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Esgobaeth LLANDAF

Diocese of LLANDAFF

YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMURU | THE CHURCH IN WALES

Gwanwyn 2019 | Spring 2019

LLE MAE
FFYDD
YN CYFRIF

WHERE
FAITH
MATTERS

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Stepping out

2020 will be Llandaff Diocese's 'Year of Pilgrimage'. Here, the Revd Mark Prevett, who is leading the preparations, explains how the year will provide the chance to 'step out of ourselves'.

Next year will be a time for celebration of our existing and consistent presence as a church, a time to reflect on and encounter God's calling anew and a time to reach out and extend the hand of friendship across all our communities.

The hope is that 2020 will be a living out of the Vision for Llandaff: Where Faith Matters, as together we all aim to 'tell a joyful story', 'grow the Kingdom of God' and 'build our capacity for good'.

As priest-in-charge in Merthyr Tydfil I chair the planning group for the Diocese, working with a number of clergy and lay members.

As a team we are busy gathering ideas and setting things in place to make this a full year of activity and fellowship where the church looks out from itself to the communities around.

The year will begin officially with a celebration in the Cathedral at Epiphany in January 2020 when the symbols of pilgrimage will be blessed: the shell, the staff, the knapsack and the whistle. Three sets of symbols will be created, one for each Archdeaconry.

Each Archdeaconry will be commissioned to take these symbols out into their district where they will be circulated around all of our church communities

across the year. At Epiphany 2021, the symbols will be received back at the Cathedral in a special thanksgiving service, having at some point, resided for a period of time in every single

parish, ministry area, church school and other Llandaff church community.

When the symbols visit a church community, the hope is that this becomes a time to gather members and reach out to the wider community through hosting an event or programme of activity. Whether it is an organised pilgrimage walk to the local war memorial or opening the church for tea to pilgrims, a music event or a family activity day, all are being called

to respond and be part of telling the joyful story right across the Diocese. In addition to the activity in each church community, there will also be a spotlight on each Archdeaconry as they host a joint event to send the message of a vibrant church and faith even wider.

In Lent there will be materials available produced by the Diocesan Spirituality Group - as well as a pilgrim passport which offers a daily office for those who

choose to walk or, equally, remain at home in contemplation. Art and poetry programmes and exhibitions are being explored by the planning group as well as the opportunity for schools and

children and young people to attend music and other related events. Some projects will begin that focus on making a real difference in communities.

The Year of Pilgrimage in Llandaff in 2020 represents an opportunity to 'step out' not only from ourselves, but as a whole church, into the wider world.

Whatever is offered to our communities, whether a family event or simply time and space for an internal, spiritual journey, these experiences, this stepping out creates opportunities for us all to encounter God. Do join us on this journey.

2020 YEAR OF PILGRIMAGE The Diocese of LLANDAFF

THE LAUNCH
Saturday 28th September 2019 at the Diocesan Conference.
Literature and ideas disseminated to every parish.

THE BLESSING
Sunday January 2020 (TBA)
Blessing of Artefacts and Candles at Cathedral Service.
Candles distributed to each parish and Artefacts to three.

THE PILGRIMAGE
Artefacts travel around Morgannwg Archdeaconry
Artefacts travel around Margam Archdeaconry
Artefacts travel around Llandaff Archdeaconry

THE CELEBRATIONS
April Celebration Weekend Morgannwg Archdeaconry
July Celebration Weekend Margam Archdeaconry
October Celebration Weekend Llandaff Archdeaconry

SUNDAY JANUARY 2021 (TBA)
ARTEFACTS RETURN TO CELEBRATION SERVICE IN THE CATHEDRAL

TELLING A JOYFUL STORY
GROWING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
BUILDING OUR CAPACITY FOR GOOD

“ To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history...To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God.”
(Pope Benedict XVI)



**LLE MAE FFYDD
YN CYFRIF**
**WHERE FAITH
MATTERS**

‘Caring for clergy’

Caring for clergy must be one of the most important priorities for our diocese. I constantly hear appreciative comments from parishioners who recognize the qualities and commitment of the priests who serve their communities. Most are aware of what such ministry costs their clergy and they want them to know they are valued.

Clergy usually expect themselves to work hard six days a week and to be available to whoever needs support all hours of those days. Unlike many professions clergy have no way of knowing when they’ve come to the end of their responsibilities. And they must sustain their own faith journey whilst meeting the demands of a busy ministry – no small challenge.

Several of our decisions this Spring are focusing on the care of clergy. In May the Governing Body of the Church in Wales will consider a review of clergy remuneration. The spotlight of that debate will inevitably fall on finance – the stipends, housing and pensions available to clergy. Yet the survey of clergy which supported this review revealed other aspects of how clergy feel about what is asked of them. One of the most startling figures to come from their responses was

“ Unlike many professions clergy have no way of knowing when they’ve come to the end of their responsibilities.”

that more than half our clergy don’t take their full entitlement of annual leave. There will undoubtedly

be a mixture of reasons for this, but it ought to be of concern to us all if clergy find it impossible to step away from their duties to give their total attention to their families or seek their own refreshment.

In addition to making sure our clergy do take their allocated leave

I am asking parish officers to ensure that clergy take four extra weekends off in the year when they can be released from Sunday duties in order to spend the kind of time with family and friends which simply can’t be squeezed into a single day off. It’s giving to the clergy the ‘bank holiday’ weekend

experience which we all value but which clergy rarely allow themselves.

At the same time, we are renaming and clarifying the roles which clergy exercise. No longer will we be referring to ‘priest-in-charge’ but curates will be Curates, incumbents will be Vicars, Team Rectors and Team Vicars will remain as they are, and non-stipendiary or house for duty priests

will be called ‘Associate Priests’.

At whatever level and with whatever title we ask all our clergy to now work in collaborative arrangements: formal ‘teams’, informal clusters, Ministry Areas. Different parts of the diocese have differing responses as to how to organize themselves, but we no longer believe that it’s right for parishes or their clergy to operate in isolation. And we know that welcome new initiatives like ‘Messy Church’ are very often only possible when several parishes or a Deanery work together. As we allocate new resources to build our Diocesan Vision - ‘Where Faith Matters’ - we will be looking at how parishes collaborate and are accountable to one another. We will be recruiting clergy who have strong instincts of teamworking because we believe that they will carry the joys and burdens of ministry better in relationship with one another and with their lay colleagues.

Which is also why we’re in the business of rethinking how we review and monitor both the life of the clergy and the welfare of parish life. Our aim is to achieve a single system where clergy are given high support alongside the challenge to live their vocation with joy.

All these changes are aimed at attending to the well-being of our clergy, that they might live abundantly. Telling a joyful story, growing the kingdom of God, building our capacity for good. Undergirding that diocesan vision lies a strong aspiration that our clergy should feel both cherished and challenged in order that parish communities should also feel the same.

+ June Llanoff



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Where Faith Matters: A Diocesan Vision

During Lent this year, the Diocese as a whole is being introduced to its new Vision for the next five years, a Vision for us all to 'live full and rich lives through faith', writes Vision Lead Sarah Rickett.



Entitled *Where Faith Matters* it seeks to enable us all to tell a joyful story, grow the Kingdom of God and build our capacity for good. The Vision is the result of 18 months of work with Bishop June visiting all areas of the Diocese



and listening to parishes, schools and chaplaincies, understanding the potential areas for development, growth and celebration. Following the open consultation last summer, the draft Vision was refined and now stands as our strategy for the next five years, outlining what we aim to achieve and the areas we are going to focus on developing.

Work has already begun in earnest on implementing the Vision following its agreement at the Diocesan conference back in September last year. The opportunity to bid for funding from the Church in Wales has meant that we need to form some ideas relatively quickly and consequently get going with the plans. So, since the last edition of *Croeso*, much has been happening behind the scenes already in taking elements of the Vision forwards in areas of Outreach, Ministry, Education, Children and Young

People and Support functions (such as church buildings and communications). Four different planning groups have been looking at these key areas of the Vision, working on the best way forwards, setting out what they want to achieve, what action might be taken and what funding might be required. In total, 60 people are involved in these planning groups, a complete mixture of lay members and clergy from right across the Diocese. This is representative of the whole ethos of the Vision in aiming to engage a wider group of people in growing and developing our life as a Diocese and challenging us to use the gifts we have among our members.

One element of work that is taking place is a mapping of all the wonderful things that are happening across our Diocese where the Church, led by its faith, is making a real difference in communities. Jon Durley as the

Making Welsh Visible in your Church

A new booklet giving top tips on 'Making Welsh Visible' in our churches has been issued to parishes in the Llandaff Diocese.

Written and produced by the Revd Dyfrig Lloyd, the diocesan Welsh language officer, it includes practical suggestions on how to include Welsh on church noticeboards, service booklets, posters and websites.

The easy-to-follow resource booklet contains illustrated examples, translations of useful key words plus a list of resources for use with children and youth work.

As Mr Lloyd explains one of the objectives in the Diocesan Vision is 'to improve how we express being a bilingual church'.

"Welsh can be seen everywhere from supermarkets to schools, from road signs to posters placed in local libraries. As more institutions within both the public and private sector adopt and implement Welsh language policies and schemes, the visibility of Welsh has become more prominent in everyday life," he said.

Tips include:

- Church signage – if your church noticeboard is only in English, when you next come to replace it, think about including some Welsh
- Visible Welsh within church – having a Welsh bible (s) in the back of the church or in the pews and include some Welsh in the pew

sheet/ service booklets

- Newsletters/parish magazines/ website/advertising – include some Welsh

"The idea is simply to keep the Welsh language in mind when planning the ministry and mission of the church, and to have a 'positive and imaginative approach to extend the use of the Welsh language in the life of your parish/ ministry area'."

If you need any help, advice or further resources to help make Welsh visible in your church, please contact Mr Lloyd on 029 2056 6001, email dyfriglloyd@hotmail.com



Diocesan Community Development Officer has identified a truly inspiring array of outreach projects and targeted activity that run across a wide spectrum of community needs from dementia cafes to food banks, community cinemas to debt centres. There is so much to be celebrated within our Diocese and so much to be shared with our communities. These innovations and activities really help us as a Church to tell a joyful story and truly demonstrate faith in action.

So how might Where Faith Matters apply to each of us as members of communities and as individuals all going about our daily lives in our jobs, our leisure time and in our homes? Some parishes have begun thinking already about what the Vision means to them in their own particular context and which elements they might be able to put into action themselves. The Diocesan Lent sessions look at the Vision in more depth over four weeks

using this time of reflection to consider how its aims apply to us all whatever context we find ourselves in. In the first week, Bishop June addressed the central ideas of Where Faith Matters and each subsequent week, one of the Archdeacons consider each of the three aims of Telling a Joyful Story, Growing the Kingdom of God and Building Our Capacity for Good.

Come and find out for yourself Where Faith Matters. We look forward to seeing you there.

The remaining dates and venues are:

- Archdeaconsy of Morgannwg, Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach, at 7pm
- Tuesdays April 9.
- Archdeaconsy of Llandaff, St Dyfrig & St Samson, Grangetown, at 7pm
- Wednesdays – April 3 and 10.
- Archdeaconsy of Margam, Margam Abbey, at 7pm
- Thursdays – April 4 and 11.

Vision Prayer

Loving Heavenly Father, you call us to grow your Kingdom. Help us to tell a joyful story and to build your goodness in our world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nefol Dad Cariadus, gelwaist ni i dyfu dy Deyrnas. Cynorthwya ni i adrodd stori lawen ac i adeiladu dy ddaioni yn ein byd, trwy Iesu Grist ein Harglwydd. Amen.

Postcards with the Vision Prayer and bookmarks reflecting the three strategic aims of Telling a joyful story, Growing the Kingdom of God and Building our Capacity for Good are available in churches.

Gwneud y Gymraeg yn Weladwy

Ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn anfonwyd llyfryn "Gwneud y Gymraeg yn Weladwy" i bob ebrwyad yn Esgobaeth Llandaf. Paratowyd y llyfryn hwn gan Swyddog Iaith yr Esgobaeth, y Parchedig Dyfrig Lloyd. Mae'n llyfryn sy'n llawn syniadau syml ar sut i ddefnyddio a chynnwys y Gymraeg ar wefannau, hysbysfyrddau, llyfrynau gwasanaeth, cylchgronau a thafenni wythnosol.

Yng Nghynllun Iaith Gymraeg yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, a lansiwyd yn ôl yn 2006, gofynnwyd am "agwedd gadarnhaol a dychmygus at gynyddu'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg ym mywyd yr eglwys". Mae'r llyfryn hwn, felly, yn ymgais i gynorthwyo eglwysi i gynyddu eu defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg a'i gwneud yn rhan arferol o fywyd yr



eglwys ledled yr esgobaeth. Yn ogystal, mae'r llyfryn "Gwneud y Gymraeg yn Weladwy" yn adnodd defnyddiol i gynorthwyo eglwysi i

wireddu un o amcanion strategaeth newydd yr esgobaeth "Mae ffydd yn cyfrif" trwy "wella ein darpariaeth ddwyieithog o fewn i'r esgobaeth".

How green is your church?

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



How should we respond, as Christians, to climate change? Here, Huw Brodie, a local member of the Church in Wales's Church Action for Sustaining the Environment (CHASE) group, examines how we are doing in Llandaff.

Treading respectfully on God's Earth is felt by many Christians to be a profound duty; it is also a way of loving our neighbour, as climate change hits the poor hardest. One scheme which helps parishes judge how they are doing is Eco Church. Twelve churches in the diocese are already showing the way – with six having won awards and another six working towards awards.

Developed by the Christian environmental charity A Rocha, it's a simple scheme to use and can lead to bronze, silver and gold awards for parishes. You complete an online survey - <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/> - about how your parish operates in different areas and once you have registered, your answers and scores are saved and can be amended in the future when something new has been done.

The Eco Church process helps a congregation to show concern for Creation in five key areas: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement and lifestyle. This helps in the challenge facing us all, to grow our churches.

There are also environmentally responsible things a diocese can do, in managing diocesan buildings, land and investments, and embedding Creation-care in ongoing ministerial education. The Governing Body passed a motion two years ago supporting Eco Church and encouraging all dioceses to become Eco dioceses and Llandaff is already half-way to the qualifying threshold.

The churches in Llandaff that are working on Eco Church now have an informal network, to share ideas. For

more information email huwbrodie@gmail.com or gavinadouglas@yahoo.co.uk

Silver

- St Catherine's, Pontypridd
- St Peter's Fairwater

Bronze

- St Augustine's, Penarth
- St Illtyd's, Llanharry
- St Martin's, Caerphilly
- St Thomas', Birchgrove, Cardiff

Working towards awards

- All Saints, Rhiwbina
- St Mary's, Whitchurch
- All Saints, Llandaff North
- St Fleurwg's, Hirwaun
- St Mary's, St Fagans
- St Mary's, St Agnes and Holy Trinity, Aberavon.

St Catherine's, Pontypridd

Following a diocesan training day on the environment parish members gathered together after a Sunday service in the church hall with a computer linked to a projector so they could follow the online application in becoming registered as an Eco Church.

David the church treasurer, said, "The questions from Eco Church made us examine things like what kind of energy tariff we are using or what our policies are when undertaking building projects in relation to sustainability."

Rob, sub warden, said, "A few years ago we decided to set aside some of the church grounds as a quiet place in the town where people can come in and be still. The use of our grounds was an important part of the Eco Church plan."

St Peter's, Fairwater

The theme of St Peter's Care for Creation was adopted following a PCC training day with a small group formed to look at becoming a more eco friendly church.

This included looking at how to recycle more items, use less plastic, make their own Christmas cards for Prisoners of Conscience, advertise NextBike, introduce children to the crisp packet recycling scheme and trial a one-off clothes collection. The parish also works with Keep Wales Tidy as a litter pick centre. The group created a Care for Creation prayer booklet plus there is all the recycling of plants and seeds that goes on in their Community Garden!

St Martin's, Caerphilly

The journey began in 2013 with the setting up of compost bins and water butts, the creation of insect homes and flower beds plus recycling facilities and Fairtrade refreshments. A garden team was set up and a green section produced for the monthly magazine. Bulbs planted by children during the harvest-time 'Worship in Wellies' service are now producing a lovely Spring display.

Why not have a look at the assessment and fill it in – you too may be surprised at how far you are on the road to becoming an Eco Church. Just registering will help towards the Diocese qualifying for Eco Diocese status.

Equipped to Serve

Opening up your church and developing its use will usually require some improvement of existing facilities, often by provision of a WC and/or a catering point. But how effective are such projects? Sarah Perons of the Care of Churches department investigated three projects where parishes have invested in new facilities.



St Catwg, Pentyrch (Grade II listed), underwent a complete reordering in 2016 and as part of the brief a servery pod was installed. Vicar Michael John is delighted with the difference it's made. "If someone now offered me a brand new church hall I'd rather have the servery" he says. He believes the parish has been re-energised by the scheme, partly because of community engagement, but interestingly also because of the 'boldness' of risking the investment in the project.

It provides a space for people which is warm, comfortable with good coffee available. Events include "Caffi Catwg" for the elderly, as well as "Bacon Butties" for toddlers and parents/carers. The release of energy seems to have had an effect in drawing new people in the church – the congregation size on Sunday is up by ten or more.

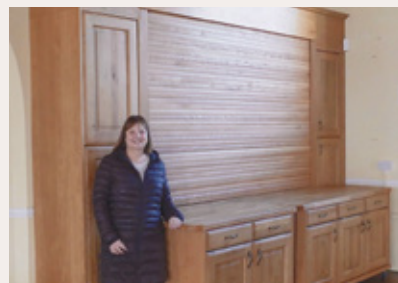
Michael's top tips:

- Plan carefully for your needs. Take opportunities to visit other projects and see what inspires you
- Think about amount of usage. Eg, we have a domestic instant boiling water tap but I'd suggest if you're catering for over 30 people this won't be adequate
- Consider implications of drainage – going through the churchyard adds considerably to the cost
- We serve good coffee! "Kingdom Coffee" <https://kingdomcoffee.co.uk/>



At **St Matthew's, Dyffryn** (listed Grade II), a legacy allowed installation of a kitchenette. The church interior is a fine example of Victorian decoration so care had to be taken to avoid the new facility being too intrusive. Churchwarden Margaret Thomas is thrilled with the result. She says, "The new catering area means that we can now hold our monthly Eucharist and Charity Soup & Roll in church and not in the vicarage. We now don't struggle to fill the water urn, nor take dishes home since we have a dishwasher. We can let visiting societies e.g. WI or Brownies use our catering facilities to provide refreshments."

Architect: Richard Lamb, Hook Mason. Contractor: Acacia Joinery <https://www.acaciajoinery.co.uk/>



In Cardiff **St Luke's Canton** (not listed) commissioned local company, Jam Kitchens, to design a kitchenette. The result is an extremely neat solution. The equipment can be closed away by an electronic shutter. A water heater tucked away in a cupboard provides hot water, with a fridge, microwave and dishwasher completing the set up. Two mobile service points allow for flexible

use. A big change from the previous 'tea urn on a table' arrangement with all the potential safety issues. Total cost in the region of £15,000.

"St Luke's has a church hall next door which is fully booked throughout the week so having the church as extra space to offer groups is a real bonus" says churchwarden Sue Jones. "New bookings have meant that the cost of the kitchen will be repaid in two years".

Costs were kept down as no architectural input was required and the position of the kitchenette next to the main road enabled drainage costs to be kept to a minimum.

Contractor: <https://jamkitchens.co.uk/st-lukes-church/>

Considering a similar project? Think about:

- Location – how accessible and/or visible will it be?
- What exactly do you need? A full kitchen, a servery or just a drinks point?
- Practical points. Is your church listed, and if so, how will any installation affect the historic fabric? Drainage and water? What are the most cost-effective routes for these?
- Consult your church architect for advice and let the DAC know of your ideas before committing yourselves to expensive plans
- You'll need a faculty in due course
- Take the opportunity to visit churches with similar projects and benefit from their experience.

If you'd like to visit any of the parishes featured here or would like advice on new installations contact Sarah Perons at the Care of Churches office. sarahperons@churchinwales.org.uk 01656 868861



Around the Diocese

Exhibition honouring work of church artist and sculptor opens in revamped Cardiff church

A permanent exhibition to honour the life and work of British sculptor and stained-glass artist Frank Roper has been set up in a revamped Cardiff church.

The Frank Roper Centre in the Church of the Resurrection, Ely, was unveiled in a special service of re-dedication led by the Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne.

It centres on a series of oak wall panels telling the story of Frank Roper, whose works can be found in churches throughout the Llandaff Diocese and beyond.



Originally from Yorkshire, Roper settled in South Wales and established a foundry on the ground floor of his Penarth home – from where he executed many of his commissions.

His most productive period was during the 1960s when he collaborated with architect George Pace to create a series of commissions for the bomb-damaged Llandaff Cathedral, along with Jacob Epstein and John Piper. These include his bronze panels of Welsh flowers mounted on the medieval reredos of the Lady Chapel in Llandaff Cathedral.

Examples of his work can be found in churches and cathedrals throughout England and Wales.

The service of re-dedication followed a major £200,000 revamp of the church which includes a new roof and an overhaul of the internal decorations.

Parish priest the Revd Jan Gould said, "We have been very fortunate to receive a substantial grant of £126,000



from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which along with several other very generous grants, made this work possible.

"For the Church of the Resurrection, a large part of our heritage is linked to the family of Lord and Lady Glanely, but what we also have to celebrate are numerous works by the late Frank Roper.

"So, in addition to re-dedicating the church we also launched the Frank Roper Centre which is our humble attempt to make more widely known the wonderful work of this incredibly forward-thinking sculptor.

"He was so prolific and talented but so little known, so it is fantastic to be able to promote his work in a permanent exhibition in this way."

Roper's daughter, Rachel

Frank Roper MBE (1914-2000) was born in Haworth, Yorkshire into a family of sculptors. He studied at Keighley Art School (where he met his wife and artistic collaborator Nora) and then at the Royal College of Art in London as a student of Henry Moore.

During the war, Roper helped design tanks and minesweepers for the Ministry of Defence. In 1947, after appointments at art colleges in Lincoln and Sheffield, he became Vice-Principal at Cardiff College of Art where he remained until his retirement in 1973. Throughout his teaching career he attracted numerous commissions.

After the war, having already done some church work in Cardiff, he joined the select band which included George Pace, Jacob Epstein and

John Piper who were restoring the blitzed Llandaff Cathedral. Pace and Roper worked together on churches and cathedrals throughout England and Wales – most notably, perhaps, his lettered panel for the tomb of Bede at Durham Cathedral, his Crucifixion at Peterborough Cathedral, his Lady Chapel screen at St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, and his bronze panels of Welsh flowers mounted on the medieval reredos of the Lady Chapel in Llandaff Cathedral.

Frank Roper was a superb master of wood, bronze, silver, aluminium, glass and ceramics. Outside of his ecclesiastical commissions, he worked tirelessly, making mythic figures and animated constructions. In the late 1970s he collaborated with Karlheinz Stockhausen on 12 Zodiac sculptures which incorporated music

boxes. His own favourite piece was a small, sensitive figure of a bishop in full regalia. A version of this purchased by the Contemporary Art Society for Wales is now in the National Library, Aberystwyth.

Cardiff churches containing the work of Frank Roper:

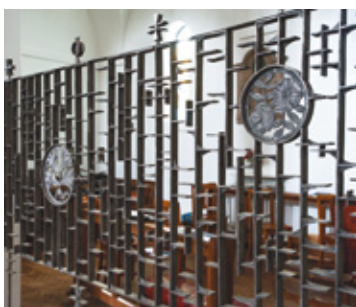
- The Church of the Resurrection, Ely
- Llandaff Cathedral
- Christ Church, Roath Park
- City Parish of St John the Baptist
- St German's Church, Adamsdown
- St Saviour's Church, Splott
- St Martin's Church, Roath
- St Peter's Church, Fairwater
- St Denys Church, Lisvane
- Chapel at St Padarn's Institute, Cardiff





Michaelides, who has lived in Cyprus for many years was tracked down and flew over to attend the service along with a great nephew of Lord Glanely, Mr Jonny Homfray. First Minister Mark Drakeford attended along with other local dignitaries.

Since the re-dedication service in February the church opens every Sunday until 4pm, with specially trained volunteers available to provide guided tours of the Roper work on display in the building.



As part of the revamp the internal colour scheme has been changed to white, with claret carpets and gold curtains.

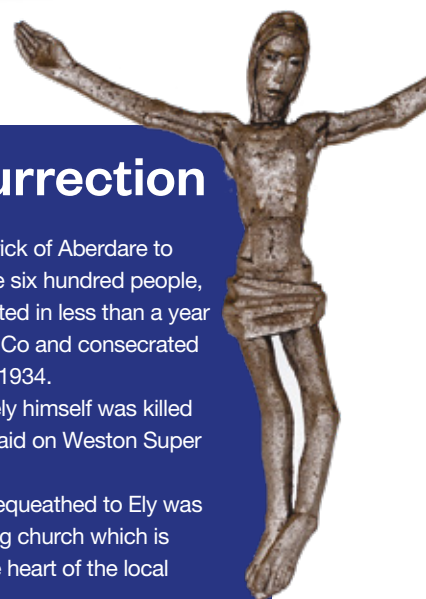
“This has been my vision for such a

long time – this church is at the heart of the community, but it was looking very dated and not very welcoming but now it is going to be great for the next 100 years,” added Revd Gould.

In total, the church has eight examples of Roper’s work, some of which were donated by parishioners.

The refurbishment work was made possible thanks to a £126,000 grant from the Heritage

Lottery Fund. Other grants came from The National Churches Trust, The Representative Body of the Church in Wales, The Garfield Weston Foundation, the Welsh Church Act Fund and the All Churches Trust.



Lord Glanely and The Church of the Resurrection

The Church of the Resurrection began life as simple wooden hut with a corrugated iron roof provided by the Church Army on the present site, when an appeal was launched to raise the £5,000 needed to construct a more permanent structure.

William Tatem, Baron Glanely of St Fagan’s, a shipping magnate and very wealthy man, offered the sum of £10,000 to construct a superb edifice in memory of his wife, Ada, who

unfortunately died after a car accident in 1931.

William had married Ada Mary Williams in 1897 and their marriage although happy was blessed with only one child, Thomas, who tragically died aged six years old in 1905.

The church was designed in the Byzantine style and is a copy of the Community Church of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield in Yorkshire. Designed by

Mr Ben Roderick of Aberdare to accommodate six hundred people, it was completed in less than a year by E Turner & Co and consecrated on 9 October 1934.

Lord Glanely himself was killed during an air raid on Weston Super Mare in 1943.

What he bequeathed to Ely was a truly stunning church which is very much the heart of the local community.

I'll follow Jesus 'till the day
I drop



Church for all ages revitalised thanks to Diocesan Mission Fund grant

Traditional church services may not be attracting as many people as they once did but a big screen, PA system and ten new tables costing just £1,500 have helped revitalise one small church in the Dulais Valley.

St David's Church in Banwen, which was built in the 1920s to cater for the local mining population and is one of the last corrugated iron churches in the diocese, is attracting more and more people through its door – thanks to the variety of new services and community initiatives that it runs.

These range from a monthly Café Church to informal all-age worship and Messy Church. It also runs a family film club, a drop-in cuppa and company group, craft afternoons, pamper sessions and summer events such as 'Hymns and Pimms' and Christmas themed 'Chaos and Carols.'

Priest-in-charge, the Revd Liz Rees explained, "One of the hardest steps people take is the first one through the door of a Church. Though Banwen is a strong community, the Church felt like it belonged to 'another place'. Thankfully, there was a strong team of volunteers ready to do something about that, as well as Hannah Seal from the Church Army. All we needed was a little help to make that first step easier.

"Café Church, for example has a strong emphasis on conversation. When people come through the door they are met with a cuppa and a chance to chat.

As the service goes on we use the new screen to introduce video clips, power-point and different types of music. This means that when the conversation moves on, talking about issues of faith feels more natural.

"Simple things like tables mean that we can now run Messy Church. They have become so popular that we may even have to look for other premises to hold it in as we are getting up to 80 children a session.



"Having our own tables also meant that we were able to launch our cuppa and company sessions which run weekly for any grown up who might be feeling lonely and in need of someone to talk to.

"We talked about doing something like it for ages, but we couldn't because there was nowhere for people to put their cup down. It just wasn't feasible. Nor were the craft afternoons which we have recently started.

"This relatively small award of £1,500 has made a huge difference to this church and enabled us to grow and do so much more. The services and

clubs that we are now able to provide mean that the Church is once again right at the heart of the community. Our amenities are pretty basic. We

have only one cold water tap and until recently nowhere to go to the loo. When this really became an issue the community helped fundraise for a portalo. The response has been amazing!

"We are so grateful to the Diocesan Mission Fund for awarding us this money as we simply didn't have the things that so many churches take for granted.

The Mission Fund award also paid for a second portable screen and a portable PA system and projector, which is used in the other churches in the parish - St Mary's, Seven Sisters and St Margaret's, Crynant.



For information about the Diocesan Mission Fund and other available grants visit <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/grants-and-funding/> Alternatively contact the parish resources advisor Mark Brampton on markbrampton@churchinwales.co.uk or call 01656 868865.

Plain Bob and pulling the Sally – the appeal of bell ringing

A nationwide campaign to recruit 1,400 bell ringers as a tribute to those killed in WW1 resulted in seven new members at Llantwit Major. Ruth Lloyd describes why she was one of those who signed up.

I first heard of the Ringing Remembers campaign to recruit bell ringers while listening one evening to *The Archers* on Radio 4. I knew little of this but as I flicked onto Facebook on my phone later that evening, the sound of the Llantwit Major bells wafted on the breeze over the town – one of the things I love most about the town.

Suddenly a post on the Town's Hub popped up. It was an advert saying that as part of Ringing Remembers,



St Illtud's Church Tower was also recruiting new ringers just like the characters in *The Archers*. It was serendipity!

I had always fancied ringing church bells ever since growing up on a farm in Mid-Wales where the little bell from St David's Church would chime across the valley; calling the villagers and country folk alike to weddings, christenings, funerals and church services throughout the year. So, without further ado, I messaged the Tower Captain and his response was immediate – I was invited to join the bell ringers for a practice session on the following Thursday. I was so excited, I told everyone I knew and no-one believed me.

I was completely blown away by the whole evening. The band of bell ringers were highly skilled musicians, yet so welcoming and encouraging. I was offered a go on the ropes and I leapt at the opportunity and there I was pulling the tail end of the rope with both hands as the bell rang. That is when it happened. From that minute on I was hooked, I really wanted to learn. I couldn't stop smiling; this bell

ringing was brilliant, just as much fun as I thought it was going to be. Yet it seemed incredibly complicated and a real challenge. I could see that it was going to be a marathon as opposed to a sprint, but being prepared to commit, put in the hours and practice whenever

possible, I eagerly said, "Sign me up!"

Within hours I was clicking on the Ringing Remembers website and enlisting as a new bell ringing recruit in memory of the

five ringers from Llantwit Major who had died during WW1.

I am completely and utterly in love with bell ringing. The new learners meet with the experienced members every Saturday morning for a practice session, with the clappers tied, so that we don't disturb the good people of Llantwit Major. For hours we laugh and giggle, focus and concentrate as we tug and pull, lose control, rope-burn our fingers, get a grip, pull the Sally, follow with a perfect back stroke, bang the stay, bounce the bell, learn to control, stand the bell, follow each other and now ring rounds. Learning to ring the bells is proving to be one of the most magical and rewarding experiences of my life.

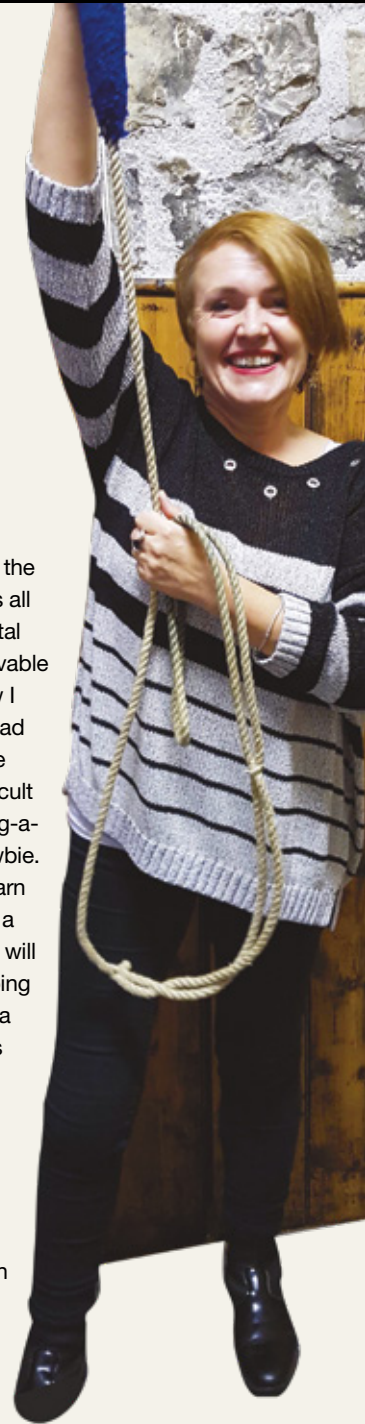
The physical benefits are manifold – you certainly get a workout on those ropes as some of the bells are

so heavy. But with the right technique it is all possible. The mental workout is unbelievable – I don't know how I will ever get my head around "ringing the changes", it is difficult enough just to "ring-around" for this newbie. You can always learn something new as a bell ringer and you will be forever developing – just the thing for a person who enjoys a challenge. The camaraderie is second to none too, everyone is supportive, happy to help and encouraging. I wish I could bottle the enthusiasm in the tower on a Thursday evening practice, it is priceless!

Even though our Tower Captain talks about Treble Bob, Doubles and Plain Bob, Plain Hunt and hours and hours of peals, which are way beyond my comprehension at the moment, I shall continue to practise, improve and hopefully become an

accomplished ringer. One thing is for certain, I am learning new skills, facing new challenges and have made so many, wonderful, new friends.

Long may we ring together!



Acting In Good Faith



What is faith? St Teilo's Church in Wales High School pupil Rose O'Keefe considers the multicultural nature of faith in our society.

What does being a member of St Teilo's mean to someone who is already a practising member of the Church in Wales?

At first sight it should be an easy question to answer: a school and a church life that reinforce the same ideas, providing a cosy feeling of confirmation and belonging; a head-start in the compulsory RE GCSE. But the more I think about the connection between church and school, the more I realise the answer is not as simple as it first seems. It has made me look deeper into the idea of faith.

Faith, says the Bible is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Any faith, any religion, is like that. There would not be so many religions around the world, if the truth of them could be proven with forensic accuracy in a courtroom. We cannot prove or disprove the existence of God, nor of any particular deity. We must decide what we believe – take a leap of faith.

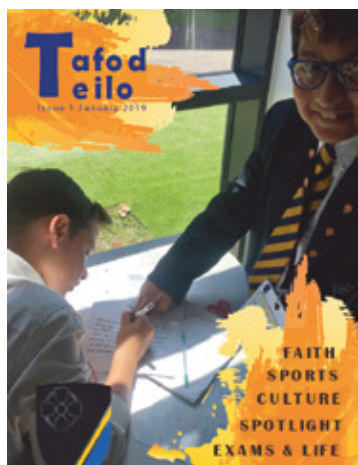
And we must therefore acknowledge that we may be wrong. And this is a difficult thing to realise. We might say that in the absence of compelling evidence, we choose not to believe in

any god. But, as my dad is too fond of saying, "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." Atheism is as much an expression of a faith, as any religion.

So what good can come of this uncertainty? Well, St Teilo's positively embraces these sorts of questions. We aren't a closed club, but a multicultural and multitheistic family, where we learn about each other's cultures and beliefs. Religious Education is not "Church

in Wales" Religious Education – we learn about what others believe, and also the disagreements and schisms that have taken place within the Christian church over the past 2000 years. We learn to understand each other: that one religion is not "better" than another, and why religious celebrations and customs vary around the world.

People have suggested that within the school we should provide more space for religions other than Christianity. In an age that has seen a mass shooting in a synagogue, and police investigations of anti-semitism linked in the press to our own UK politics, the time has come to fight



back against an apparent increase in intolerance with learning and understanding. Let us embrace these religions and their festivals. We must acknowledge that the structure of the Christian calendar is closely tied to school holidays, but that other religions do not get the benefit of the link between church and state. Nevertheless, we should still make sure we do not forget the important Christian festivals such as Ash Wednesday and Ascension that can take place during school terms, and allow pupils the opportunity to participate in them as part of their school family. We can and should be truly inclusive.

The multicultural nature of our school keeps faith alive and lively. Our Faith Families in School are not about one faith, they are a family of faiths, and this perspective is something that helps me with my own faith. So long as we remember that we are stronger in our diversity we can fight what feels an ever-rising tide of intolerance, and live out the true meaning of our faiths.



Transforming Lives **By Andrew Rickett, Diocesan Director of Education**

The Diocesan vision for education is 'to make a difference to the lives of children and young people through a distinctive Christian ethos that offers transformational experiences to become fully human'.

To that end, we have been working with headteachers and an education

group to create a mission for education that achieves the Diocesan vision.

We will implement our mission by empowering school communities to articulate a new understanding of what it means to be a church school, encouraging them to be innovative in what they do, and enabling them to

be courageous agents for change that transforms lives.

The work that we are doing is about growing faith and belief throughout the diocese and renewing our commitment to developing the spirituality of children and young people as well as whole school and parish communities.



Llandaff churches prepare for centenary with year of pilgrimage

The Church in Wales in Llandaff Diocese is embarking on an ambitious Year of Pilgrimage to reinvigorate its work and worship as part of the Church's 2020 centenary celebrations.

To launch the programme, the Clergy School being held next month will take the form of a pilgrimage. More than 140 of our clergy and ordinands will travel to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain – the location of the shrine of St James the Apostle, which for many centuries has been the destination of pilgrimage routes known as 'The Camino'.

This regular clergy school will be used to train and equip priests to teach and lead pilgrimage in their own communities.

The Bishop of Llandaff, June Osborne, says that visiting such a significant site of Christian pilgrimage

represents confidence in the future mission of the Diocese. "We really value and appreciate the hard work of our clergy and know that such an uplifting project will benefit both them and the people they lead and serve.

"Our focus in Llandaff is using pilgrimage as a means of spiritual renewal, as well as a practical demonstration of our work within a modern Wales. This exciting venture is different and ambitious, and I am sure our priests will return refreshed and renewed, ready to work with their congregations and communities towards the centenary and beyond."

As well as walking part of the Camino each day the Clergy School welcomes



several guest speakers: The noted Theologian and author the **Very Reverend Michael Sadgrove**, Dean

Emeritus of Durham, who will lead daily bible studies.



The **Venerable Andrew Jones**, Archdeacon of Meirionnydd and Vicar & Ministry Area Leader of

Bro Enlli, who leads pilgrimages in Britain and Europe, will talk of Pilgrimage in the Welsh context.

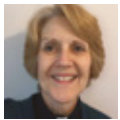


Barbara Wallace, who will focus on resources for pilgrimage, is an experienced prayer leader and trained labyrinth facilitator.



Nina Carlsson Garlöv from Llandaff's link diocese of Uppsala in Sweden. Nina has extensive experience working on educational programmes in Uppsala and will focus on pilgrimage with children.

Appointments



The **Revd Maggie Thorne**, currently Rector of the United Parish of Chinnor, Sydenham, Aston Rowant and Crowell in the Diocese of Oxford, has been appointed Vicar of the Parish of Coity, Nolton and Brackla with Coychurch. Her licensing will be held on June 13.



The **Revd Dr Jan van der Lely**, currently Vicar of Thornbury and Oldbury-On-Severn with Shepperdine in the Gloucester Diocese, is to be installed as Canon Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral on Sunday, May 5.



The new Vicar of the Parish of Radyr is the **Revd Victoria Burrows**, formerly house for duty Team Vicar in the East Vale Group of parishes. Vicki moved to Llandaff Diocese recently from the Guildford Diocese where she was Vicar of the Parish of Bramley (Holy Trinity) and Grafham.



The **Revd Dr John Rhys Jenkins** has been appointed to the post of NS Associate Priest in the Rectorial Benefice of Canton. He

was formerly NS Curate of the Parish of Roath.



The **Revd Lynda Newman**, has been licensed as Rector of Neath Benefice – where she served formerly as Team Vicar.



The **Revd Sandra Birdsall**, currently Assistant Curate of Penarth All Saints and Penarth with Llandough, has been appointed as Vicar of the Parish of Llansawel, Briton Ferry. Ms Birdsall was commissioned as the new Mothers Union Chaplain at Llandaff



Cathedral in January by Bishop June along with **Sue Rivers**, the new Mothers Union President.



The **Revd Will Souter** has been licensed as NSM priest-in-charge of the Urban Crofters, a Missional Expression at St Anne's in the Cardiff Deanery. At the same time St Anne's, Roath became a conventional district for that missional community.



The **Revd Dr Trystan Owain Hughes** has been appointed as half-time Tutor in Applied Theology

at St Padarn's Institute. He will continue as Vicar of Christ Church, Roath Park.

Retiring



The **Revd Michael Witcombe**, who has served as Vicar of Llanishen since 2002, is to retire at the end of April. Ordained priest in 1979, Michael served his curacies in Whitchurch and Neath with Llantwit. He was priest-in-charge of Ewenny for two years and Vicar of Newcastle from 1983 - 2002. He was also chaplain to the Bridgend Royal British Legion from 1986 - 2002.



The **Revd Susan Rees**, priest-in-charge of Pontyclun and Talygarn with Llanharry retires at the end of May. The former scientist joined the parishes nearly five years ago from Eglwysilan where she was priest-in-charge for five years. She served her curacies in Roath and Penarth All Saints. She was ordained priest in 2003 after spending 20 years working as a scientist in the NHS - in the field of cytogenetics - studying chromosome abnormalities.

COMINGS & GOINGS | MYND A DOD

The Very Reverend John T Lewis 1947-2019

It was with great sadness that on the 18th February this year the Cathedral community learned of the death of The Very Reverend John Thomas Lewis. John had been Dean of Llandaff from 2000 until his retirement in June 2012.

John Lewis, or JT as many of us knew him, was born in 1947, a son of the vicarage; his father, David Islwyn Lewis, had been a well loved and respected priest in the Rhondda Valley during the late 1940s and 1950s, later moving to Baglan near Port Talbot. John went up to Jesus College, Oxford to read Mathematics, after which he studied theology at St John's, Cambridge whilst training for the ministry at Westcott House.



JT was ordained priest in 1974, serving his curacies at Whitchurch and Lisvane in the Diocese of Llandaff, after which he became Assistant Chaplain to the University in Cardiff and Warden of Ordinands. He became Vicar of St David's Llanfaes, Brecon, in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon in 1985 and in 1991 was appointed Vicar of Bassaleg in the Diocese of Monmouth. In 2000 he moved to Llandaff Cathedral as Dean until his retirement in 2012.

He was also Secretary to the Provincial Selection Panel and Board of the Church in Wales, an appointment he held between 1987 and 1994.

John's instinct and intellect served him well; he fostered close friendships with those fortunate enough to gain his trust; he could hold strong views too, which were entirely consistent with his formidable intellect which made it difficult for him to put up with trivia or a lack of authenticity.

John was an able and serious preacher and although outwardly he never gave the impression of deep piety, without doubt his spiritual centre of gravity took him regularly to such places as The Community of the

Resurrection, Mirfield, and locally, the Augustinian sisters at Tymawr convent. The young in particular found his sometimes irreverent and occasionally outrageous humour hugely attractive; this was cemented by John's amazing ability to remember family connections and names. John could speak to the young on the ordinary level, especially where football was concerned – his avid support for Arsenal in the midst of those supporting Cardiff City spoke volumes about John's naughty relish in being different.

JT became a dean just as the old models of cathedral governance were being re-evaluated and the ministries of these great churches were facing great challenges in a rapidly changing world. In common with so many of his decanal colleagues nationally, he found himself dealing with the need for a new commercial and business model for his ministry as well as the pedagogical, pastoral, and sacramental output he was originally called to provide. Under John's courageous leadership, changes to the Cathedral included the reordering of the paved areas to the West Front, a new lighting scheme and latterly the replacement of the organ which had suffered a serious lightning strike in 2007.

John's concern for overseas mission and aid meant that under his leadership, the Cathedral raised very substantial funds for several appeals, undoubtedly the most successful being a project run by Fr Nicholas Stebbing of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield. The Tariro Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe project seemed to touch John deeply.

Like all who occupy the role of dean in any cathedral, John sometimes found the role a lonely one; for all his strength, John could be deeply affected by the darker side of church life. And he was realistic about the future knowing that all churches, Cathedrals included, needed to adapt to become truer places offering an encounter between the faithful and the Almighty.

Literally weeks before he retired, much to John's delight, the Cathedral was visited by Her Majesty the Queen as she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. John was as relaxed and confident as most of us had ever seen him, walking beside The Sovereign as he welcomed her to his Cathedral. In many ways it seemed like his crowning moment too. And for those of us who regarded JT as a good friend, it will be the way in which we will remember him.

John leaves his widow Cynthia and their two sons James and Andrew, thankful for a life well spent and trusting in the Lord whose promise called John into His service.

**Gerwyn Capon
Dean of Llandaff**



Caption competition

Thank you for all your entries to the caption competition. Remember the picture (left) from the last edition?

First place went to Jane Lewis of St Catherine's, Pontypridd, for **"Is there a space for me?"**

Please send in your captions for this photograph to Alison Young, Croeso, Llandaff Diocese, The Court, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5HF or by email to alisonyoung@churchinwales.org.uk



From Sweden to South Wales

Links are to be strengthened between churches in Sweden and Wales.

Canon Martyn Davies, who has taken over as link co-ordinator between the dioceses of Llandaff and Uppsala, recently accompanied Bishop June on a three-day visit to Sweden to attend the consecration of Karin Johannesson as the new Bishop of Uppsala – a service held in the presence of the Queen of Sweden.

The diocesan link between Uppsala and Llandaff, established in 2007, was renewed during a service at Llandaff Cathedral in 2014.

Canon Martyn Davies said, "There are already a number of successful parish links between churches in Sweden and Llandaff but we are keen to establish more. There is so much potential to learn from each other as Swedish Lutherans and Welsh Anglicans.

"The beauty of forming a link



agreement between parishes is that you start with a blank canvas and decide how you will work together so that your aims are achievable. Visits are an important part of getting to know each other."

Canon Martyn also hopes to explore links between officers, cathedrals and the training colleges in the two dioceses. "My plan is to review our current strategies and links and build on these to strengthen and extend them," he added.

Contact Canon Martyn at martyndavies@churchinwales.org.uk
Tel: (01446) 760498 (07714) 059824

Giving for Life

A team from the diocesan office have been visiting each deanery to provide training on our new 'Giving for Life' resources.

More than 250 people - including clergy, treasurers, gift aid secretaries, church wardens and deanery representatives - have attended the 10 sessions, with one remaining.

Mark Brampton, parish resources advisor said, "The Giving for Life materials build stewardship into the fabric of our liturgical year. The approach encourages parishes to select two areas for improvement each year. Changing culture is a major problem for any organisation, this programme arms parishes with some tried and tested tools to really improve our capacity for good."

The 'Giving for Life' resources centre on an eight-point plan which includes sending an annual personal 'thank you' to regular givers.

Music for the Eucharist

A Diocese of Llandaff music workshop for the Eucharist will be held on June 1, at St Paul's Centre in Port Talbot from 10am to 2.30pm.

This workshop follows a successful one on advent music and is aimed at encouraging and supporting parish musicians - whether you are an organist, choir director, choir member, cantor, instrumentalist, clergy or just interested

in music for your liturgy.

Register by May 27 with the Revd Jan Gould jan.gould2@btinternet.com 029 2067 9833, Ruth Greenaway-Robbins ruthgrsoprano@me.com 07961 263348 or the Revd Ben Rabjohns b.t.rabjohns@gmail.com 01443 473716.



choose three out of a selection of 20 workshops to attend.

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

Book now

Places are still available for this year's Llandaff and Monmouth Festival of Prayer Day.

It will be held at St Teilo's Church in Wales School, Cardiff, on Saturday, July 13, from 10am to 4.30pm and you can



Mindful of Miracles

The boundary between the ordinary and extraordinary – as typified by the Annunciation – can often be a confusing place. Here, the Revd Dean Atkins of Cardiff St Mary's, reflects on such boundaries we encounter in everyday life.



Walking in the hills near his home, the novelist Nadeem Aslam saw a beautiful fungus growing on a fallen log and decided to make a drawing of it when an orange bodied saw-fly came and landed on the very tip of his pencil. "Without thinking," he said, "I flicked my hand to make it fly off. It didn't. I must have made about two dozen lines and marks and curves and it stayed there. And then it flew away. And as I was walking away I asked myself, 'Was that ordinary or was that extraordinary?' That is what you need as a writer, I think. You need to be at a level where that boundary between the extraordinary and the ordinary somehow becomes blurred and you're not sure if not everything is not a miracle."

This is where we find Mary, when the angel says hello. Confused yet open minded, she stands at the blurred boundary of the extraordinary and the ordinary, not sure if not everything is not a miracle. She flicks through natural explanations. She knows how pregnancy works, so how can this be? But life grows within her, the growing presence of God, making himself felt through the morning sickness and the backpains, and the kicks of a restless, unborn child. The painful pangs give birth to a slippery



child in her arms. She smells the top of her new born baby's head, inhales the divine.

As for Mary, so for us, caught between the extraordinary and the ordinary, not sure if not everything is not a miracle. Henri Nouwen said of the Eucharist, 'It is the most ordinary and divine gesture imaginable.' Fed with food and the blessings of salvation, we can so easily overlook the miracle of it all, for a 'miracle' can so easily be explained away, dismissed by natural means, forgetting that nature is itself a miracle, the handiwork of God. We need those moments, like Nadeem Aslam walking and drawing in the hills, befriending flies along the curves and lines of the marks made by the tip of his pencil. Then we will see and love the small things so we can wonder if not everything is not a miracle, as we live at the level of the blurred boundary

like an artist, a poet...a priest, who gets us to see things differently.

In the film Billy Elliot is the moving scene in the boxing ring where his dance teacher reads the letter from his dead mother, intended for his eighteenth birthday but read by him years before. 'She must have been a very special woman, your mother,' she says. 'Nah,' he replies, 'she's **just** me Mam.' It's in that '**just**' that we find the blurred boundary between the ordinary and the extraordinary, the place where Mary stands and where priests are called to be. 'That was a lovely service.' 'It's **just** the Eucharist.' 'That was a lovely funeral.' 'It's **just** my job.' 'I felt so much better having spoken to you.' 'I **just** listened.'

All we **just** need to do, are the things the church has been doing since its beginnings: to **just** pray, to **just** celebrate the Eucharist and the Sacraments, to **just** care for the sick and the poor, to **just** be faithful to the teaching of the Apostles, to **just** speak up for the little ones, to **just** tell people about Jesus, to **just** have faith, to **just** love, to **just** be at a level where that boundary between the extraordinary and the ordinary somehow becomes blurred and we're not sure if not everything is not a miracle.