

ASAPH 1450



MEMORANDUM

From : Bishop of St Asaph
To: Standing Committee
Subject: Diocesan Anniversary
Date: 6 February 2022

1. The traditional date of St Asaph's consecration as a bishop by St Kentigern is 573 AD. That makes next year, 2023, the 1450th anniversary of essentially what we may regard as the foundation of the Teulu Asaph as a distinct branch of the People of God, the followers of Jesus Christ.
2. This seems too good an opportunity to miss in order to use the moment to celebrate our common life, to reaffirm our existence as a distinct family in the life of the Church, and to commit ourselves to be bold and venturing for the future, as we move (God willing) beyond Covid, and adopt a new strategic approach.
3. Standing Committee is therefore invited to affirm this anniversary as a suitable commemoration on which to hang a celebration of our common life, and to consider what form any celebration should take.
4. An ambitious model would be to seek to replicate the success of "Feeding the 5000" at the turn of the millennium. This would involve a large scale celebration somewhere in the diocese, possibly in the Llangollen pavilion, where as many as possible of the diocese would come together for a festival Eucharist and associated activities. It is an attractive proposition, but also would require most investment in terms of finance and people resources. "Feeding the 5000" required a full time organiser, and huge effort from the diocese to make it work.
5. A lesser scale celebration would be to designate a Sunday or Sundays in the diocesan calendar as (an) occasion(s) when appropriate celebrations could be organised. There could be archdeacons or mission area celebrations, with guest preachers, and a meal together. There could be a specific service written.
6. In addition, or slightly later, there could be a diocesan service in the Cathedral to which representatives could be sent.
7. Alternatively, the anniversary could be the focus of the Diocesan Conference in the Autumn, suitable adapted to include the celebration. The focus would have to be future oriented – a celebration of what has been, but a commitment to the future.
8. It would not be difficult to conceive of all sorts of celebratory material to support such an event – a commemorative medallion, mug, prayers and prayer books, bookmarks and the like. Care would have to be taken to ensure that anything produced was self-financing and sustainable after market research.
9. Whatever form the celebration takes, the project would require an enthusiastic steering committee, who could develop appropriate costings, budget, and co-ordinate the activities.