

# • M O N M O U T H • Gaeaf • Winter 2018

# Grapevine

EICH EGLWYS LEOL  
YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IN WALES



## YN Y RHIFYN HWN INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 03 Enhancing connections through baptism
- 04 Let's talk mission
- 08 Lay training matters
- 12 'We will remember them' – Armistice 100
- 14 Winning Christmas card designs

[monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk](http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk)

YR EGLWYS  
YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH  
IN WALES





## Grapevine Editorial

So, as we throw ourselves into the busy festive season of spiritual preparation, prayer and celebration - take some time to put your feet up with a cuppa and mince pie and read through this latest edition of Grapevine.

Firstly, I hope you like the front cover as much as I do! Well done to Alex George, aged 10, of Usk Church in Wales Primary School who created the winning design in our Bishop's Christmas card competition. You can also see the runner-up entries on p14.

As this edition bridges the end of one year and the start of another, the articles featured are a reflection of that. We include a tribute to the past, with a roundup of some of the activities which took place across the diocese to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. There was standing room only in many of our churches as hundreds of people turned out for special Remembrance Day services.

However, we also look forward to what 2019 might bring for us as a diocese!

With preparations well underway for our Evangelism Bid submission; investment in lay training; investment in technology to help clergy work smarter, not harder and thinking differently about how we deal with life events – things are looking pretty exciting!

But, let's not be in too much of a rush to be 'out with the old' and enjoy this special time of year!

Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda i chi i gyd!

(Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!)

Pob bendith (blessings)

Debra

Enhancing connections through baptism .....	03
Let's talk mission .....	04-05
Schools, education and young people .....	06-07
Lay training matters .....	08-09
24 hours for Christian Aid .....	10
Festival of Prayer .....	11
'We will remember them' – Armistice 100 .....	12
People and places .....	13
Winning Christmas card designs .....	14
What's On / On the Move .....	15
Back Chat – What about poverty in Wales? .....	16

Monmouth Grapevine is produced and distributed by the Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance

**Editor:** Debra Goddard,  
Diocesan Communications Officer

**Email:** [debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:debragoddard@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Post:** Diocesan Office,  
64 Caerau Road, Newport. NP20 4HJ

**Deadline for next edition:**  
Thursday 28 February 2019

**Publication date:**  
Thursday 4 April 2019

To update the **FREE** order details for your church, please contact the Diocesan Office

**Email:**  
[libbieobrien@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:libbieobrien@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Tel:**  
01633 267490

**Designed by:** Mediadesign

All text and format complies with RNIB guidelines.

© Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance.  
All information correct at time of going to press.

Monmouth Diocesan Board of Finance is a company registered in England and Wales.

**Company no:** 003489945

**Charity no:** 1067653



<http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk>



Monmouthdiocese



@MonmouthDCO  
@MissionMonmouth

# Enhancing connections through baptism

The Bishop, through the Bishop's Audit, has been emphasising the importance of Life Events/ Occasional Offices. He has been encouraging Ministry Areas to think creatively and develop their approach to managing these personal interactions.

The Churches and Pastoral Committee has begun to collate resources and good practice guidance for Life Events, starting with Baptism.

But why is Baptism so important and how do we welcome the families that bring their children to our churches for baptism? Do we see this as a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus? Or do we consider this as an inconvenient interruption?

*"People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' (Luke 18: 15-17)"*

Rachel Nelmes, diocesan advisor for children, young people and their families, explained: "The sacrament of Baptism marks the start of our Christian journey, it is a declaration of faith and during this celebration the new Christian is welcomed into Church.

"The parents, godparents and sponsors all renew their commitment to continue their journey of faith and promise to encourage and nurture the faith of the new Christian.

"At this point of time we 'as church' have a unique opportunity to meet with this family and their friends.

"First impressions last, so let's make sure that we provide a very warm welcome because this is just the beginning!"

The diocese is providing training for Lay Pastoral Assistant for Baptism (for more details see p8-9) to support lay people to take an active role in Baptisms in their Ministry Area and to enhance the

connections between families and church. The training includes examples of good practice, such as Lower Islwyn Ministry Area.

Churchwarden Janet Jones, explained how their 'baptism basket' project has become such a success.

She said: "Following the Bishop's Audit of the Lower Islwyn Ministry Area, one of the recommendations was 'to review how families are helped to prepare for Baptism and what sort of follow up there is and to establish a coherent approach across all of the churches.

"Previously, as part of the diocesan training on mission, I had attended a course on mission led by Ali Bolton. She spoke about the challenges she faced in her area where there were many new housing estates. She along with members of a church group, had decided to deliver 'Welcome baskets' to new householders with practical items, along with a welcome card from the church.

"After the Bishop's Audit and its recommendations, and some thought and discussion with Reverend Martyn Evans, about the process of Baptism in our church, I suggested that perhaps a 'baptism basket' may be a good way for us to reach out to the families.

"We started the baskets earlier this year, and were thrilled that one of the first to receive one was Megan, who comes to church along with mum and grandma. The baskets have become part of every Baptism in St Mary's and I'm pleased to say also now used in other churches in our Ministry Area. The reaction of families has been really special and heart-warming, and we look forward to how we now take 'the next step'.

"This our way of expressing God's unconditional love."



Baptism Baskets



# Let's talk mission

@MissionMonmouth was officially launched by the Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Director of Mission, **The Venerable Sue Pinnington** at the Diocesan Conference in October.

In preparation for the launch, the diocese has been gathering information through e-mail consultation and focus groups to lay the foundation for our bid to the Church in Wales Evangelism Fund.

The focus groups were a fantastic opportunity to share stories of the missional work that we are already doing, as well as a chance to dream together about what might be possible.

Groups of lay people and clergy, led by Reverend Canon John Connell, Reverend Canon Jeremy Harris and Rachel Nelmes are working with these ideas to form our diocesan bid to the Evangelism Fund.

One of the lessons learnt from the process so far is how much we already have to celebrate and be thankful for. As a diocese we need to become a learning community that encourages and facilitates more opportunities for clergy and lay to share ideas and good practice.

## @MissionMonmouth

Launching @MissionMonmouth #LoveWithoutLimit, Archdeacon Sue reminded us that we have everything we need in this diocese to grow the Kingdom of God – we just need to be more intentional about how we 'do' mission.

We need to get out there and take risks, dream dreams, pray deeply, talk of hope, show love, worship joyfully and have fun sharing God's @MissionMonmouth.

In her address, Archdeacon Sue, talked about God's Mission as revealed in the Bible saying: "Mission is not something the Bible merely speaks about – mission is what the Bible is all about. From Genesis to Revelation, from cover to cover the Bible is Mission, reminding us that God is Mission and we are called to be his missionaries in the World. It is the context that provides the backbone for God's story and our story...."

"At the heart of @MissionMonmouth we need to remember why we are doing this – so that more and more people can encounter the transformational love of God."

*"We are God's fifth Gospel, our lives re-telling the story of Jesus Christ's activity in the world. Now that we see God's missionary activity in the Bible and the mission of the Church through the ages, we have no choice: Ours is a missionary God, we belong to a missionary Church, we are a missionary People. Ours are the hands that hold and heal, the voices that cry out against poverty and injustice, the feet that walk the extra mile and the hearts that love, so that we are Good News, we are Gospel. The question I want to know from you is, 'What is your missionary activity?' Through our information gathering via the Bishop's Audits and mission enquiry, we have discovered that mission is happening in large and small ways in all parts of the diocese (though I think you don't always realise the missionary work you are already achieving)."*

## The future of mission

As well as celebrating the work already being done across the diocese, Archdeacon Sue looked ahead to the future of mission.

She continued: "When we become a little brave, we discover that we have everything we need to grow the Kingdom, because we have God, we have each other and we have hope...."

Reminding us of The Five Marks of Mission:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth, which together, paint a picture of God's mission – Archdeacon Sue, challenged: "Which mark do you feel most drawn to? Which one is easiest for you? What is one step you can take today towards mission? Which one rocks your boat?"



## Evangelism Fund

The Church in Wales launched its Evangelism Fund at Pentecost, which will allow each diocese to bid for up to £3 million in funding over five years.

What kind of projects is the Fund designed to support? The projects funded will be those which, if successful, should aim to: Create numerical growth amongst people in age groups underrepresented in our churches; Create new forms of 'church' which will be attractive to those whom our existing churches are not currently attracting; Create significant positive changes in church culture; Impact an entire diocese, demonstrably support the diocesan strategy and provide learning for the whole province.

The aim of this Fund is to enable work by people with people. It is not a building fund.

We are in a process of collecting ideas, researching and beginning to pull together our initial thoughts, as to how we as a diocese might bid for a part of the Evangelism Fund. And you have been a part of this with your contribution to the 'post-it' walls. The funding will allow us to develop new mission projects, but more importantly it acts as a catalyst, a lever to allow us to place mission and discipleship at the heart of all we do as a church.

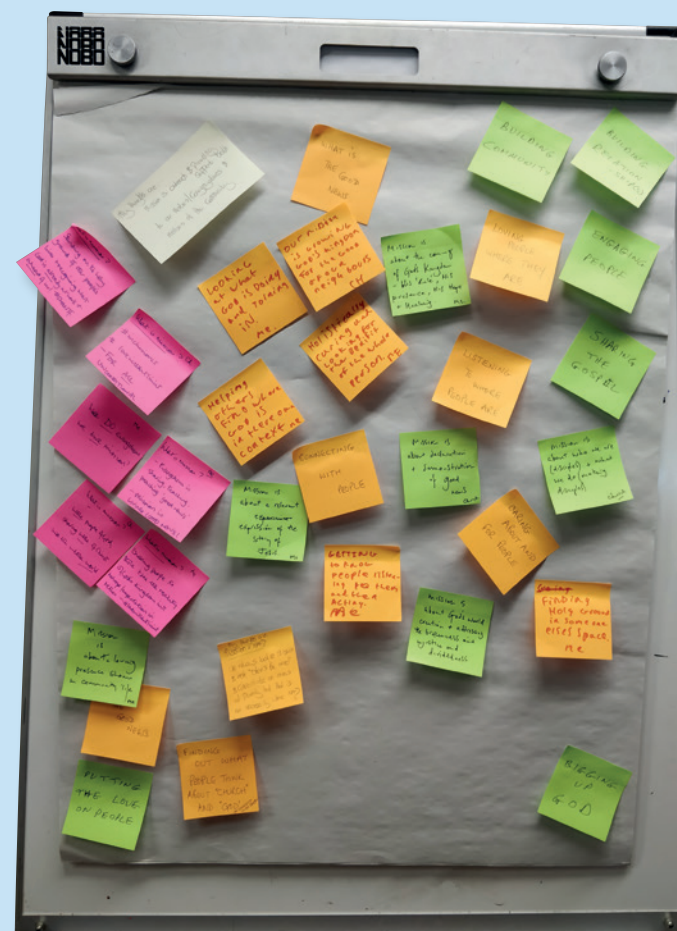
Archdeacon Sue, explained;

"We have identified five areas we want to celebrate and develop **A, B, C, D** and **E**:"

- A** stands for 'Alleluia!' - Existing project that are doing great and we want to celebrate
- B** is for 'Beginnings' - Existing projects that with support and small amounts of funding could be grown into fully flourishing activity.
- C** is for 'Can-do' - New or existing projects that have real potential, but need funding, especially for building work, where we will work with third-party funders and other interested parties to make a project viable.
- D** is for Dreams. These are ideas for mission projects that at the moment can't be resourced, but that we want to 'bank' for the future.
- E** is for projects that will form part of the Evangelism Bid

"So, it's important to see the Evangelism Fund as a great opportunity, but it's only part of what @MissionMonmouth is about. Just like God's mission, @Mission Monmouth must be diverse, holistic, inclusive and an example of lovewithoutlimit. If the Kingdom of God is to grow in Monmouth we must embrace all that God will bring forth."

Exciting times are ahead so follow us @MissionMonmouth #LoveWithoutLimit and updates will be available at [monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk](http://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk)





# Schools, education and young people

## Getting to know our new diocesan church school head teachers!

**Name:** Miss Rebecca Penn

**School:** Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary School, Caerleon, Newport.

**What was your previous role and where?**

Previously, I was the Deputy Headteacher at Charles Williams. Prior to that, I taught in Penarth.

**Why did you want to be head teacher of a church school?**

It is a privilege to be the head teacher of any school, particularly a church school as we have the opportunity to share with our children, their families and our community, the love of Christ and to help them to understand what it means to be part of God's family, the Church.

**What do you like to do when you are not in school and having some time for yourself?**

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, especially my two nephews. I also enjoy visiting historic buildings and trying to unpick their architectural history.

**If you were a car, what make and colour would you be and why?**

I would be a red Citroen 2CV6 – this was the colour and make of my first car. It's strange to look at and finds it difficult to start moving on cold mornings.

**Tell us something funny or interesting from your time working in schools.**

I have a fear of birds. Unfortunately, a classroom in my previous school had a fireplace from which I could hear a bird cooing. Convinced that it was about to drop down the chimney, I ran from the classroom, taking two children to protect me. Needless to say, the pigeon didn't drop down the chimney and I didn't live it down. The children did, however, stuff the opening to the chimney with newspaper to prevent any further incidents.



**Name:** Mrs Eve Rowlands

**School:** Raglan Church in Wales Primary School, Usk, Monmouthshire.

**What was your previous role and where?**

Prior to starting in Raglan Church in Wales in September 2017, I was the Deputy Headteacher of Henllys Church in Wales School in Torfaen.

**Why did you want to be head teacher of a church school?**

I am passionate about providing high quality education to pupils surrounded by a strong Christian Ethos and values. I believe children learn best when they feel part of a community and family and Church schools offer this to our young learners.

**What do you like to do when you are not in school and having some time for yourself?**

My weekends and holidays are spent with my young children, catching up with friends and family. We love the outdoors and enjoy walking, climbing and going on lots of adventures. Most Sundays you can find us at our local Junior Park Run either running or volunteering.

**If you were a car, what make and colour would you be and why?**

When I asked my colleagues, one popular answer was a Ford Fiesta as I am loyal, reliable, here for the longevity and can always be depended upon to offer support to others.

**Tell us something funny or interesting from your time working in schools.**

A surreal situation which always sticks in my mind is when an air ambulance decided to land on the school yard in the middle of our summer fete. The excitement this created had to be managed carefully as the site needed to be evacuated and cleared quickly in order for the paramedics to do their job to help a local resident.



Leadership is a critical factor underpinning the experience of all the staff and children in our diocesan church schools and reaching beyond, to the local communities in our diocese.

Therefore, having recently recruited a few new head teachers to lead our diocesan schools, we welcome them warmly and we are delighted to introduce them to you!

**Name:** Mrs Anna Britten

**School:** Ponthir Church in Wales Primary School, Ponthir, Torfaen

**What was your previous role and where?**

Deputy Head and then Acting Headteacher at Victoria Primary School in Torfaen. It was the school I attended as a child.

**Why did you want to be head teacher of a church school?**

I am a committed Christian and I love having the opportunity to support and encourage others as they grow in faith. The staff and children at this school live out Christian values giving the school a warm, family feel.

**What do you like to do when you are not in school and having some time for yourself?**

I'm married with two sons aged 9 and 11. I love spending time with my family and our weekends are filled with friends, church and football. I play guitar and I like curling up with a good book. I have a 14-year-old Jack Russell Terrier called Toffee.

**If you were a car, what make and colour would you be and why?**

I would be a green LandRover 110. We had one when I was a child and I loved the fact that we could fill it with friends and head off for exciting days out.

**Tell us something funny or interesting from your time working in schools.**

In my first week in a Catholic school I decided to teach a music lesson and asked the teacher in the next class where I would find the musical instruments. "The music trolley is by Mary", she replied. I spent the day trying to work out who was called Mary, as it must be kept in her classroom. As I left that evening, I spotted the music trolley - next to the statue of Our Lady.



Please hold our newly-recruited head teachers, our not-so-newly-recruited head teachers, the senior leaders, staff and children of our schools in prayer: that they may continue to grow and blossom to become all that God calls them to be.

**Dr Annette Daly**

Diocesan Director of Education

**Name:** Mrs Claire Cook

**School:** St David's Church in Wales Primary School, Pentwyn, Cardiff

**What was your previous role and where?**

Throughout my teaching and leadership career, I have worked in church schools across different local authorities, with my most recent being in the Vale of Glamorgan.

**Why did you want to be head teacher of a church school?**

Being a Christian myself, my aim is to lead a school where pupils are challenged to reach their full potential in life, whilst reflecting on Christian values.

**What do you like to do when you are not in school and having some time for yourself?**

In my spare time, I like to spend quality time with my family. I spend many weekends standing on the side of a rugby and football pitch in the rain or cold watching my son; if I am not on these pitches, I am watching my daughter on the netball court! I look forward to school holidays as I enjoy going abroad, where I can relax in the sunshine reading my book or playing fun games on the beach with husband and children.

**If you were a car, what make and colour would you be and why?**

If I were a car, I would be a pink electric car! I am reliable, fun and have the energy to travel exciting on journeys. After a little recharge, I can continue towards my destination.

**Tell us something funny or interesting from your time working in schools.**

Due to my name being Mrs Cook, I am often mistaken to be the school cook!





# Lay Training Matters



Lay people make a huge contribution to the life of the Church across our diocese. Our recent Bishop's Audits have identified a need for a more structured approach to training lay members to enable them to be of more help in Ministry Areas, particularly with the occasional offices. This training sits alongside the already established Lay Eucharistic Minister training (LEM) and training for Licensed Lay Ministry which comes under the umbrella training of Theology for Life.

Leading the training is Reverend John Collier, who has been Chaplain to Lay Ministries for some years and has nearly 20 years experience in this important ministry, along with his wife Jayne.

In 2016, the couple began an innovative training course for lay people to enable them to become more actively involved in the pastoral care of the bereaved. The model for this was based on an 'apprenticeship' style of learning supported by some taught courses.

They work together to provide training which is enjoyable and equips the candidates for the diverse role they will be taking within their Ministry Areas.

They explained: "We are trying to set up a Diocesan training team of individuals who have a passion for lay ministry and skills in delivering training so that we will be able to offer more training at a local level, supporting Ministry Area Leaders in delivering good quality training locally as well as at a diocesan level.

"Bishops Audits have already identified the need for Churchwarden training – which was held in November. Future audits will certainly identify additional training needs – already emerging are needs around worship, and working with young people – so watch this space!"

## So, what's currently on offer?

At present the focus is on pastoral care in the context of both Eucharist and Occasional Offices. All participants must have a recommendation from their Ministry Area Leader or appropriate priest, and a recommendation from the PCC or equivalent in the form of a minute supporting their application. A current clear DBS certificate must also be provided.

The foundation for all this training is based on the St Padarns Pastoral Visiting course. It comprises six hours of group training, which is participative and grounded in scripture. Covering safeguarding, health and safety, listening skills and confidentiality as well as the nature and variety of pastoral care. Following the training there is a period of 3-4 months when participants work alongside priest and experienced lay ministers in pastoral care situations, sometimes observing, sometimes participating and sometimes leading. Each experience is recorded on a reflection sheet which is completed jointly with the supervising priest or lay minister. This is known as the 'apprenticeship'. On completion of this phase the participants meet in small groups and share some aspects of their reflections. All paperwork is checked and signed off.

Successful completion gives priests and Ministry Area Leaders the confidence that participants have undertaken some theoretical and practical training, and hopefully they will feel it appropriate that these Lay Pastoral Visitors can join visiting teams and begin exercising this important ministry.

## Roles within Lay Ministry

**Lay Eucharistic Assistants (Chalice assistants)** can be commissioned within Ministry Areas, but the pastoral Assistant course would be an appropriate training for these individuals. Lay Eucharistic Assistants will not lead services nor take communion to the housebound alone. The first module of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers training would also be appropriate for Chalice Assistants.

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers.** Will be individuals who have a calling to become involved with leading eucharist either to the housebound or by communion by extension in church. They will complete the Pastoral Visitors course, and short course covering the theology of the eucharist, taking communion to individuals who are housebound or in hospital and leading services of communion by extension. The 'apprenticeship' will entail at least four experiences observing, participating or leading

communion by extension in a variety of settings and completing reflections with supervising priests or experienced lay ministers. Again, there will be a final sign off and sharing of reflections.

**Pastoral Assistants (bereavement).** Will be individuals who have a calling to become involved with the pastoral care of the bereaved, and to have an involvement with the funeral services. They will have completed the pastoral visitors course and attended a four hour introduction to bereavement ministry and a full day bereavement course. Their 'apprenticeship' will be at least four experiences of pre funeral, funeral service and post funeral pastoral care working with priests or experienced lay ministers. There is a final sign off and sharing of reflections.

**Pastoral Assistant (baptism).** Is a new course but following the same guidelines as other pastoral care training. The foundation training will be the Pastoral Visitors course, and there will be a two session course covering the theology of baptism, the value of lay support during the service particularly for the baptism of those not familiar with the church language and peculiarities! The course will begin to explore practices which may help to make the families feel at home and ways in which the families and newly baptised can be encouraged to develop their faith and discipleship. The apprenticeship will be experiences of pastoral care in the baptismal setting, with reflections carried out with supervising priests or lay ministers. A final sign off and sharing of reflections completes the training.

## Preparatory work

Ministry Area Leaders together with other members of their ministry teams identify individuals who they have observed as having a call to lay pastoral ministry.

Local discussions with the MAL and individual to confirm that this is a route they are happy to take. PCC, BCC or Ministry Area Council must agree that this is something that they would support.

Individual applies for the appropriate training course to the Diocesan Office, enclosing

Personal details | recommendation from MAL | PCC (or equivalent) minute confirming their support | Current DBS certificate

The individual will then be enrolled on the foundation course, which is a six hour training which can be delivered in one day or over three evenings. It is based on the Pastoral visiting course, and covers the following main elements

The Theology of pastoral care | The importance of using listening skills | Safeguarding issues | Health and safety

## Courses available

### Pastoral Visitor

On completion of the taught course the individual is encouraged to spend time working with the Priest or experienced Lay Ministers in their Ministry Area and to complete four reflections of those experiences.

The final session is a sign off when the individuals meet the chaplain to Lay ministries and share some of their experiences in a small group. All paperwork is checked and the issue of certification is authorised.

### Lay Eucharistic Minister

The complete training is a 6 hour course currently delivered over 1 day.

The main elements of the training are:

The theology of the eucharist  
The rite, including equipment and liturgy for communion to the housebound  
Services of communion by extension

On completion of the taught course the individual is encouraged to spend time working with the Priest or experienced Lay Ministers in their Ministry Area delivering communion to the housebound or by extension in church. They are expected to complete four reflections of those experiences.

Sign off is a short session in small groups where experiences are shared and paperwork checked.

### Pastoral Assistant (bereavement)

Individuals who feel called to the support of the bereaved may work alongside priests or experiences lay people to prepare for funerals, undertake the funeral service and support families after the funeral.

Following the foundation course individuals will participate in a 4 hour training covering the funeral process, including the preparation and follow up as well as the service itself.

There will be a one day course covering the theory of bereavement.

Individuals will be expected to participate in 4 'events' which may be bereavement visits or services, alongside a priest, and together write a reflection of that 'event'.

A sign off session completes the training, and a certificate of completion of training is issued.

### Pastoral Assistant (Baptism)

Baptism offers a unique opportunity to engage with those outside of church in a happy experience. However, it will only be happy and comfortable for the family if they are supported through what may be a very new experience. This is where the pastoral assistants can be so valuable.

Training is currently a 2 session course, with an apprenticeship working alongside the priest and completing reflections.



# Showing the world **God's love** is a 24/7 occupation

Churches in the north-eastern corner of Cardiff gathered together for a unique programme of fund raising activities in October.

Local Christian Aid co-ordinator David Collins explained: "Christian Aid Week remains the focus of our giving, but we are mindful that the work of Christian Aid continues all year round, 24 hours a day."

David's son Rhys was inspired by this and, together with partner Liz, hit upon the challenge to organise 24 hours of activities in one single venue.

After much planning, churches from Cyncoed, Llanedeyrn, Pentwyn and Pontprennau assembled a package of activities, worship opportunities and entertainment to coincide with Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal.

David said: "Rhys and Liz led the way in designing the programme. Liz's mum Ruth helped deliver their vision using her excellent craft skills."

"We began with a simple opening prayer before opening up the first event, a traditional Coffee and Cake morning served by our friends from Llanrumney."

"Next up was a Village Fete in the church hall, followed by a music concert, Quiz Night, Late Night Reflections and a package of activities to take us through the night. We made pizza, played music, baked cakes, built a cardboard house and explored the work of Christian Aid using Bible Study. We used social media to spread news of our efforts and even had a response from Sooty and Sweep!"

"Dawn was welcomed with an early morning Eucharist, followed by a full English breakfast and a truly inspiring ecumenical service to take us emotionally towards noon... 24 hours after we had started."

Over 200 people had visited the venue across the 24 hours... some to grab a cuppa but some stayed all night.

David concluded: "This was a fantastic effort by Rhys, Liz and everyone who took part. It was truly ecumenical with great support from the community. Many local organisations, businesses and individuals – including the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of Cardiff – donated raffle prizes, quiz prizes, food and resources to help stage the event. We are truly grateful."

"Rev Andrew Kleissner brought our Sunday Worship to a close by laying down a new challenge. We had made a fabulous effort, of which we should be rightly proud. Andrew challenged us though, to move on from here; to change hearts, minds and lives to continue to serve the needs of the poor, the oppressed and the excluded across the world."

"For after all, he reminded us, the need to show the world God's love... is a 24/7 occupation."

The total amount raised during the Ecumenically run "24 hours for CA event" is £2365.00.

Another £104 will be added to this once gift aid has been claimed.

This amount will be banked with Christian Aid as part of their Harvest appeal to which the EU government will match fund 5:1 (every £1 becomes £5) which takes the total raised to almost £12,000.

David Collins



Those pictured are (Indoors - L to R) Rhys Collins and David Collins hand over final cheque to Christian Aid

(Outdoors L to R) Rhys Collins, David Collins and Liz Dickinson

# A day to explore **spirituality**

## Llandaff and Monmouth Festival of Prayer 2019

Whether you want to deepen your walk with God along familiar paths, or try something new, you should find something to suit at the popular Festival of Prayer Day.

There will be prayer through dance, talking, singing, walking and silence at the day-long event that offers the chance to explore a wide range of different spiritual perspectives and approaches from across the Christian spectrum.

Launched three years ago by the Llandaff Diocese, the Festival has enjoyed such success that Monmouth Diocese is delighted to get involved as it becomes a joint event with our neighbours.

Reverend Jane Butler, who has been recently appointed as Spirituality co-ordinator for Monmouth Diocese, said: "I am delighted to be involved, together with Llandaff, in the Festival of Prayer."

"I hope to encourage people to explore spiritual accompaniment as a way of helping us to deepen our life of prayer."

"We are on a pilgrim journey together and can accompany and encourage one another along the way. I see my job, together with a group of others, as listening to God and helping to make that happen."

The Festival will be held at St Teilo's Church in Wales School, Cardiff, on Saturday, July 13 2019, from 10am to 4.30pm. The day will start with a Eucharist led by Bishop Richard of Monmouth, followed by the first of three choice workshops of the day.

There are 20 workshops to choose from, each standing alone and lasting an hour, with most offering a time of prayer.

Amongst those leading the workshops will be internationally known speakers such as John Bell from the Iona Community who will talk about 'Shopping for Thrills or Yearning for Faith' and 'The Strange Silence of Biblical Women.'

Whilst local speakers such as the Revd Peter Lewis of St Catherine's Church, Pontypridd will talk about 'Spirituality in Church Outreach and Mission' and Dean of Newport, Lister Tonge, who will speak of 'Praying with Ignatius of Loyola.'

There will be the opportunity to learn about spirituality and prayer in the Islamic traditions with other topics ranging from 'The Gospel According to Hollywood' to 'The Worship of Taizé.'

The Reverend Moira Spence, secretary of the Llandaff Diocesan Spirituality Group said: "It's such a great day that you go home on a real high. Book your place now to ensure your spot!"

Some comments from people who attended this year included:

"I learned about Muslim spirituality, walked a labyrinth, and sang and prayed Taizé style – thank you for a prayerful and varied day!"

"Circle Dancing was a most enjoyable session. Being able to use my body in prayer was new to me."

"Would that it could have continued for two days, having to choose just three items from such an embarrassment of riches was really difficult."

The day costs £25, including tea/coffee and lunch. For more information, and to book, visit [www.festivalofprayer.co.uk](http://www.festivalofprayer.co.uk) and/or contact the Revd Moira Spence on 01656 881960 [enquires@festivalofprayer.co.uk](mailto:enquires@festivalofprayer.co.uk)



# 'We will remember them' – Armistice 100

Communities from across the diocese marked a very special Remembrance Sunday this year – commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Hundreds attended Special Remembrance Services, held to honour those who lost their lives whilst serving their country in some of history's bloodiest battles.

As part of the events to mark Armistice 100 – our churches joined with those across the UK to ring their bells as the bells would have been rung across the country 100 years ago to mark the end of the First World War.

Here are just a few images of how our diocese marked this poignant day.



**St Peters Church, Blaenavon** – the JLM Club created a collage on newspaper to link with modern day. Brown was the earth, red was blood, blue was water, yellow sunlight. Then the poppies were added to signify new life growing from the war-torn earth.



**St Marys, Malpas** – time was taken during Evensong to pause together, in amongst the fallen – sharing poignant, spoken and unspoken words.



**St Theodores, Ynysddu** handed out replica Gospels as they would have been given out to the men and women in 1914.



**The Priory Centre, Abergavenny** – the choir sang & Cadets read First World War to mark the Centenary of the ending of the War.



Centenary of the end of the Great War remembered at **St Augustines, Rumney** with Parish Mass of Remembrance followed by Community Service at Memorial Hall. Lovely ringing too from Rumney Ringers and beautiful floral displays.



A cascade of poppies filled the sanctuary of **St Mary's church, Magor** – each decorated by a child of Magor and Undy primary schools and local nursery groups.

# People and places



**St Theodores, Ynysddu**, has organised its first litter pick, to give something back to the community, have conversations and be a presence in the community sharing the Good News.



A dementia friendly café is now up and running at **St Mary's Cloisters, Malpas**.

The café takes place every second Monday of the month between 10am-12pm and offers the space to chat over a cuppa.

Dementia friendly activities include jigsaws, painting, textured cloths and a time for singing.

All our welcome and activities are free.

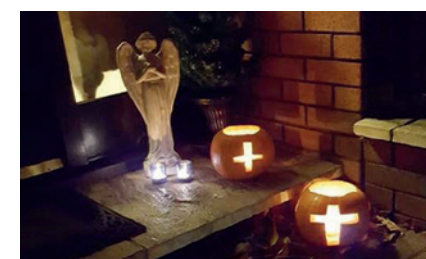


A wonderful evening gathering at **Cyncoed Ministry Area** for the closing of Gift Day. A big 'thankyou' to those who took part with serving refreshments, leading worship and went along to support them on the day.



Look who popped in to **St Bartholomew's Church, Llanover** – Sir Bryn Terfel!

The opera singer met parishioners during the filming of a programme called 'Taith Bryn Terfel: Gwlad y Gan' (Bryn Terfel's Journey through the land of song), in which he was exploring Lady Llanover's contribution to music in Wales.



The **SS Julius and Aaron Youth Group** carved Christian Pumpkins for All Hallows' Eve to share the Light of Our Lord Jesus Christ, first of all in Church with all the lights turned off so their candle-lit pumpkins shone in the darkness while we prayed in the company of All the Saints and sang 'This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine'. Then they took them home and displayed them on their doorsteps as a witness to the Light of Christ in their neighbourhoods on Hallowe'en.



Fantastic turn out at **St Augustine's, Rumney** for its Christmas market. Thanks to 'santa's little helpers' who made all kinds of delicious goodies to sell helped with tickets for the grand raffle!



# Winning Christmas card designs!

Every Christmas, we invite one of our diocesan church schools to take part in the Bishop's Christmas card competition. The aim of this competition is to help remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas, when there is so much distraction from it all around - including some choosing to drop the word "Christmas" from their greetings altogether! This year Usk Church in Wales Primary School were asked to participate and we were delighted to receive their fantastic artistic interpretations of the Christmas story. The winner was Alex George, age 10, year 6 with their skilled depiction of the baby Jesus and the Christmas star conveying a simple but powerful focused message.

Evie Williams, age 9, year 5 and Sienna McKenna, age 9, year 5 were awarded second and third prizes

respectively. Huge thanks to the Meaningful Chocolate Company who continue to support this annual competition and supplied the delicious and meaningful Christmas prizes for it. See their website for how to get your own delicious and meaningful Christmas treats: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>

Dr Annette Daly, Diocesan Director of Education



## Making church administration more efficient

Many people have been telling us about the administrative burdens they are facing, which can take up valuable ministry time. A grant fund is now open to all Ministry Areas to apply for a year's subscription to ChurchSuite. This is a software system designed to make church administration more efficient; help parishes comply with GDPR legislation; and to help facilitate mission and community outreach.

This grant allows any Ministry Area to subscribe to ChurchSuite (any or all of the modules) and the diocese will pay the cost of the first year. Following the first year, it is up to the Ministry Area whether they wish to continue with their subscription. Whilst the software is fairly intuitive and easy to use, we will be providing training on the software. The first training event was held on 8th November 2018 at St Paul's Church Newport.

Grant forms are available from the diocesan office. Please send your completed grant form to Lisa Sheppard at the diocesan office ([lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:lisasheppard@churchinwales.org.uk)). Applications will be approved provided they include a proof of purchase/invoice from ChurchSuite. Please note that any grant application must be received by the diocesan office by 31st December 2018.

Please see below some comments from Reverend Dean Roberts, who has been using this church management system for some time.

*"Running four parishes (6 churches) equates to a lot of hard work, and it's easy for clergy to be swamped in the admin of one single church, never mind six! ChurchSuite has released us from some of the inadequate systems we used to use to manage our admin, and has instead given us the ability to refocus our time and energy in ways which best serve the Church."*

*"We found the process switching to ChurchSuite very simple and easy to do. We have found that investing in learning the system really brings out the best of the ChurchSuite software."*

*"The support is excellent, and a testimony to the ethos and vision behind the product. All enquiries are answered and sorted very promptly which only adds to the experience. We are now able to track our relationships with all our parishioners with ease, communication has improved in ways we could have never imagined, and it has facilitated more collaborative ministry amongst clergy and lay people."*

*"ChurchSuite is increasingly being used by a wider and wider cross section of our church families, from the youngest right through to the oldest members!"*

*"We commend ChurchSuite to other churches who want to grow the Kingdom and facilitate ministry."*

## On the move

### Going

**Reverend Michael Jarman** has retired as House for Duty Priest in Charge of Christchurch Newport

**Reverends David and Sue Collingbourne** have retired as House for Duty Priests in Charge of Marshfield & St Brides Wentlooge

**Reverend Sandra Howells** has retired as vicar of the Benefice Trellech and Penallt

**Reverend David McGladdery** – moving from his post as Vicar and Area Dean of Monmouth to be vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Horfield, Bristol

**Veronica Cottam** – has moved from her role as PA to the Bishop of Monmouth to take up a post as Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator in St Padarn's Institute

### Coming

**Reverend Nick Perry** appointed as Team Rector for Cwmbran Ministry Area

**Reverend Liz Kerl** appointed as Team Vicar for Cwmbran Ministry Area

**Reverend Leah Philbrick** has been appointed as Team Vicar of the Rectorial Benefice of Upper Islwyn

Best wishes and blessings on those moving on in ministry – thank you for your ministry within the Diocese of Monmouth.

Please continue to remember all who are taking on new roles or retiring from formal ministry.



### Welsh language services in Monmouth Diocese

A Welsh service is held every two months, on the second Saturday of the month, at **St Thomas' Church, Overmonnow, Monmouth.**

The dates for the **2019** services are:

**12th January**

**9th March**

**11th May**

**13th July**

**14th September**

**9th November**

All services are at 9.30 a.m.

**All welcome**

### Gwasanaethau Cymraeg yn Esgobaeth Mynwy

Cynhelir gwasanaeth Cymraeg bob deufis, ar ail ddydd Sadwrn y mis, yn **Eglwys Sant Thomas, Overmonnow, Trefynwy.**

Dyma ddyddiadau gwasanaethau **2019**:

**12fed Ionawr**

**9fed Mawrth**

**11eg Mai**

**13eg Gorffennaf**

**14eg Medi**

**9fed Tachwedd**

Mae'r gwasanaethau i gyd am 9.30 y bore

**Croeso cynnes i bawb**



# Back Chat

## What about poverty in Wales?

.....

In common with all people of faith, and I suspect, many with none, I believe in giving to charity: both financially and of my time. I am active in the Church but also in support of other organisations. I am as frustrated as any-one at the choices to be made and the multiple needs faced by so many. Should we concentrate on immediate alleviation of this or that need? Whose priority is greatest? Will what I do/give help tackle the cause as well as the symptom?

The Governing Body has recently agreed that the Church should more actively participate "in the Public Square" and consider taking views on the major issues of need facing our society. It has also committed to an Evangelism Fund to support the work of the Church in witnessing Christ's message of love. Recently I spoke, on behalf of the Bevan Foundation, at the Swansea and Brecon Diocesan Conference about poverty because, as Archbishop John put it, "on this we are on the same page."

The Bevan Foundation is a small, independent (ie non-party political) charity with limited resources. It has a remit to develop urgently needed practical solutions to some of the most intractable challenges of Inequality, Injustice and Poverty: and to educate the public. We rely on grants from philanthropic bodies to fund our research and on the small subscriptions our supporters pay to promote the results and influence legislators.

These are some of the appalling facts that blight lives in Wales.

1. 700,000 people in poverty.
2. One in four children live in poverty, forecast to rise to one in three by 2021.
3. Poverty affects all parts.
4. Half of all adults in poverty are in work.
5. Rates of infant mortality are 50% higher in most deprived areas when compared with least deprived.
6. Children receiving free school meals are half as likely to get 5 "good" GCSE's as those who don't.
7. A man from the most deprived areas will die 7.7 years sooner than one the least deprived areas.
8. The consequential cost to the public purse £3bn.

At our Monmouth Conference, Archdeacon Sue inspired us to pursue Christ's mission by giving witness and taking action. By offering hospitality, hope and recognition you can make a difference locally. You can also support The Bevan Foundation to influence action nationally. Visit [www.bevanfoundation.org](http://www.bevanfoundation.org) for more information.

Change is needed.

**Sandy Blair**

Trustee of the Bevan Foundation  
and Churchwarden