

# MONMOUTH • Haf • Summer 2018

# Grapevine

EICH EGLWYS LEOL  
YOUR LOCAL CHURCH IN WALES



## YN Y RHIFYN HWN INSIDE THIS ISSUE

04 **Meet our**  
first Director of Mission and  
Archdeacon for the Gwent Valleys

08 **Ordinations**  
meet or new deacons and priests

14 **Evangelism Fund**  
£10m up for grabs!

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

© Liz Houghton



# Gan y Golygydd From the Editor's Desk

Well, the sun is shining, Summer is in full-swing and it feels like an exciting time to be part of the Diocese of Monmouth!

I think the front cover sums it up – youngsters having fun the Big Birthday Bash event at Caldicot Castle (see p13 for more details)!

I found writing this edition of Grapevine, which focusses on mission and evangelism, incredibly uplifting and I hope you feel the same when you read it.

We welcome our first Director of Mission, Reverend Canon Sue Pinnington MBE, who brings bags of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. As well as leading on all things 'mission', Sue is also Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys. This is a new post, so the possibilities are endless...

We also welcome two new priests and three new deacons following another joyous Petertide Ordination Service at St Woolos' Cathedral.

How often have you heard, *"I've got this great idea – I just need the money to do it"*? Well, The Church in Wales has unveiled a fund of £10million for projects and initiatives which will grow and nurture Christian communities across our dioceses. We have already started thinking about our 'bid' with lots more work still to do – but, how exciting that money is no longer a barrier to getting creative, innovative and evangelical schemes off the ground!

It just feels like we are at the start of a really exciting journey!




**Bishop Richard**  
talks about mission and evangelism ..... 03

**Meet our first Director  
of Mission and Archdeacon  
for the Gwent Valleys** ..... 04-05

**Journey of Faith**  
From law to lay ministry ..... 06

**Bishop's Audit update** ..... 07

**Ordinations**  
meet our new deacons and priests ..... 08-09

**Schools, Education  
and Young People**  
getting it right as governors ..... 10-11

**People and places** ..... 12-13

**Evangelism Fund**  
£10m up for grabs! ..... 14

**What's On/On the Move** ..... 15

**Back Chat**  
Turning Newport Cathedral inside out ..... 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 23 August

**Publication date:**  
Thursday 11 October

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

# "Have God always before your eyes"...



**Bishop Richard** talks about mission and evangelism

Dear Friends,

You will see in this edition of *Grapevine* that there is an emphasis on mission and evangelism. The appointment of the Venerable Sue Pinnington as Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys heralds the Diocese's commitment to fresh initiatives to bring the love of God afresh to our churches and communities. Archdeacon Sue's role as Director of Mission and Helen Shepherd's role as Director of Pioneer Projects will enable us to focus on evangelism, particularly within a community context.

In a real sense, we are following through our Lord's command to go and make disciples. Rowan Williams described a disciple as someone *'keeping company with Jesus'*. This relationship is the essence of the Christian journey but does not always come easily. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to live in the presence of Jesus but what this looks like practically will vary considerably due to our lifestyles and responsibilities. Our belonging to a faith community is essential but this bond should allow us to practice and demonstrate our faith.

So, what are the things that sustain us in keeping company with Jesus? Surely it is our church, primarily expressed through the Holy Eucharist, personal prayer and the scriptures. There is no particular method that would have people convert to Christianity. Most of our evangelism is relational: living out our companionship with Jesus, others then seeing Christ in us and wanting that same relationship and then us sharing together. I cannot stress how important our nurture groups should be in enabling us to grow as Christians, both in understanding our faith but also in sharing it. In all this, we please God.

When St Antony of Egypt was asked, *"What rules shall I keep so as to please God?"*, he replied: *"Wherever you go, have God always before your eyes; in whatever you do or say, have an example from the Holy Scriptures; and whatever the place in which you dwell, do not be quick to move elsewhere. Keep these three things, and you will live."*

In other words, keep faith where you are and others may find faith as well.

**+Bishop Richard**



# New archdeacon feels blessed to be coming to our diocese at such an exciting time

---

Exciting times lie ahead for Monmouth Diocese, with the introduction of the Reverend Canon Sue Pinnington MBE as Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Diocesan Director of Mission.

Canon Sue joins us from the Diocese of Durham and brings with her a wealth of experience perfectly suited to take on the challenge of the newly created position.

She explains: *"If someone had said to me six months ago that I would be moving to South Wales to become an archdeacon I would not have believed them! But God calls us to serve and that's the joy and challenge of ministry."*

Born and raised on the Wirral in the Northwest of England, Sue was called to priesthood at the age of 16 – even before women could be ordained. She was told to 'go away, do some studying and see what happens in the Church of England'.

She studied Theology and Ancient History at Durham University before going to work for the Church Commissioners in London. Then she really tested her vocation to the religious life with the Order of the Holy Paraclete based in Whitby.

Luckily, the first tranche of legislation had been passed to allow women to be priests, when Sue realised that it was the priesthood and not the religious life, that was her true vocation.

The self-confessed feminist has since gone on to spend a large part of her ministry either as a Dean of Womens' Ministry or as a Woman Adviser for Ministry in the Church of England and working with the National Association of Diocesan Advisors in Womens' Ministry, where she served for 10 years.

She says, *"I was brought up by a mother who said you can do and achieve anything – God has given you gifts and you must use them. It was the same at school and college – women can do anything."*

*"The harder they try to stop us, the harder we will push forward."*

Sue has held several senior positions within the Church of England and was awarded a MBE in 2010 for her work in leading a multi-million pound community project at Cottingley, West Yorkshire.

Working with communities in the Durham Coalfields and in post-industrial Bradford, she can see parallels with the work that needs to be done in the Gwent Valleys and describes it "as feeling very much like home".

However, moving from Houghton-Le-Spring, where she has served as Rector for the last 10 years, to South Wales, is far from 'home'.

*"It is challenging for me on a personal level,"* Sue explains, *"I don't know anybody. I don't have any networks here – but I am confident it is this is the place where God is calling me to be."*

*"It's been a great pleasure getting to know Bishop Richard, the Dean, Archdeacons Ambrose and Jonathan and other senior team members, and I am looking forward to those relationships flourishing."*

Sue is excited by the combined role and is looking forward to using her extensive skills and experience to help more people encounter the love of God.

She says, *"I have been appointed as Director of Mission. It is a fact that Sunday church attendance across the diocese isn't great, but the people at the heart of our churches will also be at the heart of our communities – the challenge will be how we strengthen and grow those connections. Therefore helping our congregations recognise that they are already doing great things and we are all sharing in God's mission."*

*"I know there is some fantastic work being done by clergy and laity, so now it's about focussing that –"*



*building a network of knowledge and experience. The expectation of this challenge is that somethings will be hugely successful and some will not be as successful as we hope – but that doesn't matter because we learn from both.*

*"We don't have failure – we have learning opportunities."*

A keen fly-fisher, with a love of all things Spanish, who enjoys entertaining, Sue describes herself as *"brave, canny, with a Benedictine spirituality and a wicked scouse sense of humour!"*

Sue is very much a 'doer' – and says that she *'takes what she does very seriously, but doesn't take herself too seriously!'*

The avid Liverpool FC fan knows that when she moves to Abercarn with her dog, Harry, and her array of tropical fish, that the work begins.

She explains, *"I am really here because I believe the parishes and Ministry Areas in Monmouth Diocese, can learn, grow and develop within the communities which they are situated – whatever type of community that is – urban Newport, housing estates, former mining towns or villages in the heart of Monmouthshire. We need to build on the work that's already being done through the Bishop's Audits and the establishment of the MAs respecting and honouring the existing ministry. We need the vision to say that mission isn't one size fits all and let's have a go and not be confined by expectations or previous experiences.*

*"If we are attentive to God's call and the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we may be led into some very exciting, challenging, transformational situations and opportunities in which to be church and grow the Kingdom of God."*

*"Yes, we would like to see numerical growth, but we also want to see stronger, deeper relationships within the communities where the churches are situated, so we as the people of God are very much at the heart of every community proclaiming His love.*

*"I'm looking forward to building relationships with the congregations within in the Archdeaconry of the Gwent Valleys, but also those throughout Diocese, celebrating in our wonderful God given diversity. If people are growing and flourishing in faith and discipleship, then we want to share that Good News."*

*"I feel very blessed to be coming to Monmouth at this exciting time and very much look forward to getting to know people, as we share together in God's Mission."*

The Reverend Canon Sue Pinnington MBE will be licensed on 7 July at Newport Cathedral.



# Journey of faith



I am not from a 'church family' but I am of that generation where it was the norm to be christened; children went to church holiday clubs, and there was a school assembly every morning. These things served as a foundation for my Damascus road experience with God at the age of 22. The road? The A470 winding through the Brecon Beacons. With no exaggeration, it was a warm May day, clear blue skies and I was driving back from Hereford after a night out. At that time, excessive drinking and partying were quite the norm, primarily as an escape from the misery of life. But at that time even the nights out could not cheer me up any more and, as I drove home that day, I was despairing that I would never be 'happy' again. At that moment, I drove around the corner and the Beacons opened out in front of me. Suddenly quite out of the blue I found myself thinking "Only God could have created this" and "maybe church is the answer".

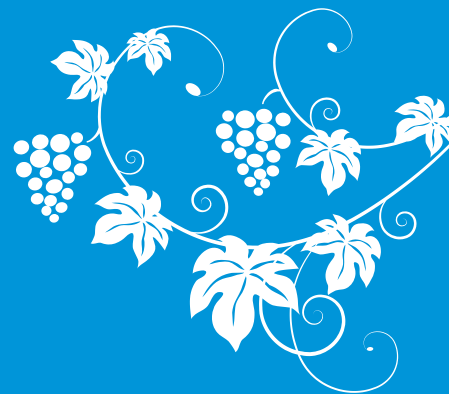
I started to attend church but one key aspect of faith had escaped me. I had thought that I would go to church; find faith; have my slate wiped clean; be perfect and attend a church with perfect people! Imagine, therefore, my despair when I realised Christians were far from perfect. However, God was not done with me yet and after another 18 months of niggling away at me, I found another church and became a committed Christian – this time knowing that Jesus' salvation was not a one-time deal and that we are all striving to be Christlike.

I will confess that my churchmanship during this time had not been Anglican. However, around four years ago I started attending an Anglican church when personal circumstances dictated a need for a change in church. Had someone handed me a catalogue of churches around Cardiff I would have skipped over the Anglican section because I was coming out of charismatic evangelical churches and thought Anglican services would be dull and boring. But God was bigger than my stereotyping and ignorance. I was introduced to a local benefice and I was touched by the church's welcome and sense of community. I loved that there were a variety of services that I could attend and I discovered a reverence for God I had not previously developed.

Whilst at my previous church I had started exploring my vocation. I sensed God calling me to church work, although it was not clear in what form this was. I had been practising employment law in Cardiff for a number of years and after a couple of years of wrestling, I left it behind. I began contracting in the world of regulatory law and this enabled me to work part time. In that newly freed up time I completed a youth ministry course, because at that time I had spent a lot of my time in churches running youth work. However, when the second of two priests suggested that I consider ordination and that my ministry could be broader than youth, I agreed to enter into the vocations process and explore that further.

Around the same time I began working at the Diocesan Office in May 2017. It is a privilege to work alongside parishes, looking at what help and support the diocese can offer. I love the fact that I get to spend my days looking at ways of growing the Kingdom of God. As my role evolved I had a confirmed sense that God was calling me to a ministry that involved young and old people alike. I am continuing to explore vocations here in the Diocese of Monmouth and look forward to seeing what else God has in store.

**Sarah Burton**





# Bishop's Audit Update

The Bishop's Audit is now entering its second year of a five-year cycle. It was formed with the encouragement of the Ministry Area Leaders who wanted to establish their Ministry Areas on solid and sustainable foundations. In Spring 2017 the Bishop began this in-depth process to encourage:

- every parish in every Ministry Areas to have a vision for its future;
- a strong base for the development and growth of ministry areas;
- a focused understanding of the mission of the church and its engagement in society;
- our churches to be sustainable and fit-for-purpose in the 21st century;
- the nurturing of all of God's people in discipleship;
- collaborative ministry across the Ministry Area;
- the realistic use of resources including church buildings and financial assets.

But this process is not about the Bishop and Diocesan team, swooping into an area and leaving behind a long list of recommendations for the Ministry Areas to work through. Rather, as a team we want to collaborate with the Ministry Areas and learn what people want to achieve and what help they need from us. The recently reformed Churches and Pastoral Committee consider the requests for help from the Ministry Areas and, with the Diocesan Officers, are creating resources; meeting with local people; and working with the Ministry Areas to achieve their visions.

Wendy Matthews from Newport East Ministry Area said: "The initial stage of the Bishop's Audit, which is currently an ongoing process, has been a positive experience for us in the Parish of St Julians.

"It has proven to be an opportunity to review the last six years (since Fr David was licensed as Priest-in-Charge in 2012); to assess in some detail what has been done well and where progress has emerged and to look carefully at what could have been done better.

"So we took stock, listened to needs of the local community and had an opportunity to make realistic plans for the future, both missionally and spiritually, within the Parish and community, as part of the East Newport Ministry Area and the Diocese.

"A very welcome experience!"



Bishop's Audit visits St Mary's Church, Wilcrick



Reverend Chris Stone, Ministry Area Leader for Bassaleg present Bishop Richard with beer!

So far the Bishop and his team have undertaken audits in:

**Magor, Usk, and Lower Islwyn** – The audit process and written report have been completed. The newly reformed Churches and Pastoral Committee is starting to help the Ministry Areas with the tasks that they have requested help with.

**Newport East** – The audit visits have been undertaken and the report has been drafted. The outcome meeting with the Bishop will take place on 2 July 2018 at St John's Church, Maindee.

**Bassaleg** – The audit visits have been completed and the report has recently been distributed. An outcome meeting with the Bishop will take place on 6th June 2018 at St Basil's Church, Bassaleg.

**Monmouth** – This is the largest audit undertaken to date. The questionnaires have been distributed and the Bishop's visits will take place between 4th and 6th July 2018. The Diocesan Officers evening will take place on 18th July 2018.

- Newport North
- Panteg and Griffithstown
- Caldicot
- Upper Islwyn

# Ordinands take important step towards the next stage of their ministry

**T**he diocese welcomes three new deacons and two new priests following another wonderful Petertide Ordination Ceremony at St Woolos' Cathedral.

Friends and family packed the cathedral to share the special day with the clerics as they embark on this next exciting chapter of their journey.

**Grapevine** caught up with the 'class of '18' to find out a bit more about them.

## Matt Davis, Cyncoed

Over the last three years I have been studying as a pioneer ordinand for the Church in Wales in Oxford with the Church Mission Society and Ripon College Cuddesdon.

I have lived in Newport for the last seven years, and during that time my wife, Jess, and I were married. She is currently working in a card shop, and we have had a two year old daughter called Clara. Her favourite activities at the moment are making noise, dancing and going fast!

My day job for the last few years has been as Hub Leader for The Lab, in Alway in Newport, where we have a community house and are involved in all sorts of activities, like running local youth clubs and a group exploring spirituality by eating waffles.

I am really excited to be serving the church as a Curate, joining in with all the fantastic things already happening in the church as well as seeing where God is already at work in the community and is calling us to be present.

In my spare time I enjoy making home brew, creating things, live music, looking after my plethora of animals, going on all sorts of outdoor adventures, and generally creating chaos and mess with my daughter – much to the joy of my wife!



## Stephen Blewett

will also be ordained as deacon and will serve in Christchurch, Newport

## Sally Ingle-Gillis, Wentwood

Being called by God to ordination has been a whirlwind of extreme emotions and diverse experiences, but I seem to have got here, almost in one piece!

People ask what I will be doing and how I intend to be, and the only answer is that I will be "me", because "me" is who God has called. Along the way I have been a Speech and Language Therapist working with people with disabilities, I have raised a gaggle of children, and I have held a multitude of volunteer positions both in the secular world and church world.

Have any of these prepared me for my life as an ordained servant of Christ? Perhaps!

Will wearing a collar result in me toning down my laugh? I'm not sure I can!

Will my new role mean I stop wearing bright clothing? Absolutely not!

Will all this mean that I continue to find joy wherever I can, encouraging others as they explore their faith? Oh yes please!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time studying and in formation, it has been a wonderfully enriching experience, and one I feel very privileged to have had, full time, at St. Padarn's, in Llandaff.

Now I move into an extraordinary, exciting and ever so slightly daunting next chapter.

Please pray for me, for my ever supportive husband William, our children, and the people of the Wentwood Ministry Area, as we all step out in faith, continuing to listen to God's call as we serve him.





Our new **priests** they have already served a busy year as Deacon – so how has it been?

### **Ross Maidment, Rumney**

*Let the bishop preside in the place of God, the presbyters in the place of the apostolic council, and let the deacons (who are most dear to me) be entrusted with the ministry of Jesus Christ.*

**S Ignatius of Antioch, The Epistle to the Magnesians, 6.**



It has been an immense privilege to serve the Church of God, and the people of St Augustine's Rumney, since my ordination to the diaconate last Petertide. Deacons are called to 'be signs among the people of God that the Church is called to serve Christ in the world.' They are, in a very real sense, called to be licensed 'lay persons', as they are entrusted, with all of God's people, with the ministry of Jesus Christ.

James Barnett suggests that the diaconate should be 'the order that informs all orders of the primary work we are all sent to do'. As I look ahead, and prepare to be ordained priest, I am challenged to first look back, to remember and to cherish my ministry as a deacon – for it is this ministry, which will underpin my priestly ministry.

This past year, I have had the wonderful opportunity to stand alongside people in moments of joy, and sorrow, in times of celebration, and mourning. I have been encouraged by the witness of St Teilo's Church in Wales High School, who invited me to work alongside them as they celebrated LGBT History Month – demonstrating to young people the universal and inclusive nature of God's love. I have been enriched by those amongst whom I minister – by their willingness to share so openly with someone so new to ministry. I have been surprised by the desire of parishioners to share their faith, and to grow in faith, as we have shared together in nurture groups. It has been a privilege to walk alongside the people of Rumney in their journey of Christian discipleship.

I look forward to continuing that journey as priest – to sharing with them the gifts of Word and Sacrament. And so, of your charity, may I ask for your prayers, as I prepare to be ordained priest (God, Bishop, and people consenting) this Petertide.

### **Bob Greenland, Usk**

Where has the past year gone? For those of us entering ordained ministry whilst also engaged in secular work, life can be hectic but very rewarding.

There has been so much to learn as I have sought to engage with and serve the congregations in the Usk Ministry Area.

What a privilege it has been to draw closer to people and to be entrusted to share their burdens.

What a privilege it has been to spend time serving those in my home parish. As I look forward to priesthood I am not sure what God has in store, but I pray that I will be worthy of his call.



# Schools, education and young people

## Church School Governors – “the largest unpaid army of influencers for good” in our diocese

Governors from our Diocesan schools were affirmed as “the largest unpaid army of influencers for good – in changing the lives of young people. You are an immense force for good!” during a recent training event.

On Saturday 5th May a sizeable group of church school governors from the Diocese of Monmouth joined other governors, from our neighbouring Diocese of Llandaff, at St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School, Cardiff. What was the attraction on such a sunny Saturday morning? A learning event with a difference for church school governors!

The session was led by Mark Craig, whose company, Question Mark, developed *Thinking Governance* – the Church of England’s national strategic governance resource across its thousands of schools. The aim of the resource is to help governors get a firm grip on that most elusive and complex issue – strategic vision for their schools.

The workshops inspired us with a completely new approach to what the role of the school governor entails. While enjoying coffee and pastries we were invited to consider **The Bigger Picture** and imagine

we were opening a new church school. The planning page was a blank sheet of paper – anything was possible. What might this new school stand for?

In determining the vision for our new school, we then were limited to agreeing only three goals for this school before considering all the activities from the staff and students which might feed into these goals. This opening task was more challenging than we first realised, since it involved some robust discussion about priorities and what these should be in the wider context of the education we wanted for the pupils of our new fictitious school. Anything not relevant to the goals was mercilessly ditched! The shared ownership and agreement, established at this first stage, was to be the underpinning drive for everything that followed.

We went on to consider **The “smell” of the School** in which we were governors – not especially anything to do with toilets (!) but really examining the true character of the school. How is it perceived by staff, visitors, pupils? What are the messages being conveyed – sometimes inadvertently – to the school community? Is this what we want the message to be?



More information on the Thinking Governance materials (which are available free online) can be found on the website:

<http://thinkinggovernance.org/>

### What did the Chairs of Governors think?

*“This workshop has shown that Governors should be involved in drawing up the goals and this will in turn enable them to be more effective in supporting the school and its Christian foundation.”*

**Carolyn Benavides**

Chair of Charles Williams CinW Primary School





**The Rubber hits the Road** helped us to begin to consider key emerging themes from the activities feeding into our three goals (ie the bigger picture, above) and then to use this in constructing a strategic plan on one side of A4 pulling all the critical strands together. There was a need, at this point to really separate the essence of "strategy" (the plan) from "operation" (the action), since this can often get confused within School Development Plans.

Key, within this plan, was a consideration of **Indicators of Change** – how would we know we were achieving what we set out to do? We were guided on 'hard' and 'soft' indicators as well as 'leading' and 'lagging' indicators – some more useful and informative than others.

Mark Craig encouraged all the governors to consider themselves as at the helm of their ship (the school)– steering it through a changing educational landscape. While governments and curriculum and all sorts of

things have changed and will change, the church remains – as does our commitment to young people and their communities. We can have great impact through our schools. Our ultimate aim is to educate our children well and we need a combination of wisdom, experience and insight to enable this to happen.

Participants from our diocese were hugely inspired and are very interested in engaging in further work in this area. It is our intention to follow up this initial workshop with additional input so that our diocesan school governors – "the largest unpaid army of influencers for good – in changing the lives of young people" – might be properly supported and enabled to steer our schools wisely and firmly. In this way, the impact on young people and communities in our diocese will be hugely significant.

**Dr Annette Daly**  
Diocesan Director of Education

*"We have talked previously of revisiting our 'vision' and the workshop has inspired the delegates to give fresh impetus to this important work... We are considering a strategy day when we can mix governors and school staff to begin creating the vision for the next five years away from the rigidity of the formal meeting arena."*

**John Caddick**  
Chair of All Saints' CinW Primary School

*"I was very glad to have been present at the Thinking Governance workshop to share experiences with other governors ... It provided much food for thought as to the strategies we governors should adopt ... gave me confidence and encouragement ... I will certainly share ideas with my fellow governors."*

**Angela O'Brien**  
Chair of Ponthir CinW Primary School

# People and places



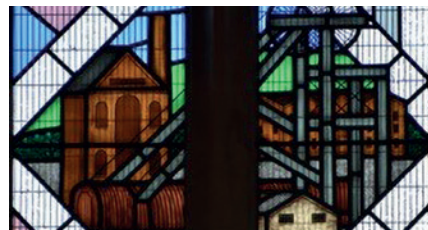
Six pupils were baptised at **Osbaston Church** in Wales School, Monmouth, during a special school Eucharist attended by more than 200 pupils and adults.

Congratulations.



A special awards evening was held at **All Saints Church, Llanfrechfa**, to honour the long service of several members of the local Mothers' Union group. Between just seven of them, they have clocked up an amazing 300 years – with four of the ladies completing more than 50 years each!

Well done ladies – a fantastic achievement!



Bishop Richard was delighted to bless the new window at **St Mary's Church, Risca**, which commemorates the miners who perished in the 19th Century. He said that this memorial is important for today so that we can remind ourselves that communities are built up on the work, and sometimes the sacrifice, of those in the past as well as in the present. In a time of transition in community identity, it is important for Risca to know its roots and to give thanks for those who have contributed to its community.



**St Mary's Church, Magor**, celebrated 150 years since its re-dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary with a weekend of activities titled the 'Living Church' weekend.

The birthday celebrations were marked with a special service attended by Bishop Richard, Archdeacon Ambrose along with representatives from civic and community groups.



As part of Holy Week a small, but determined group from **St James' Church, Rudry**, went into the village to pick litter so they could bless their local community.

Keep Wales Tidy may have provided the equipment, but the hard-work was down to those who took part.



A spectacular royal garden party was held at **St Dingats Church, New Tredegar**, to celebrate the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

The months of planning and days spent setting-up all paid off as the church looked beautiful with bunting galore and hats aplenty!





Members of the churches in the **Parish of Blaenavon** and friends enjoyed a trip to Belmont Abbey, near Hereford to participate in the Annual Torchlight Procession in Honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



A fantastic day was had by all at the Big Birthday Bash held at **Caldicot Castle**.

Organised by the five churches in Caldicot, the party was a great example of ecumenical working and community outreach.

The celebration was a perfect way to mark Pentecost.



Representatives from **St Mary's Priory in Abergavenny** were among those who had the honour of celebrating The Prince of Wales' 70th birthday at a special Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

Canon Mark Soady was joined by five other representatives of the Priory at the headline grabbing event – as it was also the first public appearance of the recently married Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

Prince Charles has been Patron of St Mary's Development Trust for nearly 18 years and has made a number of visits to the church.



Bishop Richard was thanked by staff at **Haberdashers' Monmouth Schools** for the 'beautiful' confirmation service.



Most of you will have already heard about the new **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** which came into effect on 25 May – but do you know what it means for your parishes?

Training sessions have been held across the diocese to help people understand a bit more and there is also plenty of useful information on the Diocesan website at **Monmouth**.  
[churchinwales.org](http://churchinwales.org) and [www.churchinwales.org.uk](http://www.churchinwales.org.uk)



Following a major programme of restoration and refurbishment, **St Augustine's Church in Rumney**, has become 'the people's space'.

The church hosted an Open Day to show the local community what work had been done and to show them what a fantastic space is now on offer to them.

# New Evangelism Fund will help turn dreams into reality

Millions of pounds are up for grabs for ambitious, creative and inspiring projects which grow our faith across the Diocese.

The Church in Wales Evangelism Fund, worth £10m, was launched on Pentecost Sunday and offers grants of between £250,000 and £3m for diocesan projects which crucially, will focus on people rather than buildings.

Launching the fund, Archbishop of Wales, John Davies, said: *"We are putting our money where our mouth is. We have long talked about growing the church and now we want to invest in projects across the country to enable that to happen. It is a radical answer to the decline we are experiencing in many places, and £10m is a transforming amount. I am looking forward to seeing some really creative and inspiring projects that will breathe new life into some of our churches and into our mission in Wales."*

The Evangelism Fund was a major discussion point at the Diocesan Sheldon strategy workshop and there were some really good conversations about how to make the most of this fantastic opportunity.

It was agreed that Rev Canon Sue Pinnington, in her role as Director of Mission, will lead the initiative for the diocese.

Sue has vast experience in this field and has proposed that we identify three or four major projects for the bid. Based on her knowledge of the CofE and its Strategic Development Fund, she has also suggested that extensive research and consultation is carried out before submitting our bid. This is likely to be done in Spring 2019.

Sue explains: *"The new Evangelism Fund gives us the exciting opportunity to explore new ways of mission activity throughout the Diocese. You could say that it allows us to dream dreams and to have the financial resources to allow them to become a reality. This is a thrilling time for us to be engaging with the development of discipleship and evangelism in Monmouth and the wider the Church in Wales and I'm sure that we in Monmouth Diocese, are more than up for the challenge of growing God's Kingdom."*

The money for the fund is being released from Church's investments which are overseen by its Representative Body. James Turner, Chair of the Representative Body said, "This is about investing in the future of the Church. The Bishops have made evangelism and church growth their very clear priority and we are delighted to be able to respond to that by creating this substantial fund."

**More details about the Evangelism Fund will be distributed over the coming months so watch this space!!**



# On the move

## Going

**Reverend Dylan Bate** retiring as Associate Priest, Lower Islwyn

**Reverend Graeme Carby** retiring as Vicar, Rectorial Benefice of Cyncoed

**Reverend Elaine Hills**, retiring as Assistant Curate, Caerleon

**Reverend Robert Lindsay** has left as Priest-in-charge at Rhymney to become Priest in charge at Bargoed (Llandaff Diocese)

**Reverend John Davis** has left as vicar at Tredegar to become Rector at Whitchurch (Llandaff Diocese)

## Coming/moving

**Reverend Cheryl Lewis** has become Associate Priest in the Upper Ebbw Valleys (formerly assistant curate)

**Reverend Stephen Smith** has left as Assistant Curate in the Goetre Group to become Associate Priest in the Lower Islwyn Ministry Area

**Reverend Alison Littler** to become Associate Priest in Panteg and Griffithstown

**Reverend Hilary Prest** moving as Assistant Curate in the Rectorial Benefice of Bassaleg to become Associate Priest in the Magor Ministry Area

**Reverend Canon Sue Pinnington** is joining us from Durham Diocese to become Archdeacon of the Gwent Valleys and Director of Mission

**Reverend Wendy Tayler** is moving from Team Vicar, Neath Ministry Area (Llandaff Diocese) to become Associate Priest in Caerleon Ministry Area

**Helen Shepherd** has returned to the Diocesan Office as Director of Pioneer Projects following maternity leave

**Stephen Peel** will be joining the Diocesan Office team as DAC secretary on 6 August. Stephen comes from Torfaen County Borough Council.

**Matt Davis**, ordained as Deacon, Cyncoed

**Sally Ingle-Gillis**, ordained as Deacon and licensed as Ministry Area Leader, Wentwood

**Stephen Blewett**, ordained as Deacon, Christchurch, Newport

**Reverend Ross Maidment**, ordained as Priest, Rhymney

**Reverend Bob Greenland**, ordained as Priest, Usk

**Zoe Ward** will be joining the Diocesan Team as Administrator on 9 July

# What's On

## Service of Sung Vespers at Tintern Abbey

**Sunday 9 September at 3pm**

An ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer. Speaker is medieval historian Dr Gail Blick and music is provided by St Woolos' Choir, Newport Cathedral. Entry to the Abbey is free for those attending the service.

Remember to take a folding chair!

## Vocations Lecture

**Thursday 4 October 6.30-9pm**

**Newport Cathedral**

Why not join us for an evening exploring our lifelong call to vocation led by Reverend Canon Judy Hirst author of 'Struggling to be Holy'. Judy is the Local Church Growth and Development Advisor in Durham Diocese. This is an event for both clergy and laity as we explore how to grow together.

Event is free, but please contact Reverend Becca Stevens at [rebeccaclairestevens@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaclairestevens@gmail.com) to book your place.

## 18-35 event including food, drink, chat and board games

**Tuesday 10 July, 7-9pm**

**Tiny Rebel Pub, High Street, Newport**

Aged between 18-35? Join us for an evening to chat about faith and life, socialize over food and drink, and play board-games.

Booking is essential as a cold buffet and one free drink will be provided.

Further details and booking form are available on the website at [Monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk](http://Monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk) or contact Reverend Becca Stevens at [rebeccaclairestevens@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaclairestevens@gmail.com)

## 'Open The Book' Training Session

**Tuesday 17 July 7-9pm**

**St Paul's Church –**

**9 Bridge Street Newport NP20 1AZ**

For more information please watch

<https://youtu.be/iztzm0avyjk>

To book a place:

email Rachel [rachelnelmes@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:rachelnelmes@churchinwales.org.uk)

or Vicki [vickibrackpool@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:vickibrackpool@churchinwales.org.uk)

or telephone **01633 267490**





# Back Chat

## Turning Newport Cathedral inside out

If you prefer churches not to change but to look as you are used to them looking and behaving as they 'always' have, (and I quote Archbishop John, here): 'Get over it!' Time to look outwards or die.

Here at the Cathedral people are experiencing a curious new energy. It seems to have come from worrying less about repairing the place (though it needs it) and considering first how to make it available to others. My own working hypothesis is that if something is decent to do it outside the church, it is decent to do it inside; and if something is indecent to do it inside the church, it is indecent to do it outside. That gives us a far wider scope in which to welcome and to serve than we have been tending to allow ourselves. Here we have sensed a shift from looking at our own needs to looking at the needs of others. As a community we are not very practised at it, yet, but we realise that it is the meaning of love. As Jesus puts it, every time we celebrate the Eucharist: 'this is me, given for you'.

Why should anyone repair our church building unless they can see that it contributes beyond itself? How are we being invited by God to give ourselves, as a Church community, to the wider needs of those amongst whom we are set. What would it look like if we were radically hospitable (welcoming according to others needs not to our own convenience)? Self-forgetfulness is a mark of Jesus Christ and we are all learning (which is what 'disciples' means) how to be that where God has planted us. We shall want to link arms with anyone else who tries to reach out and to serve because the Spirit of the only Source of Love is moving within them, faith or no faith. 'Those who live in love live in God and God lives in them' (1 John 4:16). So the new Cathedral Constitution is designed specifically to turn us outward across the Diocese. We expect to learn from you in the parishes what we need to become and what we need to offer. We won't get everything right, I'm afraid but, like all of you, we shall try to stay close to the one who has loved us first so that we may learn how to do that for others. Or we might as well not be here.

**The Very Reverend Lister Tonge**  
Dean of Newport

