan, former minister of Tabernacle, who has extensively researched the history of the Tabernacle.



Shem, in his address, described the amazing ministry of William Wroth following his conversion in 1626. What happened at Llanvaches became 'headline news' he said. People flocked from Bristol, Somerset and elsewhere in South Wales to Llanvaches. So large were the congregations that he had at times to use the churchyard as well. As Rev Shem Morgan concluded, 'William Wroth should not be forgotten'.

John Bewley

In 1633, King Charles I, advised by the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, reissued the "Declaration of Sports". This listed the sports that were permitted on Sundays and other holy days, and was published to counteract the growing Puritan calls for strict abstinence on the Sabbath day. Wroth defied Charles' instruction to read the Declaration to his congregation, and in 1634 the Bishop of Llandaff reported him to the Court of High Commission, seeking to remove him from his position in the Church. In 1638 Wroth, along with fellow dissenter Walter Craddock, resigned, but continued to preach and gather followers. By 1639, although he had not formally left the Church of England, Wroth is likely to have been ejected from his living. He set up his Congregationalist chapel, "according to the New England pattern", completed in 1639, with the help of the leading Dissenter, Henry Jessey. The historic meeting at Llanvaches in November 1639 marked the real beginning of Non-conformity in Wales. Wroth died shortly before the outbreak of the first English Civil War, and was buried beneath the church porch at Llanvaches.

[from Wikipedia]

A New Noticeboard

The pupils from Llantilio Pertholey Church in Wales Primary School took part in an open-air assembly organised by the vicar of St Teilo's church, Father Robbie Dennis. They were interested and enthusiastic about the unveiling of a brand new noticeboard in the school grounds which was paid for out of church funds. The board has space for both school and church events and is already being well used by both.



The project started when Les Toyer, a member of the Parochial Church Council at St Teilo's, was approached by a member of the school Parent/Teacher Association about the need for a second noticeboard in the school grounds. He in turn asked the PCC if they could fund the project and this was immediately agreed. Mr Toyer contacted a local firm, Pomegranate, and he met Natasha Smith to discuss what was needed. Natasha was responsible for designing the information boards at St Teilo's church for the Living Churchyard project. The company provides small and large format graphic design and print and, after commissioning the noticeboard, set about incorporating the school badge and the church emblem into the design.

Natasha was invited to attend the unveiling by Father Robbie and she said, "It was such a lovely service it was a privilege to be there. The children were fabulous and so well-behaved. They listened and they were enthusiastic and a credit to their teachers. The birds were singing and everyone was so quiet we could all hear them and enjoy it. The school has such a wonderful setting the children are very lucky to have such an environment."

Mrs Jan Thomas, the teacher at Llantilio Pertholey School with responsibility for religious education, said the outdoor assembly had been a huge success and a lovely event at which to unveil the new board.

YES goes on tour in Lent

The Youth Eucharist Service (YES) held in Blackwood in March 2010 had a profound effect on many people - both young and not-so-young. We are offering the same YES to the diocese, to be held in three different venues this Lent, so that more people can experience this moving liturgy.

Similar to the Oberammergau Passion Play, this YES will begin with the lively excitement and expectation of Palm Sunday, then it follows the events of Holy Week expressed in song, prayer, readings and mime. We all join together in the Eucharist of the Last Supper and the service ends, powerfully, with the crucifixion.



The Bishop will preside at all three Eucharists.

St John's Maindee, Newport: Sunday February 26th at 6pm

St Mary's, Chepstow: Sunday March 11th at 6pm

St Cadoc's, Pontypool: Sunday March 25th at 6pm

More details will be sent to clergy and put on the diocesan website and facebook page.



Street Pastors

Mothers' Union in Action

This year, Mothers' Union, Monmouth Diocese, has been busy supporting an 'At Home' project to provide six groups of Street Pastors and Night Shelter, Newport with items they need. We have distributed to the Street Pastors 192 pairs of flip-flops, 300 space blankets, 612 small bottles of water and 720 sweet lollipops as well as a uniform and part of a display stand. We gave Night Shelter 30 inflatable mattresses, 28 duvet cover sets, as well as other requested items.

At the same time we are aiming to raise £7,000 to pay the salaries of the five Mothers' Union Development Workers in our link dioceses. Our Charity is suffering, as are others, from the economic recession and these young women work in such difficult environments.

Sue Griffiths, MU Action & Outreach Coordinator



Night Shelter

New Vestments for St Peter's, Goetre

The vestments at St Peter's were starting to look tired and worn so the PCC decided to replace them. The original idea was to buy some from a clerical outfitter, but before anything had been chosen, Jan Millett, the PCC Secretary and a needlework teacher, offered to design and make them. Jan spent a lot of time designing the vestments and motifs and produced a set, including chasuble, stole, pulpit fall and lectern ribbons, in each of the four liturgical colours.

Each set was blessed by Bishop Dominic when he visited St Peter's for a baptism and confirmation service on 6th November. The photograph shows Jan with Bishop Dominic, who is wearing the white set, standing by the other three sets which were displayed on tailor's dummies.



The Revd Dr Stephen James

Christmas Wrapped Up!

After developing this resource with CCSW (the Christian Council for Schools in Wales) back in 2007, I was delighted to see it reach three areas in the diocese this year, an increase on last year!

Christmas Wrapped Up! is a project which invites year 2 pupils into church to experience what Christmas is really all about. They spend time listening, waking up Luke (who's behind a screen), getting involved in role play, creating mince pies and cards as well as much more. It's designed to be a quick-moving experience full of lots of exciting things to do and, more than that, full of the importance of remembering that without Jesus there would be no Christmas.

The vision behind this project is: to provide a positive learning experience of being in church; to help children know and understand what Christmas is about for Christians; to help pupils make comparisons between the commercial and Christian approach to Christmas; and to build and develop relationships between community and the church locally.

Working with teams in Tredegar, Risca with Abercarn and Cwmcarn, and Fleur Dis Lys with Blackwood, was a pleasure and to see the teams grow in confidence as they engaged with the children was a privilege. Between the 3 groups, 16 schools visited and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank all those who were involved in making these projects happen for their time, commitment and energy. It wouldn't have been possible without you!

This project fits into a wider context of Christian schools work which includes collective worship, RE and PHSE lessons, lunch time clubs and after school clubs and more! Other seasonal events include Easter Cracked (a multimedia experience exploring Easter in a church setting for year 6 pupils) and 'It's Your Move!' a book designed to give to year 6 pupils as they make the transition from primary to secondary school. Check the Diocesan Children's website page for more details!

Vicki Brackpool

Vicki is growing the church!

Our Children's Adviser, Vicki Brackpool, is now on maternity leave. Please pray for her, her husband and the baby due in February.

Rev Linda Griffiths has kindly agreed to be the contact for Children's work while Vicki is away. Linda can be contacted on 01495 270455.



Make it a Real Easter with a Real Easter Egg



The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade Easter egg to explain the Easter story on the box and give money to charity. It was launched last year as a mail order gift after the supermarkets turned it down. Churches and schools joined a campaign to establish the egg by placing orders through mail order, many for hundreds of eggs at a time.

there is a bible quote under the lid and a free copy of the Easter story included inside every box. These new features make the egg even more attractive.

The recommended retail price is £3.99. The Real Easter Egg is made from 125g of high quality Fairtrade chocolate and 15 pence from every sale is donated to Traidcraft Exchange.

How to buy a Real Easter Egg

There are limited supplies so early ordering is advised. The official Real Easter Egg online shop is at www.realeasteregg.co.uk Online ordering will be open for as long as supplies last or until the middle of March but check the official online shop or Facebook for details.

OR: your parish may be doing a bulk order.

This year, the Real Easter Egg has had a make-over with brighter colours. The Easter story on the outside of the box is a colourful visual and there are three crosses on the front. For the first time ever on an Easter Egg

www.monmouthdiocese.org.uk



Tributes to Dean Jeremy Winston

Jeremy's illness and death came as a shock to us all. Seven hundred mourners filled the Cathedral for his funeral and a further three hundred were in St Mary's Abergavenny to hear the live broadcast of the service. St Mary's, Abergavenny, will be full for the Thanksgiving Service on 21st January.

Leading the tributes which poured in from near and far, the Bishop said: "Jeremy was a devoted priest and a man of vision and inspiration. His death is a great loss to the cathedral and the diocese. I give thanks to God for Jeremy and his friendship and ministry and offer my condolences to his family and his many friends who will feel deeply bereaved at their loss. Jeremy knew that he was seriously ill and faced the possibility of death with faith and confidence in the goodness of God. May he rest in peace."

Speaking on behalf of the congregation at St Mary's, Abergavenny, where Fr Jeremy had been Vicar for the last eighteen years, churchwarden Sir Trefor Morris said: "Fr Jeremy gave so much to Abergavenny, both to the church and to the local community. He will surely be missed by everybody who knew him in Abergavenny and by all his new friends in Newport."

Bishop John Davies of Swansea and Brecon, gave the funeral address. The full text is on the diocesan website but here is an extract:

"Jeremy Winston – Father Jeremy to so many, Dean Jeremy for such a cruelly short time, 'The Winston' to some of us, Uncle Jeremy to others, but today simply Jeremy – was an outstanding individual in so many ways. He was one of the best friends and colleagues for which anyone could wish, and there is so much in his life that we prize.

"So many have said and in so many different ways (and we agree) that Jeremy was – and this list is not exhaustive – unfailingly courteous (even to those with whom he disagreed), visionary, profound, inspirational, wise, multi-talented, cultured, hard-working and intelligent leader who could and did both move and motivate others. We agree, of course.

"But we also agree that he did love to laugh. Crisp and gently wicked one-liners, often delivered with narrowed eyes and curled lips, were part of Jeremy's stock-in-trade. And, even when they came from others in his direction, he much enjoyed them.

"But it's to faith that I want to now turn our attention and, more particularly and, perhaps, rather oddly to sparrows. Difficult though it is to stretch the imagination and see Jeremy as a sparrow - a tall and commanding eagle seems a more suitable metaphor - he requested that *The Sparrow's Prayer*, written by the late Lord Hailsham, and found in his memoirs *A Sparrow's Flight*, be read as part of the address at this service.

Father, before this sparrow's earthly flight
Ends in the darkness of a winter's night;
Father, without whose word no sparrow falls,
Hear this, Thy weary sparrow when he calls.
Mercy, not justice is his contrite prayer,
Cancel his guilt and drive away despair;
Speak but the word, and make his spirit whole,
Cleanse the dark places of his heart and soul,
Speak but the word, and set his spirit free,
Mercy, not justice, still his constant plea.
So shall Thy sparrow, crumpled wings restored,
Soar like a lark, and glorify his Lord.

"The faith which led Lord Hailsham to write his sparrow's prayer, is a wonderful gift, and a treasure which the earthen vessel of the church is called to proclaim afresh in every generation.

"It's no fairy tale, trouble-free faith which hides us from the dark things of life and death and pretends that they're not there. Rather, it enables us to journey and deal with things like thanks and sorrow, anticipation and anger. It enables us today to grieve, but not without hope.

"Remembering the pleasure which Jeremy took in hospitality...and that the Eucharist is a foretaste of the Heavenly Wedding Banquet...let Jeremy's table be ready; let this sparrow soar like the lark; let the trumpets sound as he crosses over; and please God, let him rest in peace and rise in Glory."

After the service, clergy and other ministers lined the path from the Cathedral to the lychgate as Jeremy's coffin was carried to the hearse.



GAZETTE

Appointments

Revd Mark Soady, Vicar of Abergavenny; to be also Honorary Priest-Vicar and Minor Canon of Newport Cathedral (Dec 2011)

Revd William Ritchie, community priest in London; to be Chaplain to the University of Wales, Newport, and Priest-in-charge of All Saints, Newport. (8 Jan)

Revd Mark Lawson-Jones, Team Rector of Magor Benefice; to be Team Rector of Cyncoed Benefice (25 Feb)

Revd Lister Tonge, Chaplain to the Community of St John the Baptist, nr Oxford; to be Dean of Monmouth (31 Mar)

Resignations

Mrs Irene Doull, World Mission Officer; on reaching retirement (31 Jan)

Revd Canon Jennifer Mole, as Area Dean of Pontypool (31 Jan)

Revd Rex Matthias, Priest-in-charge of St Julian's, Newport; to be Vicar of Mold (St Asaph) (17 Mar)

Congratulations

Revd Keith Beardmore (St John's Maindee) on attaining the postgraduate Certificate in Sport and Christian Outreach at the University of Gloucestershire. Keith is chaplain to Newport County AFC.

Confirmations

27 March	7.30pm	Monmouth Schools – St Mary's Priory
22 April	10.00am	St Paul's, Newbridge
3 June	10.30am	St Teilo's, Llantilio Pertholey
16 September	10.30am	Ebbw Vale
25 November	.TBA	Caldicot
2 December	.TBA	Pontypool

Lent 2012

Sunday 19 Feb: Bishop's Pastoral letter to be read in all churches in place of a sermon

Sunday 26 Feb: YES at St John's Maindee, Newport at 6pm

Sunday 11 March: YES at St Mary's, Chepstow at 6pm

25 March: YES at St Cadoc's, Pontypool at 6pm

The Bishop's addresses on St John's Gospel, given in Lent 2009, and on St Luke's Gospel given in Lent 2011 are still available on the diocesan website.

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Details of the two projects chosen, one at home and one overseas, will be announced in the pastoral letter and on the diocesan website.

Order your Real Easter Egg from www.realeasteregg.co.uk

To be a pilgrim



The badge for the Year of Pilgrimage has been designed by Phil Hackett. It shows the diocesan coat of arms on a pilgrim's scallop shell rather than a shield.

A badge will be given to anyone who makes a pilgrimage in 2012.

For ideas, news and your events, see the diocesan pilgrims' website

www.monmouthpilgrims.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE:

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The New Dean

The Bishop has appointed the Revd Lister Tonge to be Dean of Monmouth. Fr Lister will be installed in Newport Cathedral on Saturday 31st March at 2.30pm.

Born and raised in Lancashire, Fr Lister (60) has an international reputation as someone who can help people and communities develop their spiritual life. He is a gifted pastor and also has practical experience of looking after church buildings and of working with civic organisations. At present, he is based in Oxford where he is chaplain to the Community of St John Baptist and where he has been chaplain and tutor at Cuddesdon Theological College and interim chaplain at New College and Exeter College, Oxford.

He trained for the priesthood at King's College London and St Augustine's College, Canterbury, and started ordained ministry in 1975 at Liverpool Parish Church working in downtown areas and with city and business institutions. In 1978, he moved to Johannesburg Cathedral as Precentor, responsible for all aspects of Cathedral ministry. The Cathedral was a major bastion of opposition to apartheid and famous for its multiracial stance. Desmond Tutu was an almost-daily worshipper.

Returning to the UK in 1979, Fr Lister joined the Community of the Resurrection (known as the Mirfield Fathers) for 12 years. At Mirfield, he was part of the life and administration of the monastery and college. During that time he also trained in Ignatian spirituality at St Beuno's in North Wales.

Announcing the appointment, the Bishop said: "I am delighted to welcome to the diocese someone with Fr Lister's gifts and personality. I was conscious that people were asking for a Dean who would make the Cathedral a place of prayer, welcome and pilgrimage so that it is truly the Mother Church of the Diocese. The Dean also needs to be seen as a significant figure in the city. I am sure that Fr Lister's spiritual and pastoral gifts will be of great benefit to the cathedral, the diocese, and the city community."