

HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE CHURCH IN WALES GOVERNING BODY APRIL 2008

Governing Body says 'No' to women bishops



The Church in Wales Governing Body narrowly rejected proposals to allow women priests to become bishops. The Bill, unanimously supported by the House of Bishops and passed by the House of Laity, failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority in the House of Clergy. It fell after the amendment that would have offered alternative episcopal oversight for those unable to accept the ministry of a woman bishop also failed.

Committee Stage

Before the Bill to enable women to be ordained as Bishops, as proposed by the Bench of Bishops, could be put to the Governing Body, it had to pass through the Committee Stage of Bill Procedure. A Select Committee had received a number of amendments for consideration by the GB, some of which were withdrawn before the meeting. The crucial amendment proposed by the Select Committee for debate and vote at the Committee Stage in the GB was that "the Bench of Bishops will provide pastoral care and support for those who in conscience cannot accept the ordination of women as priests and bishops through the ministry of an Assistant Bishop or Bishops."

His Honour Judge **Nicholas Cooke QC** (co-opted), chairman of the Select Committee, in introducing the amendments



stressed that while there was general agreement among its members that women must move forward in ministry, there was considerable difference in opinion as to whether there should be specified provision for those who cannot accept women priests.

Canon **Jeremy Winston** (Monmouth) said that many who were unhappy about the Bill wished to remain as loyal members of the Church in Wales. The provision of an Assistant Bishop to provide pastoral care for those unable to accept a woman bishop would prevent possible schism in the Church. "It would allow those who are not in agreement with women bishops to continue to play a full, active, devout, prayerful part in the life of the Church in Wales, which we want to do."

Bishop **David Thomas** (Provincial Assistant Bishop) hoped that his ministry over the last 11 years has helped to maintain the highest degree of unity possible. He felt that

where sacraments and holy orders are concerned, there should be alternative oversight. "There is a deafening silence as to whether there will be a bishop provided for those who cannot accept the ordination of women to the priesthood when I retire."



Archbishop **Barry** said that people sympathetic to the ordination of women to the episcopate might see the amendment as attractive, allowing a way of remaining in the Anglican fold. But this differs from the present arrangements, not being voluntary for the bishops, but constitutional and canonical. "We would be appointing a male bishop who had doubts about the validity of the orders of a woman bishop. Such a bishop and his followers would have real doubts as to whether the sacraments presided over by her were real sacraments, and real

In this issue:

Page 3
Retirement
Morning and Evening Prayer
Page 4
Presidential Address

Page 5
Standing Committee
Page 6
"Renewable Energy"
Diocesan Presentation
Page 7
Questions and Answers

St Michael's College,
Llandaff
Worship at the GB
Page 8
Parish Websites
Open Church Day
Sacred Synod



The Governing Body met at the University of Wales, Lampeter, on 2nd and 3rd April 2008

doubts about whether anyone ordained by her, male or female, was actually ordained. That would have created a church within a church." "This is seeking alternative pastoral care, not additional."

When put, the amendment was defeated, 48 for, 71 against, 3 abstentions.

The Bill

The motion was proposed by Archbishop **Barry**, who provided a biblical and theological justification for ordaining women to the episcopate. The ordination of women was not an issue in the New Testament—it speaks of the high priesthood of Jesus and the 'royal priesthood' of the whole Church—the priesthood of all believers, who are all representatives of Christ and his Church. Although Jesus only appointed men as apostles, they were not ordained by him, they were not made priests or bishops.

"Some say because Christ is male, the priest has to be male as an icon of Christ. However, it is not simply the historical individual male, Jesus of Nazareth, who is represented by the priest or bishop, but the crucified and risen Christ—who represents and redeems the whole of humanity, women as well as men. The question is 'Can an exclusively male priesthood represent human redemption, since both men and women are saved by Jesus Christ?'"

"There is a difference between being a representative of Christ and being a representation of Christ. As the late Geoffrey Lampe put it, 'The ambassador represents the Queen. He acts in her name; he speaks for her but he is not a representation of her.' There is no need for the priest to be male to resemble the Christ whom he represents. It is not the maleness of Jesus which is significant, but his humanity."

"What about St Paul's argument that man is the head of woman, and that man was not created for woman's sake, but woman for man's sake? Paul is drawing on the Genesis 2 account of creation where woman is subordinate; the Genesis 1 account shows women to be equal with men 'God created male and female both in his own likeness.' There is no universal biblical principle of male headship over women."

"Women today have a totally different status than they had in 1st century Palestine. At the heart of the Christian Gospel are values to do with integrity, justice, wholeness, inclusion. How can a Church, which claims to set people free and treat all as equal, refuse even the possibility of considering whether women can be called to the episcopate? As the late Archbishop Robert Runcie said, 'It cannot be irrelevant to evangelism that so many unbelievers think that the place we give to women is absurd.'"

Bishop **John Davies** (St Asaph) seconded, calling on the Church to have the courage to move towards the future, not receding to the past. "To say that we cannot ordain women as bishops is to make a new statement about what we believe in ministry, and impedes God's mission." A refusal to appoint women bishops would send a negative message to modern Wales. "This whole debate is looked upon by the outside world with bemusement."



Many of the subsequent speeches still focussed on the question of pastoral care and support for those who could not accept the ordination of women. Canon **Andrew Knight** (Swansea and Brecon), despite supportive for women's ministry as priests and bishops, was concerned for the unity of the Church in Wales as it is today. "Are we giving space, dignity and place to those who disagree?" He would vote against because of his concern for those who cannot accept women bishops. Canon **Joe Griffin** (Swansea and Brecon) was deeply perplexed why there is so much silence about the pastoral care being offered. "The Bench is coy about the one piece of information which would lift this Bill and this GB meeting."

Canon **Tudor Hughes** (St Asaph) believed the debate has shown the deep division in Wales which may well worsen and become deeper. "Other Churches are asking us to hold back." Other speakers also drew attention to the ecumenical implications. The Revd **Robert Rowland** (St Asaph) said, "Surely

The Vote

"that henceforth in the Church in Wales men and women may be ordained as Bishops"

Laity			
For: 52	Against: 19	Abstention: 1	
Clergy			
For: 27	Against: 18	Abstention: 1	
Bishops			
For: 4	Against: 0	Abstention: 0	

the first aim should be to come to an understanding with the largest Church, the Roman Catholic." The Revd **Ariadne van den Hof** (Bangor) questioned the impression that there is consensus about the ordination of women among all Roman Catholics. The Old Catholic Church in the Netherlands has the possibility of ordaining women as bishops even though it has the desire to re-unite with the Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs **Helen Biggin** (Llandaff) felt that the discrimination against women was putting the Church in danger of being an irrelevance to the people we serve. The Church is potentially missing out on the talents on offer. "After 11 years, we should be celebrating the contribution of the ministry of women in Wales, not stifling it. Let us awaken to the glorious possibilities of what is offered to us by women as bishops." The Revd **Jan Gould** (Llandaff) did not see a lack of consensus as the reason why the Church should not go ahead with the ordination of women as bishops. There was not consensus about women priests, but the Church in Wales went ahead. "We need the same courage as in 1996 so that we in the Church in Wales and in society as a whole can benefit from the gifting of women." Dr **Gill Todd** (Swansea and Brecon) wanted a celebration of the unified ministry in the Church in Wales over the last 11 years with people working together across churches and agendas. "Enable us to move together, and celebrate diversity and different views."



In answer to the questions about the role of a Provincial Assistant Bishop in the future, Archbishop Barry said that the Bishops will spend time in thought and prayer to consider this.



"I am deeply disappointed, especially since it was lost with a very low margin in the house of clergy. Had we been willing to compromise and have an assistant bishop in the constitution to look after those who in conscience were opposed to the ordination of women, the Bill would have sailed through. But that would have sanctioned institutionalised schism and would have been disastrous for the Church in Wales."

"This is an issue that is not going to go away or be ignored. The Church in Wales will have to grapple with it. I am sad that we have to go through the whole process again."

- Archbishop Barry

"The bishops failed to give concrete assurance to those opposed that they would be provided for. I just feel very strongly people wanted some greater degree of clarity, a greater degree of assurance, and I think that wasn't forthcoming."



"Amongst many people who were opposed and against the ordination of women bishops, and indeed women priests, there is nonetheless acknowledgement that it will eventually happen, but they have certainly to tie it down, I think, in terms of provision."

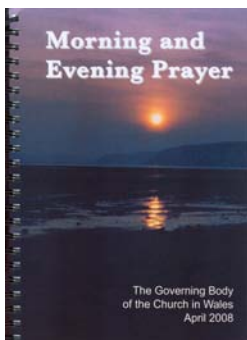
- Canon Jeremy Winston

"It's no great surprise that the Bill failed, it's a disappointment though. I don't think it will have any effect on women who work in the Church at the moment, except possibly sapping their confidence a little bit."



"I think we will graciously and with dignity carry on with the ministry we've got."

- Canon Mary Stallard



The Governing Body was given the opportunity to discuss the draft of An Order for Morning and Evening Prayer for use in the Church in Wales 2008 to enable a final revision for submission for approval at a future meeting of the GB. The purpose of the revision, in the words of Bishop David Thomas, is:

"to provide a pattern of daily liturgical prayer that is flexible enough for the unpredictable conditions of contemporary life, rich enough to mark the different seasons, and accessible enough for laypeople to use at least some parts of the liturgy of the hours".

The Structure of Morning and Evening Prayer 2008

1. The Introduction

Prayers of Penitence (*omitted on weekdays*)
 Opening Versicles and Responses etc
or
 Morning Acclamation of Christ *or*
 Evening Blessing of the Light
or
 Simple Introduction (*weekdays*)

2. The Ministry of the Word

Pattern 1 (with two readings)

Psalmody
 Old Testament Reading
 Gospel Canticle
 New Testament Reading (Canticle)
 Creed

or Pattern 2 (with one reading)

Psalmody (Canticle)
 Biblical Reading
 Gospel Canticle
 Creed

3. The Prayers

Intercessions
 The Lord's Prayer
 The Collect of the Day (The Second or Third Collects)

4. The Conclusion

Dismissal *or* Other Ending

Appendices suggest:

- Alternative forms of the Prayers of Penitence
- Texts for use during particular seasons and on particular themes
- Canticles
- A Baptismal Creed
- Prayers
- The Litany

Also provided are:

- An Order for Prayer during the Day
- Prayer during the Day—Seasonal Material
- An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

In introducing the draft, Bishop David called Morning and Evening Prayer the 'Church's own prayer', containing within it ways of celebrating the seasons, chewing over scripture prayerfully and meditatively, and as an aid to find our way closer to God. As a means, not an end, it needs to be more flexible than anything from 50 or 100 years ago, so that it can be used in the 'unpredictable situations of modern life'. This book is not just for the clergy but so that all people, in their own way, can be involved in the offering of prayer and praise. Cranmer wanted to make the prayer of the Daily Office accessible so everyone can take part; this book hopefully will achieve this in this day and age.

The Order was warmly welcomed; points raised by members would be discussed; the form of publication would be determined by the Worship Resources Advisory Group, and the Order would return to the GB in the future for authorisation. Bishop David particularly thanked the Revd. **Catherine Haynes** for the care and skill she has devoted to this work; and to Mr **Hendrick Hays** of Church in Wales Publications for masterminding the printing.

RETIREMENT

This was the last GB for Bishop **David Thomas**, who retires in July. Archbishop Barry expressed the enormous gratitude of the Church in Wales for Bishop David's ministry, not just for those who cannot accept the ordination of women,

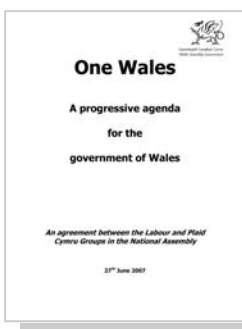


but as a member of various committees, and as the link between the bishops and the Liturgical Committee. "He has enormous patience in matters of liturgical revision" - the fruit of which we have particularly seen in the Calendar, Lectionary and Holy Eucharist 2004. Archbishop Barry wished David and Rosemary a happy retirement in Swansea.

Making a vital contribution to the life of Wales

In his Presidential Address to the Governing Body, Archbishop Barry touched on a number of subjects which he saw to be of concern to all Christians — “issues that are crucial to a nation’s wellbeing.” He did so, “because the Gospel we proclaim has relevance to every aspect of our lives or else we are not preaching it properly.”

One Wales



The Bench of Bishops has produced a response to the *One Wales* document, the legislative agenda produced by the coalition third term

Welsh Assembly Government. In the response, the Bishops tackle issues of nationhood, health, prosperity, education, community, housing, the poor, culture, the environment and governance. As a result, the Bishops are talking to cabinet ministers about a whole range of issues to do with the life of Wales – health, housing and poverty, as well as issues in which the Church in Wales has a direct interest, such as education.

Archbishop Barry paid tribute to the Welsh Assembly Government for the willingness of its ministers to meet, discuss and engage in such discussions. “I cannot imagine the First Minister and the Health Minister of any other country ringing up the local Bishop to ask how precisely Government could help in its attitude to both mental health issues and victim support as happened here in Wales after the tragic death of Father Paul Bennett in Aberdare.”

“Devolved Government brings with it both accessibility and the ability to tackle issues in devolved fields in a way that is relevant and pertinent to Wales. In other words it gives Welsh

“*We believe in a God, the Lord of life and Creator of the universe, who does not restrict his concern to religious matters*”

solutions to Welsh problems.” Archbishop Barry welcomes the setting up of a Convention which will

- raise awareness and improve understanding of the arrangements for devolved Government in Wales;
- facilitate and stimulate a widespread, thorough and participative consultation at all levels of Welsh society on the issue of primary law making powers;
- prepare an analysis of the views expressed and the evidence presented through the process;
- assess the level of public support for giving the National Assembly for Wales primary law making powers by 2011;
- report to the Government on its findings, with recommendations relevant to the holding of a Referendum.

“This ought to be of concern to every member of the Church In Wales and indeed to every Welsh citizen and I hope that we will engage positively with the process.”

Global warming
As individuals and as a Church, we have a part to play in lessening global warming by changing our habits. A statement of principles and a resource pack has been produced about sustainability, arising from the central premise “that we are stewards of God’s creation, not its owners, and therefore accountable



to Him”. “The Church should strive to put this belief into action by:

1. Seeking to reduce energy use in all our buildings;
2. Be open to renewable energy solutions such as solar power and wind turbines on our property;
3. Encouraging the use of less polluting forms of transport wherever possible, particularly walking and cycling;
4. Developing wildlife conservation schemes in our churchyards;
5. Using Fair Trade environment and animal friendly products wherever possible;
6. Reducing waste by composting and recycling as much of it as possible;
7. Reducing paper usage (and then only recycled paper);
8. Considering the environmental impact of our meetings and how we can reduce that impact;
9. Disseminate information on good practice and where to obtain advice and help on environmental issues;
10. Promote sustainability through our preaching and teaching and setting a good example.

The Church in Wales Office is addressing sustainability issues—it has commissioned an Energy Audit of 39 Cathedral Road, and is looking at an office travel plan. A green guide is being produced for parishes, and a list of sources for further information will be provided.

Archbishop Barry mentioned St Joseph’s Church, Cwmaman, in the Diocese of Llandaff, which has been fitted with 30 solar panels and a small wind turbine. It was

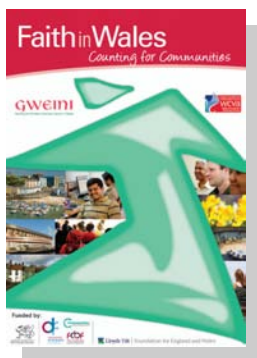
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS *(continued)*

commended in the British Urban Regeneration



Awards in 2007 and now sells electricity to the national grid. The Church in Wales has also entered into an agreement with The Carbon Trust to get advice on this issue on cutting down our carbon footprint.

Faith in Wales



The attention of the GB was drawn to the report commissioned by Gweini—the Council of the Christian Voluntary Sector in Wales, *Faith in Wales*, which shows

that faith communities contribute £102 million a year to the Welsh economy. “We are not in existence to sustain the economy, but it is good to know that we are playing our part and the report shows the role faith communities play in the wider communities of which they are a part.”

Archbishop Barry quoted some of the statistics contained in the report:

- 42,000 volunteers working from our churches in the wider community;
- 4,400 places of worship—one for every 670 people;
- The Church in Wales is the largest single denomination;
- 30% of all congregations are Church in Wales congregations;
- 98% of those who say they are religious are Christian;
- 7.2% of the population attend a religious service every week;
- Faith communities are involved in hospital visiting, working with the young, lunch clubs, coffee bars, marriage preparation, support for the bereaved, alcohol and drug awareness and personal finance issues;
- Faith communities maintain over 1600 historic buildings;
- Churches bring in 2.5 million tourists every year;

- 500 faith communities participate in government regeneration activities or are strongly involved in their local community’s strategy.

There are also good relationships between the faith communities in Wales through the Faith Communities Forum set up by Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister, in the wake of 9/11. The leaders of the faith communities meet the leaders of all the political parties at the Assembly twice a year. There is also an Interfaith Council in Wales, a body independent of the government, whose aims are:

- to advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teaching, tradition and practises of the different faith communities in Wales;
- to promote good relationships between persons of different faiths and to be of service to the people of Wales;
- to promote awareness of the distinctive features of these faith communities and their common ground.

“In all these ways, the faith communities of Wales are contributing to the general wellbeing and health of Wales and by so doing enabling the Government to see that we have a vital contribution to make to the life of our nation.”

We share the ambition to transform Wales into a self-confident, prosperous, healthy nation and society which is fair to all.

The full text of the Presidential Address can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/bishops/sermons/b29.html

The One Wales report can be downloaded from <http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/strategypublications/onewales>

The Faith in Wales report can be downloaded from www.gweini.org.uk/audit/report.htm



The **Collection** at the GB Eucharists of £1040 (before Gift Aid added) was given to the Alzheimer’s Society, the leading UK care and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers. For further information, see www.alzheimers.org.uk

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Report of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body was introduced by its chairman, His Honour Judge **Philip Price QC**.



Future Venues for GB

The Standing Committee recommended the following venues for 2009-2010:

21st-22nd April 2009: Venue Cymru, Llandudno;

16th-17th September 2009: Lampeter;

14th-15th April 2010: Lampeter;

22nd-23rd September 2010: Lampeter.

The September 2008 GB agenda would be planned around the theme of ‘Ministry’, and would include the Report on Clergy terms of Service and themes coming from the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

Interim Report from the Working Group on the Representation of Women
The GB had asked for a group to prepare a report on the progress of the Church in Wales towards the Millennium Goal of equal representation of women in decision making at all levels. The Report will be brought to the Standing Committee in July, and to the GB in September 2008.

Archiepiscopal See Working Group Report

A report had been brought to the Standing Committee last July, but both the Bench of Bishops and the Standing Committee felt more work was needed before it could be brought to the GB. A new brief has been given to the Working Group, noting work to-date on the role and location of the Archbishop, and asking the Working Group to consider ways in which the diocesan Bishop of Llandaff could operate permanently as Archbishop of Wales.

Constitution Group

A Bill will be drafted to introduce the new Constitution of the Church in Wales. This Bill will be considered by the Standing Committee in July 2008, and circulated to the Governing Body for consideration in April 2009.



The Governing Body was shown a DVD, commissioned by the Standing Committee, and narrated and produced by the Venerable **John Holdsworth** (St Davids). Introducing the DVD, Archdeacon John felt that we don't always present ourselves as an 'Easter people' at the GB—we can get despondent when all seems doom and gloom, and begin to believe what the media and those outside say about us.

But many are experiencing 'good news' - and this DVD, as Archbishop Barry said, is a tangible reminder that great things are going on in the churches and parishes of Wales.



A new church at Holywell



Making music relevant, Newport



Prifio Arts Festival, Porthmadoc



Café Praise, Presceli



Night Club Ministry, Cardiff



Community service, Blaina



Ministry to tourists, Llandeilo



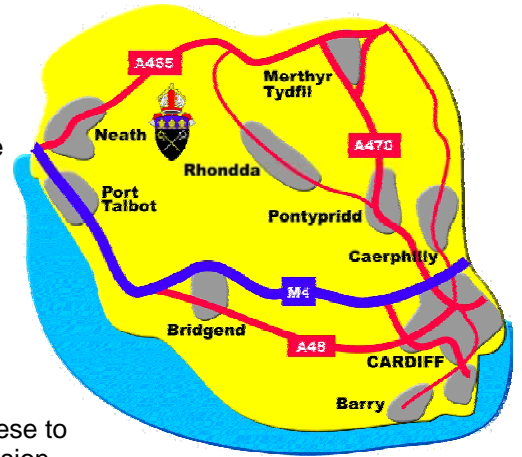
Omega Youth Church, Llanrhian

The DVD will be made generally available to show the Church in Wales is "an interesting, exciting, worthwhile place to inhabit."

"How are we being called to play our part in God's work in this generation, in this part of South Wales?" - that's the guiding mission question for the Diocese of Llandaff. Archbishop **Barry** and Bishop **David Yeoman**, the assistant bishop, gave the presentation from the Diocese to the GB.

The response of the Diocese to that challenge is in its Mission Statement:

to develop the ministry and discipleship of all God's people throughout the Diocese so that, transformed ourselves, we might play our part in transforming God's world



appointed to strengthen the focus on mission strategy, as the Diocese looks to rebuild not just numerically, but also in terms of spiritual depth and faith confidence. The appointment of a Vocations Advisor will give renewed emphasis to the discernment of the gifts and callings of God's people.

The Diocesan Mission Fund offers financial support to new initiatives identified by parish MAPs as a means of stimulating evangelism and church growth, and has assisted a number of exciting initiatives throughout the diocese.



Parishes have been encouraged to draw up Mission Action Plans (MAP) and most have now done so. The plans set clear aims and goals for the parishes over a five year period; each parish is reviewed by the bishops or archdeacons, and given encouragement and support in fulfilling their MAP.

A number of parishes have formed Local Ministry Teams, and the Diocesan Local Ministry Development Team gives active support to these through training courses offered at a deanery or parish level. Most of the clergy of the Diocese have taken part in a Leadership Course, and about a third attended the UK *Leading your Church into Growth* course, and both of these have been greatly valued.

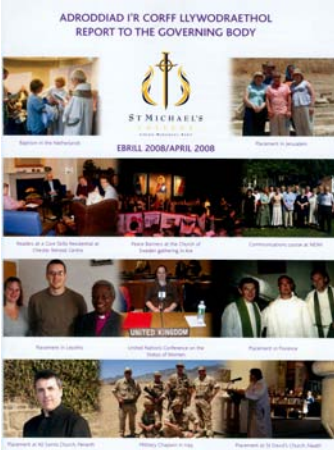
Stewardship has been set within the context of mission and personal discipleship. Financial giving has been rising consistently. A Diocesan Missioner has been recently



E-masses engage young people through the creative use of technology in worship. The Board of Social Responsibility seeks to transform the lives of others through projects for the homeless, day care nurseries, the Parent Support Unit etc. Church buildings are being adapted for community use for arts, healthy living, and social housing, while still retaining a worship space.

The Diocese is twinned with the Diocese of Uppsala in the Church of Sweden, and a number of visits have been made between the two to experience and learn from each other's traditions.

All this is in the context of discerning, celebrating and making present the Kingdom of God already amongst us and yet to come.



Canon Dr Peter Sedgwick, the Principal of St Michael's Theological College, Llandaff, presented the Annual Report. 173 students studied at St Michael's in 2007, which included 22

residential and 20 non-residential ordinands, and 38 readers in training. All Provincial in-service training is arranged through the College, and a number of charities, public sector and commercial and organisations use the facilities for conferences. Post-ordination training is currently being assessed, with particular emphasis on the training incumbent and parish, looking at mentoring, reflection and supervision. This reflects the considerable change over the years in the relationship between incumbent and curate, and the fact that at the end of his or her third year, there is no guarantee the curate will move on—that is dependent on assessment.

An inspection is to take place in 2009 by the Ministry Training Division of the Church of England along with inspectors from Wales. The new Chaplaincy Centre is to be launched in June 2008, when the speaker will be Jane Williams.

Bishop **Dominic** (Monmouth) stressed the importance of the next year with the inspection and building work that will take place. The College is now responsible for people through selection, training and their first curacy. He thanked the Principal for turning the College around.



The reduction in size of the GB means that all members can sit at tables, not just the bishops and the editor of *Highlights!* But are the members waiting to be examined on the finer points of the Constitution of the Church in Wales, or for the bingo numbers to be called?



Q What happens at a Celtic Bishop's "away day"?

- Dr Peter Padley (Swansea & Brecon)

A The first bi-annual conference of bishops from Scotland, Ireland and Wales was held in 1981; the meetings allow them to share in worship, prayer, study and companionship, and to look at common issues in non-established and sometimes minority Churches. The next meeting will be in October 2008 and will discuss issues relating to the Lambeth Conference.

- Archbishop Barry

Q What progress has the Church in Wales made towards becoming a Fair Trade Province? Have dioceses that have become Fair Trade kept their status?

- Mrs Gillian Knight (Swansea & Brecon)



A All dioceses have kept their status, and progress is reported from each one. Fair Trade campaigns are held locally, Fair Trade goods are promoted and used at Diocesan Conferences and other events. Discussions are taking place with the Fair Trade Foundation for the Church in Wales to become a 'Fair Trade Province', However, there is no precedent for this, we are ahead of the game, and the Foundation doesn't know what to do with us!

- Bishop John Davies

Q Is the GB satisfied that we are not leaving workers, volunteers and members vulnerable by adopting the interim procedures for undertaking Criminal Record Bureau checks before the new Independent Safeguarding Authority comes on stream?

- Mr Neil Herbert (Monmouth)

A Since 2002, all current paid and volunteer workers have undertaken CRB checks—some 8000 checks in total. The Provincial Child Protection Committee has initiated re-checks, and has met representatives of the Home Office to understand how it can better operate. An updated Code of Good Practice was circulated to all parishes last January. Constant vigilance will ensure the protect of vulnerable persons in parishes.

- Bishop John Davies

Q Can the Church in Wales continue to justify its policy of enforcing retirement from office or elected representation of volunteer persons on the grounds of age if they have reached the age of 75.

- Mr Martin Jones (St Davids)

A The Bench of Bishops has considered the implications of current employment legislation as applied to office holders. A Review will include consideration of the age limit for churchwardens and also for GB members.

- Bishop Dominic

WORSHIP AT THE GB



The worship was led by the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, and was held in the University Chapel. The Revd **Catherine Haynes** gave the Bible Study and Prayer in the Arts Hall, on the Road to Emmaus.

THANKS

In his closing remarks, Archbishop Barry particularly thanked **John Shirley**, Provincial Secretary, (right) and the Provincial Office staff for all their hard work in preparing for the GB meetings.



The Governing Body next meets on 17th & 18th September 2008, at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

Create your own parish website

Over the last couple of years, a small working group has been looking at all areas of the Church in Wales' online presence. In the past twelve months, a new Provincial website has been launched, and each diocese has revamped its site, using a common house style. The next stage in the process is to encourage individual parishes to take part in the Parish Website Scheme.



Introducing the Scheme to the Governing Body, the Venerable **Philip Morris**, chairman of the working group, saw websites as an important part of a parish's mission and ministry, providing an easy means of access for people in the local and wider community to discover what is on offer in a church—its service times, its history, and its organisations. "What the Church in Wales Communications Department is now offering is an easy way for every parish in the province to create its own web-site, free of charge, and with no additional software or technical knowledge. All a parish needs is someone with an internet connection and a little spare time. If technical support is needed, then the Provincial or Diocesan webmasters are willing to provide it."

Matt Knight, the Church in Wales Creative Resources Officer, demonstrated how the Scheme works:

1. The parish contacts either the Provincial Creative Resources

Officer (029 2034 8251 or resources@churchinwales.org.uk) or their Diocesan Communications Officer to request a website;

2. The parish is issued with a username and password;
3. The person responsible in the parish for their website goes to the Provincial website and logs in with their username and password;
4. They fill in a form online with the information for their parish website, press a "create website" button, and their website will be created, using the information they have entered;
5. Their website is now online, and anyone can see it;
6. The person responsible for the parish's site can login again with their username and password as often as they like to add or change information on the website.

The system will allow the creation of websites in English or Welsh or both.

Full details online at www.churchinwales.org.uk/parishwebsite

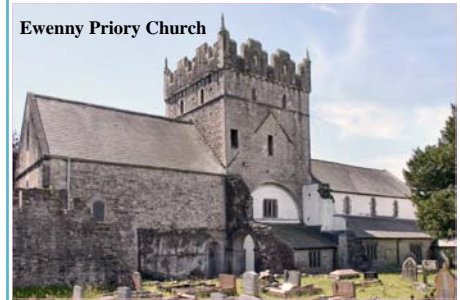
Mr **John Winton**, the National Director of *Churches Tourism Network Wales (CTNW)*



introduced the Open Church Day, Saturday 6th September 2008.

This is the Church in Wales' contribution to the European Heritage Weekends, and it is hoped that hundreds of churches throughout Wales will be open for much of that day.

Ewenny Priory Church



"This is an opportunity to share with the wider community the beauty of the buildings, the stories they tell, and an opportunity to connect people who step inside these buildings with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

CTNW will work with the Church in Wales to maximise publicity, making tourism agencies aware of the day, providing an information booklet, offering training courses in welcoming and marketing, and providing individual help for parishes.

CTNW can be contacted on 029 2041 7196 or 07815 062 040; email john@ctnw.co.uk. The website is www.ctnw.co.uk.

SACRED SYNOD



The bishops of the Church in Wales met in Sacred Synod before the GB meeting to confirm the election of the Very Revd. **John Davies** (*on right of picture*) as Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. He will be consecrated at Llandaff Cathedral on 2nd May 2008 and enthroned at Brecon Cathedral on 24th May 2008.

HIGHLIGHTS

is written and designed by Philip Morris. Published by Church in Wales Publications, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 2XF

☎ 029 2034 8258

✉ publications@churchinwales.org.uk

Printed on recycled paper



THE CHURCH IN WALES
YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU

www.churchinwales.org.uk