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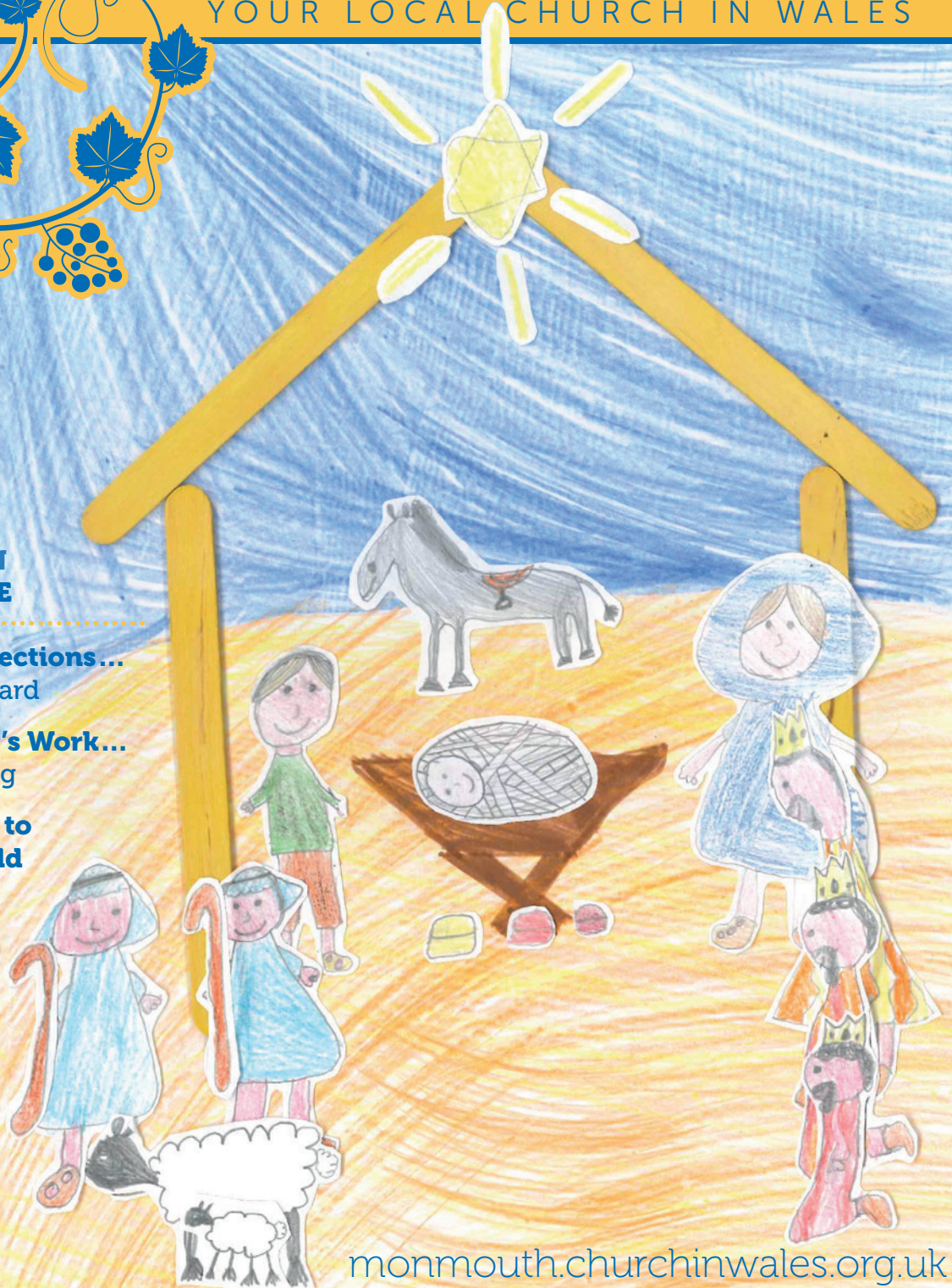
Grapevine

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YNG NGHYMRU



THE CHURCH
IN WALES



Gan y Golygydd From the Editor's Desk

So, as we throw ourselves into the busy festive season of spiritual preparation, prayer and celebration – take some time out to have a read through this latest edition of *Grapevine*.

This edition is a real 'pick and mix' of personal stories, partnerships and insights into what makes us tick as a Diocese – so I'm sure there will be something that makes you read on!

I hope you love the front cover as much as I do? Well done to Olivia Philpott, aged 9, from Malpas CinW Primary School whose winning design will appear in hundreds of homes this Christmas after being made into cards personally sent by Bishop Richard! We had a lovely time looking through all the wonderful entries – what a talented bunch you are!!

You may have noticed a few Welsh words have made an appearance in this edition. As a non-Welsh speaker I've found it very educational – although my children are completely unimpressed that I know the Welsh word for 'Winter' when they know seasons, months, colours, weather !

So, how about....

*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

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Correction

We would like to apologise for the omission of St Mary's Church, Llanwern from the article titled *Current Status of Ministry Areas in the Diocese* in the previous edition of *Grapevine* (Diocesan Conference 2017 edition).

St Mary's is a very important part of the Magor Ministry Area and the omission was an unfortunate error.

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Advent Reflections by Bishop Richard



With goodness and kindness, like a King who sends his son, who is also a king, God sent God, the Word, among us. He sent him to save us through persuasion rather than violence, for there is no violence in God. He sent him to call us rather than to accuse us; he sent him to love us rather than to judge us.

Letter to Diognetus



This inspiring passage from an early Christian writer reminds us clearly of God's intentions to communicate with us. 'He sent him to call us rather than accuse us'. God communicates through himself (God sent God) because he wants us to know intimately his true nature, which is love.

At a time when the majority of people have given up on organised religion, there is a challenge for Christians not to get in the way of God's intentions! This is very important when the church re-orientates itself to open mission in society. There is often a thin line between ideology and bad theology. We can all fall into the trap of defending our beliefs in discussion rather than persuading people by our character and actions. We are not here to win religious debates but rather nurture people into the love of God. This does not mean that we don't say anything about our faith. But our faith directs others to God and speaks more effectively through our transforming behaviour. My call for Diocesan-wide

Nurture Groups should help us develop relationships which gently opens people into God's presence.

In practice, our honesty and humility about matters of faith is attractive; sharing our vulnerability not only mirrors the nature of God but makes us more accessible to those wounded by life's experiences. Jesus (the sent God) proclaims the Father's love by human stories and healing relationships. So, it is with us.

The season of Advent is a transitional season. It moves us towards the great mission event of Christmas when God sent God. I hope you can use Advent to deepen your trust in God who, quite frankly, is not who we expect and whose motives are more generous than we can possibly imagine. May I wish you a happy Advent!

+Bishop Richard

Winning Christmas card designs

This year the newly amalgamated Malpas CinW Primary School was invited to help Bishop Richard with representing the real meaning of Christmas. The entries were varied and showed great talent and effort but, with great difficulty, Bishop Richard selected the winning design – that of **Olivia Philpott**. Bishop Richard said her design was “well drawn” and that the Jesus figure in swaddling clothes was “exquisite”. He also liked the “interesting use of materials.” Well done Olivia!

Second prize goes to **Portia Wisdom** (Year 4, age 9) for its “bold design and strong use of colour” and third prize to **Amelia Watkins-Buchanan** (Year 4, age 8) for its “attention to details, the lightness of touch and the humour”. Grateful thanks to The Meaningful Chocolate Company for sponsoring this competition and providing the delicious prizes!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the competition and well done to you all.



2nd Portia Wisdom

1st Olivia Philpott

3rd Amelia Watkins-Buchanan

Churchwardens receive a big 'thankyou' from Bishop

Churchwardens across Monmouth Diocese are receiving a personal 'thankyou' from Bishop Richard for all their hard work and dedication.

The Bishop will be sending individual letters to each of the Churchwardens to thank them for their work and to invite them to a Deanery event.

Bishop Richard, said: “I found this a great opportunity to meet with churchwardens and thank them for their ministry. They are Bishop's officers, sharing in the mission of church and I am grateful for their hardwork and openness to the change in direction of the church.”

More than 350 churchwardens have been invited to enjoy a meal with friends as a 'thankyou' for all they do to help and improve church life.

Scilla Greenland, churchwarden at Wolvesnewton was delighted to receive a personal invitation from the Bishop.

She said: “My fellow warden, Bryony Jacques and I very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet Bishop Richard and other wardens from across the Raglan and Usk Deanery at an informal gathering.

“It was also good to get to know some of the Bishop's staff and to understand the role they have in helping parishes move forward. The question and answer session was frank, but friendly and entertaining and the refreshments enjoyed by all.

“I'm sure all present appreciated the acknowledgement of the work wardens do to support the clergy in the smooth running of our churches.”

The office of churchwarden dates from the 13th Century. The primary function of the office at that time seems to have been that of taking care of the Church building and its contents on behalf of the parishioners. In the course of time, other duties were added, and churchwardens are recognised in the Constitution as officers of the Bishop of the diocese, responsible to him for the proper carrying out of their responsibilities.

Towards equality and diversity

The Equality and Diversity Monitoring (EDM) group asked members at the Diocesan Conference in October to write ideas about equality and diversity on 'post-it' notes.

Twenty nine people responded with ideas and many also engaged EDM members in lively discussion.

Responses on gender equality ranged from 'make equal opportunities at the centre of what we do' to 'recruitment processes are key'. On diversity, there were ideas for multi-lingual services in European languages in new Spanish, Polish and Czech communities and outreach to ethnic communities. Suggestions on policy and action included 'mentoring is really important' and 'policies for flexible working', strong support and strong HR policies are the key to achieve non-discrimination for women and men.'

The initiative began in 2010 when the Governing Body (GB) commissioned a Working Party to review the representation of women in senior positions in the Church in Wales. Following a further report in 2015, the GB set out a number of Recommendations to increase the progress of women in senior roles and charged the Diocesan Standing committees to set up monitoring arrangements in each diocese.

Bishop Richard set up the current monitoring group in our diocese following the 2016 Diocesan Conference and widened its remit to Equality and Diversity – ensuring that we recognise and embrace difference in people, while maintaining a culture of fairness, inclusivity and equality of access to opportunities, employment and services.

One of the key aims of the EDM group is to support the Church with workable strategies to encourage and support women from first discerning a vocation through to positions of responsibility.

Rev Jean Prosser, who chairs the group, said: “It is encouraging that in Vocations and Training, the next generation coming into ministry, and in the next cohort of Ministry Area Leadership training, this diocese has a balance in the numbers of women and men. This suggests that, at some point in the future, strategies towards gender equality will cease to need any special emphasis.

“It is also clear that the Church has great opportunities to actively strive to increase equality and diversity in the

creation and support of Ministry Area teams. In organisations beyond the Church, this has led to growth and to a more supportive culture and better working practices for women and for men. This is a huge agenda and there is some way to go, but the serious support of senior staff and the benefits to be gained for the mission of the Church make the work crucial.”

The EDM group is working on an Action Plan to be discussed and finalised with senior policy makers. This will include raising awareness of ways in which diversity and gender balance can be achieved by the Diocese, parishes, and Ministry Areas. The first of these sessions will focus on fostering talent in lay and ordained people led by Norma Jarboe OBE, founder of Womencount, on Saturday 10 March. Information on booking a place will be available shortly.

The EDM group, which meets four times a year – with ad hoc meetings and correspondence as required, would welcome more members, lay and ordained. So, if you have an interest in/experience of working with disability and mental health issues; training and support; sexual orientation, gender and race issues, please contact revjean.prosser@btinternet.com for further information.



Delegates were keen to find out more about equality and diversity at our Diocesan Conference



All in a day's work... safeguarding

Safeguarding Officer Amelia Jarvis tells about her busy role.

Safeguarding is an often misunderstood term conjuring up ideas about ensuring safety equipment is worn, that paving slabs aren't tripped on or that only children require safeguarding. Since joining the Monmouth Diocesan team in May as Provincial Safeguarding Support Officer, part of my role has involved trying to spread the word that Safeguarding put simply means everyone looking out for each other. A fundamental aim that both Safeguarding and the Church share in its work.

The Safe Church training package that was developed especially for the Church in Wales and centres around the Church in Wales Safeguarding policy, has proven to be a great tool in helping create a culture of informed vigilance. Those that give their time freely to volunteer and support the work of the Church are vital to helping integrate Safeguarding into the everyday life of the Church. Any laity who work within the Church with either children or adults at risk can access our Safe Church training to support the work that they do. These sessions are free to access and run regularly at venues across the Diocese throughout the year. They can also be organised within Parish if numbers attending exceed 10. It provides a great opportunity to reflect together on how our Safeguarding policy applies to your Church life and what we can do to keep the Church a safe place to worship.

The training will be tailored to your role and the crucial work you do to safeguard children, young

people and adults at risk within your parish or Ministry Area. It is centred around the Church in Wales Safeguarding policy, helping you to identify how to make our Churches a safe place to worship for everyone and what to do if you have a concern about someone. Therefore, even if you have previous training in Safeguarding it is important you attend this course. Once you have attended a session your certificate lasts you for 3 years.

We are all vulnerable at various times in our life through childhood, illness and old age. It is often through times of hardship, illness or grief that those in our communities who are not regular attendees turn to God and our Churches for support. I have only been working for the Church for a short while now but I have already met some wonderful volunteers who are working on some fantastic community projects, supporting those in our society who are most vulnerable. Prior to starting work with the Church I worked for 10 years as a Social Worker and so am very aware how vital such projects are to our communities. I hope through my new role with the diocese I can support our volunteers by providing advice and guidance on how to keep those who attend our projects and Churches safe. Our Safeguarding policy complete with all the necessary information and consent forms is a great online tool to help guide our Churches. As we start to integrate this policy into our Church life I hope to support you all in any questions or queries about its content or usage you may have.

To protect the wonderful community work of our Churches it is essential we do all we can to make sure that those whose help we enlist are not people who have a history of abusing such positions of trust and have caused harm to the vulnerable. Anyone who has worked or volunteers with vulnerable people in the UK will know that DBS checks or CRB checks as they were previously known have become an important safe recruitment tool. I receive contact from Churches within our diocese regularly requesting advice and support on who requires a check and who does not. I anticipate that this will continue to be a regular aspect of my job for the near future and welcome any questions you may have.

Although my Safeguarding role is as a member of a provincial team, my individual responsibility is for the diocese of Monmouth. I hope as a diocese you can make good use of the services I have to offer you all to support the wonderful work that you do. A community is at its strongest when it is all working together.

To find out more, contact Amelia at ameliajarvis@churchinwales.org.uk or call 07881 016185.



Linking up with our South African neighbours

A formal link between the Diocese of Monmouth and the Diocese of the Highveld in South Africa began in 2003. The initiative has worked out well with a number of parish and school links – and the occasional exchange visit!

The Diocese of the Highveld lies to the east of the city of Johannesburg at nearly 5000 feet above sea level. Most people live at this western end of the diocese in a string of towns and settlements which sprang up as the result of the gold rush in the later nineteenth century. The population in this area is still high, but further to the east livelihoods are mostly made through agriculture and forestry. The border with Swaziland is about four hours away.

A small group of pilgrims from our diocese visited the Highveld in September this year to strengthen parish links and catch-up with old friends. They also saw more of the initiative by the Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility (HABSR) to create Safe Parks. These are after school safe havens for children and some of our schools are already establishing links with them.



Holy Trinity, Christchurch and the parish of Etwatwa:

Rev Michael Jarman and Hazel Taylor visited **Holy Trinity, Christchurch's link parish of Etwatwa** as part of the Pilgrimage from the Diocese of Monmouth.

The parish is planning to further develop their children's services and to provide an 'after school' club (Safe Park), as concerns had been raised that, when the children leave the school and return home, they are often entirely alone. Safe Parks provide food, recreational activities and help with homework, etc., in a safe and supportive environment.

St Woolos Cathedral, Newport and St Dunstan's Cathedral:

At the beginning of their journey, the pilgrims attended Sunday morning Eucharist at **St. Dunstan's Cathedral which is linked with St. Woolos Cathedral, Newport**. Members also enjoyed a meeting of the Mothers Union at St. John's, Putfontein which was fuelled by dance and song – which was a great way to start a meeting and a very uplifting time of praise and celebration!



All Saints, Mayflower

Mayflower is near the Swaziland border and a 4 ½ hour journey from St. Dunstan's Cathedral in Benoni. On arrival at All Saints Church, Mayflower, our pilgrims met the staff and children of Orthandweni Early Childhood Development Centre. 110 children are looked after and fed twice daily in cramped conditions. More classrooms are required to house the growing number of children needing day care.

At the same site there is a garden project, which could produce three crops a year with an improved irrigation system.

St Cadoc's, Caerleon and All Souls, Northmead

St Cadoc's, Caerleon is linked with All Souls, Northmead which is situated in a fairly affluent area of Benoni.

Buyani House, an outreach centre of the church in Benoni, is based within the grounds of All Souls and provides meals for the 35 to 80 people who gather at their gate on weekdays. Two of our pilgrims were able to help prepare and distribute food at Buyani House.

Money sent out prior to the visit is being used to buy the contents of the Christmas parcels for the orphans and vulnerable children from Katlego School in the informal settlement in Daveyton.

All Souls supports a market garden project which is currently in its second year. With an irrigation system now in place, the brother and sister who run the project are able to produce goods to be sold in the markets enabling them to provide for themselves.



St Mary's, Magor and St. Boniface Church, Germiston

A visit was made to the Dukotole Informal Settlement, where a Soup Kitchen and Little Angels Early Childhood Development Centre are supported by the Highveld Anglican Board of Social Responsibility (HABSR) and run by **St. Boniface Church, Germiston which is linked with Magor**.

Those who are able, collect a tub of soup, bread and fruit from the home of Nomsa, who organises the Soup Kitchen – our pilgrims helped deliver soup to those who were bed-ridden.

Sixty-five children attend Little Angels Early Childhood Development Centre. This enables their primary carers to work or, in the case of older sibling carers, to attend school.

The primary School in the township has 1500 children and HABSR distributes food parcels from there to needy families. The parcels consist of vitamin enriched porridge, soya and milkshake powder.

St Cadoc's, Raglan and St Alban's, Daveyton

Daveyton is a large township that appears to be almost completely renovated, with smart brick housing. There is, however, still a huge problem with unemployment.

The church has recently completed building a new toilet block of which they are rightly very proud! The bricks are in place for a new extension to the church which will also incorporate housing for their bell that originally came from one of the tall ships. As well as the church and the minister's house on the site, there are three containers that are used for housing various projects. The first was filled with materials and some sewing machines, where the ladies sew many items to sell. They were busy sewing bridesmaids' dresses when our visitors looked in on them. The second housed a desk and computer where the young people honed their IT skills while the third was used to prepare food for the eight families that they feed on a regular basis, with much of the food being grown next to the church.

Christchurch, Ebbw Vale and Christ the King, Nigel & All Saints Church, eMbalenhle

The pilgrimage gave the opportunity for some Link representatives from both Monmouth and the Highveld to meet up and get to know each other face to face. Charlene, the Link representative for **Christ the King, Nigel**, whose parish is also linked with **Ebbw Vale**, joined the visitors with her family at the Cathedral. Later in the week, the link companions were offered hospitality in the Nigel group of churches. During their stay they were shown a large piece of ground that was been donated in 1937 by a gold mining company for the building of a church. The original covenant stated that it had to be for Whites only! This has been changed to welcome all.

Charles Williams Primary School, Caerleon is linked with Ekuphileni Safe Park caters for approximately 70 children

During the visit, scrap books were exchanged between the Safe Park and Charles Williams School. A gift was made of the CD of 'Ising pop' songs, recorded by the children of Charles William's School.



Each year there is a Link Sunday when our local links are celebrated and prayers common to both dioceses are used. Many links have been formed, however, some areas are still looking for partner parishes in our Diocese.

Kempton Park and Reiner Park are both parishes in the Highveld which have requested a companion link in the Diocese of Monmouth. If you are considering being a part of this Diocesan Link but would like more information before committing to it, please contact **Carolyn Benavides** by phone on **01633 423242** or by email at **julio.carolyne@btinternet.com**

Schools, Education and Young People



Grapevine will be taking a closer look at some of the church schools across our Diocese. In this edition, we find out more about the recently amalgamated **Malpas Church in Wales Primary School**.

Fact File:

- 1868 – school was founded on a site donated by Rev T Protheroe and Mr T J Cordes.
- April 1975 – after 107 years as a primary school, the school was divided into two separate schools – Infant and Junior
- September 2017 – almost 150 years after opening, the two schools became one again
- Number of pupils – 366
- Headteacher – Miss Katharine Thomas

What makes your school distinctively a church school?

"We learn lots of Bible stories, because God is important to us. The Bible stories teach us how we should care and share and love people."

(infant pupil)

"We love to go to church because we sing songs. We can sing these songs in assembly too. The songs make us feel happy and I think they make God happy too."

(infant pupil)

"We pray and follow the Christian values."

(junior pupil)

"We don't turn our backs on God."

(junior pupil)

At Malpas we have a distinctly Christian ethos and character to our school. Pupils enjoy a rich and varied curriculum and extra-curricular activities which lead to outstanding provision for all learners.

There are daily opportunities for worship, discussion and reflection. Learners experience worship that is at the heart of the school; great value is placed on Collective Worship. It engages learners as they respond positively and enthusiastically and are keen to take part. The values from Collective Worship are further developed outside of this area by the Make a Difference Club. This allows pupils to help other pupils understand the new values we are working on. It enables our school community to embody and promote Christian values and models how children and adults can apply them in their everyday lives at school and at home.

What impression do visitors get when they come to your school?

Mrs Janet Jones, the Bishop's Visitor for the school says: "My visits to the school are always such a pleasure! I am immediately made to feel part of the 'school family'. Whether helping in the classroom or with school visits or being invited to Collective Worship or concerts, it is always a privilege being part of a such a caring, happy school."

Pupils also express awareness of how welcoming their school is: "The visitors are impressed and they are surprised at how good we are." ... "You always want to come back."

What is the main legacy that children from your school take with them when they leave?

When our children leave Malpas Church Primary School we not only want them to reach their academic potential, but we want to have instilled in them an understanding of the Christian faith and for them to exhibit the Christian values in their everyday lives. We would hope that they have a secure understanding of right and wrong and would be good role models to their peers. We believe that their trust in God and the Christian values would support them in the challenges they will face in the future.

This year's "Leavers" anticipate their legacy clearly: "well educated", "kind and caring", "we care about God", "we follow and model the Christian values", "we are respectful of each other and we are always there for one another".

Describe your school in three words

'Caring, kind and fun';
'happy, sunny and kind';
'respectful, happy and hopeful';
'holy, kind and fun';
'fun, happy and amazing';
'educational, fun and religious'

How are the gospel values reflected in your school?

Christian principles underpin the school. Caring for and loving others permeates throughout everything we do. Our school is a caring, cohesive and inclusive community, where there is a theme of 'human flourishing'. Younger pupils explain this: "In school we learn to serve others. In little ways we can do things to help other people. We like to help our teachers by tidying up and doing jobs for them." ... "We are learning to be respectful and reverent ... We are reverent by being quiet when we are in assembly and by remembering God." ... "We show kindness by playing with friends when they have no-one to play with."

How does your school support the local community?

Pupils take part in local events, which are very well attended. They visit local churches and other places of worship, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. As a school we support a variety of charities with the School Council members helping to organise fundraising events. Older pupils have a clear sense of ownership in this: "Harvest food goes to the local food bank" ... "The choir raise funds for St Anne's Hospice" ... "We are always fundraising! We held a coffee morning in support of Macmillan as well as themed days for Children in Need, Comic Relief, etc."

Your Diocese needs you!!

There is a real ministry in supporting schools with their work because that is where we can connect most with our children and young people. There are a number of positions in our schools where we are specifically needing support, so if you think you can help, please see the details at the end.

We need another **Bishop's Visitor** to help us in offering pastoral support and Religious Education advice to some of our Diocesan church schools.

We also need **Foundation (church) school governors** to help support our Diocesan church schools from a governing point of view.

If you think you might be interested in either of these roles, please contact Dr Annette Daly, Diocesan Director for Education who will be glad to provide more details and answer questions.

You can phone the Diocesan Office on **01633 267490** or email educationmonmouth@cinw.org.uk.

Dr Annette Daly,
Diocesan Director of Education



People and places



A huge congratulations to all involved with The Living Room! The project, based in the parish of **Bedwellty** and **New Tredegar**, won 1st place for its contribution to rural economy at the recent Caerphilly Business Forum Awards.



Youngsters at Sunflowers Nursery, **Usk** had a lovely time when Father Kevin came to visit them. They thanked God for the harvest and all the things He gives us and then acted out the story of Stone Soup - learning about the importance of sharing.



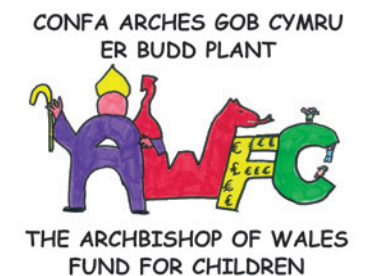
It was standing room only at a special rededication service at **St Dingats, New Tredegar**. What a lovely problem to have – not enough chairs!



The new head teacher of **Raglan CinW Primary School**, Mrs Eve Rowlands, was officially commissioned into the role by Bishop Richard. Everyone participated in the special school service and in pledging support and prayers.



The church of **St Martin-in-the-Gaer, Newport** has recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. The church was opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Monmouth as a daughter church of St Woolos' Cathedral on 5 December 1957 and to mark the special anniversary, a celebratory Eucharist service was held – presided over by the present Bishop of Monmouth.



The small but dynamic committee which represents the **Archbishop of Wales Fund for Children** charity in Monmouth Diocese held an extremely successful Supper Party in Bishopstow which raised the magnificent total of £726. The group organised four major fundraising events this year and in 2016 it raised a total of more than £11,000. For more information about the committee's work and anyone interested in joining should contact Chris Edwards, Chair on 01633 430768.



Bishop Richard consecrated a new altar in the Lewis Chapel at **St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny** and dedicated the Chapel to St Joseph as he blessed the new plinth for the spectacular Jesse figure.

He said: *"It has been some time coming and finally we have a seemly place to set the Jesse figure and for it to be integrated with the magnificent Jesse tree window."*



Rev Becca Stevens must have 'sweet' talked Tesco into donating hundreds of jelly babies which she gave out during her peace babes/jelly babies Remembrance Day assemblies at **Rougemont, Malpas Parc, Malpas Court, Malpas Church in Wales, Millbrook, Ysgol Hael Ifor, and Newport High schools** – only one per pupil of course!



More than 80 shoeboxes full of Christmas gifts were collected, packed and loaded ready for delivery to Romania thanks to members of the **Holywell Community, Abergavenny**.



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
Matthew 25:35

This Christmas, for every pound the public give to the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal to support people living in poverty, the UK Government will also give a pound*. During Advent and Christmas, we have a wonderful opportunity to double the support for families living in poverty and struggling to feed themselves.

Visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal> to find out more.



Bishop Richard blessed the Faith Room, before the newly built **Caldicot School** transformed into the venue for our Diocesan Conference!



Bishop Richard has been out and about across the Diocese as part of his Audit.

You will be hearing a lot more about this important piece of work over the coming months and in the Spring edition of *Grapevine*.

As part of his tour around the Magor Ministry Area, Bishop Richard visited **St Mary's, Llanwern** where interesting discussions were held on how best to serve your community when you live in an area of commuters!

Journey of Faith... Surprised by love

I never wanted to be a priest! The imagination and desire for my life was to be found in service in the RAF. Having joined the air cadets whilst in Secondary school I was determined to forge a path to military service. The vision was clear and the path laid out, I knew where I was going. The 'I' of my mind however did not foresee the government cut backs that affected the selection process. The sense of disbelief and numbness that coursed through my body and mind as I read the letter informing me of the journey's end rooted me to the spot. After a moment or two, this timeless moment gave way to an 'un-thought' question, "What am I going to do now?". I was paralysed, and yet, with hindsight and faith, this was the beginning of a receptivity, a breach in the defence that allowed the Hound of Heaven to lure and seduce me. The 'call' had space to vibrate.

At the tender age of nineteen I thought my life had come to an end, with little to show in the way of academic qualifications the way forward seemed alien, as though this life that lay ahead did not belong to me. Where now? What is the direction? The purpose? With dreams and longing buried I ploughed my way forward into the world of profit and sales. It was in the midst of this undirected activity a hope began to be born, love knocked on the door and bade

me to dine. In the midst of confusion I experienced myself as beloved. The experience of being loved by The Father was a disturbing dynamism. For up until that moment I had pronounced myself unlovable. My parents divorce and subsequent lack of contact with my father, from nine years of age until now, shattered my confidence, my belief in my ability and the truth that I was lovable as I was.

Love bade me to dine. The experience of being loved began to revolutionise my sight and mind, the sense of my life began to broaden and deepen. I could feel the connection between myself and others. I noticed the pain in The Other and now I wanted to do something about it. Love dissolved fear and gave birth to Joy. This joy propelled me into further study and formation for the priesthood as a missionary in Africa. My eight years of formation included both the religious life and the Diocesan. Ordained for the Roman Catholic Church in 2004 I began another journey of struggle and unknowing. With the Hound firmly in chase, dissolving fear with the embrace of love, I was received into the Diocese of Monmouth in June 2013. That time of discernment may be for another article!

I never wanted to be a priest. Fear made of me a master bricklayer and the fortress around my heart had been well and truly constructed. As the God of love lured me away from this fortress, the once feared life of love had been dismantled once and for all. Now a husband and father, I know the life of Joy. This is our call, to become love.

Rev Richard Terrano-Reardon,
Ministry Area Leader, Caldicot Benefice

What's On

Churchwarden evenings

Tuesday 23 January - Bassaleg Deanery at St Augustine's Church, Rumney

Monday 29 January - Bedwellty Deanery at St David's Church Hall, Pengam

Tuesday 6 February - Newport Deanery at St Paul's, Bridge Street, Newport

Monday 12 February - Pontypool Deanery at St Hilda's Church Hall, Griffithstown

Safeguarding Training session

Thursday 25 January 6pm at Monmouth Priory Centre, Monmouth

Monday 29 January, 6pm at St Teilos High School, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff

For more information or to book a place please contact **Amelia Jarvis** on **07881 016185** or email **ameliajarvis@churchinwales.org.uk**

Nurture Group Training Session

Wednesday 7 February, 7pm at St David's Church, Fleur de Lys, Pengam

For more information please contact **Sarah Burton** on **01633 216093** or email **sarahburton@churchinwales.org.uk**

Online Faculty Training Session

Thursday 11 January, 10.30am at Diocesan Office, 64 Caerau Road, Newport

For further information, please contact **kathhilsden@churchinwales.org.uk**

As of January 1st 2018, the long-awaited online faculty system will go live! We will be encouraging everyone to begin submitting faculty applications electronically, as soon as possible. If you are planning to submit a petition early in the New Year, you are advised to attend this session, as paper applications will no longer be accepted from 31 March.

Welsh language services

Welsh language services in Monmouth Diocese	Gwasanaethau Cymraeg yn Esgobaeth Mynwy
A Welsh service is held every two months, on the second Saturday of the month, at St Thomas' Church, Overmonnow, Monmouth. The date for the next service is: 13th January The dates for the other 2018 services are: 10th March, 12th May, 14th July, 8th September, 10th November All services are at 9.30 a.m.	Cynhelir gwasanaeth Cymraeg bob deufis, ar ail ddydd Sadwrn y mis, yn Eglwys Sant Thomas, Overmonnow, Trefynwy. Dyma ddyddiad y gwasanaeth nesaf: 13eg Ionawr Dyma ddyddiadau gwasanaethau eraill 2018: 10fed Mawrth, 12fed Mai, 14eg Gorffennaf, 8fed Medi, 10fed Tachwedd Mae'r gwasanaethau i gyd am 9.30 y bore
Other services: Plygain Service in Trinity Church, Abergavenny on 14th January 2018 at 6.30pm Holy Communion in Saint Peter's Church, Llanwenarth, Abergavenny on 3rd February 2018 at 2.30	Gwasanethau eraill: Gwasanaeth Plygain yn Eglwys y Drindod, Y Fenni ar 14eg Ionawr 2018 am 6.30pm Cymun Bendigaid yn Eglwys San Pedr, Llanwenarth, Y Fenni ar 3ydd Chwefror 2018 am 2.30

On the move

Coming

Rev Justin Groves to become priest-in-charge of the Grouping of St Stephen's, St Thomas' and St Paul's (Newport)

Rev James Henley to become Ministry Area Leader for Cyncoed

Rev Becca Stephens to become Ministry Area Leader Designate for Newport North Ministry Area

Rev Philip Averay to become Priest-in-charge, Chepstow Group

Rev Gaynor Burrett to become Priest-in-charge, Grosmont Group

Rev Philip Godsell to become Associate Priest, Upper Torfaen Ministry Area

Rev Rufus Noy to become Priest-in-charge, Upper Torfaen Ministry Area

Rev John Connell to become Area Dean at St Augustine's, Rumney

Father Tom Bates to become Associate Priest, Abergavenny

Rev Canon Mark Dimond installed at St Woolos Cathedral

Going

Rev Brian Phippen retired rector, Pontypool

Rev Victoria Ashley has left as Priest-in-charge, Cwmbran

Rev Rhian Prime has left the Diocese

Rev David Prime has left the Diocese

Rev Christine Hockey has retired as Assistant Curate, Newport (Maindee)

Back Chat...

Repairing Relationships



In a previous edition of *Grapevine* Bishop Richard wrote about relationships being at the heart of all we do, which has prompted me to write about Contact Centres. We are fortunate to have four Centres within our Diocese - at Newport, Pontllanfraith, Ebbw Vale and Abergavenny, but what are Contact Centres? They are, as Bishop Richard says, about 'relationships', but, unfortunately in this case, broken family relationships.

The tragedy of family breakups is devastating to children, parents and extended family. Around 5 million children grow up with no contact with fathers every year and this is on the increase. These children will often have no male role model in their lives.

The Abergavenny Contact Centre which opened 4 years ago tries to alleviate the feelings of distress and desperation these children experience by providing a neutral meeting place where children from these separated families can enjoy the love and companionship of their non-resident parent or family member when there is no viable alternative. Our aim is to alleviate some of the hardship and distress these children feel when there is a family breakup.

We offer supported contact sessions for families where no significant risk to the child has been identified. The facilities at these sessions enable children to develop and maintain positive relationships with non-resident parents and other family members.

Each Centre is run independently, the Abergavenny Centre is run by Kathy Palmer, the widow of the Rev Canon Terry Palmer and a past President of the Monmouth Mothers Union, and myself a retired social worker and business man. We are both fully accredited co-ordinators and have the help of volunteers.

All staff and volunteers are trained to a high standard enabling us to offer our clients confidentiality and the best possible service where confidence is built between families, staff and volunteers as they meet on a bi-weekly basis.

Centres must be fully accredited by the National Association of Child Contact Centres and clients can be referred to Centres by many organisations. However, the main referrals come via CAF/CASS (Children and Family Support Services), others from the Family Court, Solicitors, Social Services, Doctors, Clergy but also clients can self-refer.



The Centre as a registered charity operates through a management committee, consisting of a District Judge, Treasurer (which is how I got involved in the first place), administrator, a secretary, a volunteer's organiser, Mother's Union representative and three independent people one being the local Catholic Priest. At the moment our Diocesan Mother's Union is providing physical and financial support and equally important their prayers.

Although it is good that families use the Contact Centre it is even more rewarding when families no longer need our services because they have rebuilt what was a broken relationship and can move forward with their lives, and we pray that this renewed bond, with the help of our prayers and God's grace will grow stronger.

The Centre does not promote any aspect of religion, but we pray that by showing non-judgemental love and support to those of all faiths and none - these broken families might share the love of God through us. As Bishop Richard says it's all about relationships. Please pray for these families and all who try to support them.

If you would like to help us in our work, either as a volunteer or supporter, or know of a family that may need our help then please contact either myself **(07377 870118)** or **Kathy (07487 379110)**:
e-mail **abergavennycontactcentre@gmail.com**.

Colin Jarrett
Abergavenny Contact Centre