

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2019 - issue 14



Growing our Churches

The Archdeacon of Montgomery, the Venerable Dr Barry Wilson outlines how all the Archdeacons are working with you for growth across the Diocese.

Church growth can occur in many ways. Sometimes new people join regular Sunday services because of the warmth of your welcome or your willingness to engage with them at their point of need. At other times alternative forms of worship, such as Café Church or Messy Church, attract those who want something different. Church growth can occur through house groups or youth groups; through outreach to the lonely or the vulnerable; through ministry to the elderly, or young families or anything in between.

A key factor in church growth is that people want it to happen. They pray about it, think about it and look for the opportunities that can turn hope into reality. It is often preceded by a growth in faith and a flourishing of discipleship bringing an increase in confidence and a renewed energy for evangelism and loving service to our neighbours, especially the most needy or vulnerable in our communities.

As Archdeacons, our role is to encourage growth in numbers, discipleship and social outreach by helping to remove barriers, encourage vision and support initiatives. It takes time, effort and good-will for people to move into a place where they are genuinely able to pray together, dream together, and work towards a new vision of God's Kingdom. Our role is to walk with you, support you and encourage you as we take the next steps in our challenging but exciting journey.

The Venerable Dr Barry Wilson
 Archdeacon of Montgomery

Tyfu ein Heglwys

Archddiacon Maldwyn, yr Hybarch Dr Barry Wilson, yn amlinellu sut mae'r holl Archddiaconiaid yn gweithio gyda chi i sicrhau twf ar draws yr Esgobaeth.

Gall twf yn yr Eglwys ddigwydd mewn sawl ffordd. Weithiau bydd pobl newydd yn ymuno â'ch gwasanaethau rheolaidd ar y Sul oherwydd cynhesrwydd eich croeso neu eich parodrwydd i ymgysylltu â nhw ar awr eu hangen. Ar adegau eraill, mae mathau eraill o addoliad, fel Eglwys Gaffi neu Llan Llanast, yn denu pobl sydd eisiau rhywbeth gwahanol. Gall twf yn yr Eglwys ddigwydd drwy grwpiau yn cyfarfod mewn tai, neu grwpiau ieuencid; drwy estyn allan at bobl unig neu'r rhai sy'n agored i niwed; drwy weinidogaeth i bobl hŷn, neu deuluoedd ifanc neu unrhyw beth rhyngddynt nhw.

Un ffactor allweddol o tan twf yn yr Eglwys yw pan fydd pobl eisiau i hynny ddigwydd. Maen nhw'n gweddïo am hynny, yn meddwl am hynny, ac yn chwilio am y cyfleoedd sy'n gallu troi gobaiith yn realiti. Yn aml, mae twf mewn ffydd yn digwydd cyn hynny, ynghyd â chynnydd yn y synnwyr o fod yn ddisgybl, sy'n arwain at gynnydd mewn hyder ac egni newydd ar gyfer efengylu a gwasanaethu ein cymdogion yn gariadus, yn enwedig y rhai mwyaf anghenus neu agored i niwed yn ein cymunedau.

Fel Archddiaconiaid, ein rôl ni yw annog twf mewn niferoedd, disgyblaeth ac allgymorth cymdeithasol drwy helpu i gael gwared â rhwystrau, annog gweledigaeth a chefnogi mentrau. Fel cymaint o bethau mewn bywyd, nid yw twf yn yr eglwys yn rhwydd. Mae'n cymryd amser, ymdrech ac ewyllys da i bobl symud i fan lle maen nhw'n gallu gweddïo gyda'i gilydd o ddifrif, breuddwydio gyda'i gilydd, a gweithio tuag at weledigaeth newydd o Deyrnas Duw. Ein rôl ni yw cerdded gyda chi, eich cefnogi chi a'ch annog chi wrth i ni gymryd y camau nesaf ar ein siwrne heriol ond cyffrous.

Produced and printed by



More than just a worship space – the church as a homeless shelter



Trish Owens



Donations came from across the community



Beds made up each night for guests



Volunteers, Pat and Ana Sumner

Over the winter, seven churches across Wrexham were part of the town's Night Shelter Project run by Housing Justice Cymru in partnership with the Diocese of St Asaph. The shelter opened every night at a different church offering a safe bed, a hot meal and friendly hospitality for ten guests. Three of those churches were Church in Wales buildings and the vicar at one of them, **Trish Owens from St John's Church in Rhosymedre** explained why their Mission Area got involved.

St John's is based in an area of high deprivation and has a history of service in the community. The congregation here (and across the Mission Area) is generous, welcoming and inclusive. They see this project as a natural extension of the outreach that already happens.

For example, we make packed lunches in the school holidays for the local play centre, we run monthly fish, chip and bingo nights, the local AA group runs sessions here, we organise fitness programme walks and regular community film nights. Getting involved was the right thing to do.

What implications (if any) were there for the building to be used?

The area where the guests slept is where Sunday services are held during the winter months, as it is easier to heat than the main body of the church. This meant rearranging the furniture after the service every Sunday, and able-bodied members of the congregation all helped with this. The biggest challenge was the expense of having the heating on for an additional 24 hours in the week.

As well as the volunteers who staff the shelter when guests arrive, many others in the congregation helped to set up, cook meals and clean up after. It was a real community effort, with a role for anyone who wanted to get involved.

What sort of impact has it had on the church and volunteers from your community?

Several people who did not feel they could commit to face-to-face duties were more than happy to help with food preparation, donations, and furniture rearrangement. It has also given local volunteers the opportunity to meet and work alongside people from other denominations and church communities. It has raised awareness among the congregation of the plight of rough sleepers and given an appreciation of them as individuals.

It also encouraged the support of the local community too. Money was raised to help the church meet its fuel bill and additional food costs. The proceeds of a weekly bingo project organised by 'We are Plas Madoc' was given to the project. The communities in both Ruabon and Cefn Mawr publicised the project on their community Facebook noticeboards and food, clothing and bedding was donated. It's been a truly community undertaking.

Why is it important for churches to be a space for more than worship?

The church has a special place in the life of the people of Rhosymedre, but many who see it as 'their' church are not regular worshippers. There was a lot of resistance to the reordering six years ago, but people who do not usually attend have had the opportunity to see how sympathetically it has been done, and how versatile it now is. Local people can see that the building serves the community and, rather than waiting for people to come to church, the church community lives its faith in reaching out to those in need.

How would you encourage other churches to overcome any anxieties they have about getting involved?

When the project gets underway next year, I'd encourage people to visit one of the venues and see what goes on. Offer yourself as a volunteer in a capacity that suits you and experience how everyone benefits from the project, not just the guests. Volunteers, congregations and communities are changed positively by the shelter. I'd also encourage you to pray. Pray for those people who don't have a roof over their head and ask God how you and your church can make a difference.

Parish Pixels – show us what makes your church special



This year, our church competition celebrates churches across the UK through photography. However, it is far from just a photography competition!

We'll be asking every church to send us a single photo showing what makes their church special, whether taken by a professional or a member of the congregation on a smartphone.

We know that every church, its congregation, and community is unique. From the volunteer who holds everything together, to the children's groups who brighten up the Sunday services. From the beautiful flower gardens,

to the exceptional architecture of your church building. No two churches are the same, and we want to celebrate what makes your church special.

How would you show how unique and special your church is in just one photo?

Find out more about the competition and how your church can enter at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels



Contains
promotional
material

Insurance advice that's right up your street

Our Church Insurance Consultants offer a locally-based advisory service to churches up and down the country, either face-to-face or over the phone.

Our five consultants are responsible for a particular region of the country, and are available to visit your church and parish to give on-the-spot advice, as well as scheduling seminars and training. This could include help with explaining your insurance policy, to giving risk management presentations, and providing churchwarden training. Each member of the team isn't just an expert in insurance, they also have a deep involvement with the church themselves. Thanks to their background in the church, they appreciate and understand the concerns that PCCs and congregations have.

Through support and guidance, and by giving our customers the reassurance that they are doing things safely and securely, our consultants can enable churches to focus on what really matters: worship, mission and outreach. With their support, we hope to help make our nation's churches a vibrant, vital and exciting part of the community for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Find out more about your Church Insurance Consultant in your area on our website:

www.ecclesiastical.com/cic

Our specialist customer service team

Our dedicated church customer service team have a deep understanding of the specialist needs of those who look after, and protect, churches. Our friendly team are ready to help you with any query, no matter how big or small, and are available by telephone, email or post.

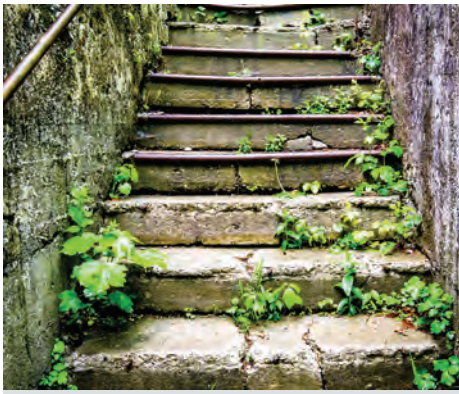
Call: 0345 777 3322

(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)

Email: churches@ecclesiastical.com

Post: Church customer services, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ





Unique research bolsters our advice for churches on slips and trips

Although churches are generally low-risk environments, slips and trips remain the most common cause of injury. In some cases, these can be severe, so taking sensible and adequate precautions is essential. Sometimes, this is more difficult in church premises, usually because of design constraints or the heritage fabric of the building itself. Here, it is usually necessary to consider a wider range of precautions.

We understand this challenge, and it's why we have teamed up with leading health and safety researchers at the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to look at the problem. We have conducted research across a range of historic buildings (including churches) with a view to developing practical advice in the prevention of slips and trips. This is in a way that is both sympathetic with the history of the building and is cost effective.

Our new guidance looks at a range of topics identifying best practice and exploring a range of precautions. You can find out more and read the guidance on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/churchslipsandtrips

Do we have up-to-date contact details for you?

If you need to update us on changes to names, email addresses, phone numbers and changes to PCC members, you can do this by calling our team on:

0345 777 3322



We've donated over £285,000 to churches across the UK so far!

For every new home insurance policy taken out with us, we have donated £130 to the church of the policyholder's choice, and so far these donations add up to over £285,000!

We are delighted that this offer is now running until the end of 2019 and many more churches are set to benefit from our donations.

How your church can benefit

For every new home insurance policy taken out where 'Trust130' is quoted, we will ask the customer what church they would like a donation of £130 to go to. So, by spreading the word around your church workers, volunteers and congregation, your church could benefit, and as there is no limit to the number of donations one church can receive; the donations could make a big difference to your church.

Has your church already received a donation?

If your church has received a donation, we'd love to hear how your church has used the money. Whether you've used it



for a large project or event, or just to buy biscuits for coffee mornings, we want to hear about it. You can either tell us by email at: Trust130@ecclesiastical.com or via facebook tagging us [@churchmatters](https://www.facebook.com/churchmatters) and we might share your story too!

Find out more about our home insurance at: www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance





Rewarding the good work of others with our Movement for Good Awards

At Ecclesiastical, we've always believed in supporting the causes that can make a positive difference to people's lives. That's why we work closely with the communities we serve to tackle the issues that are important to them.

On Tuesday 23rd April, we launched our Movement for Good Awards – a programme designed to give £1 million to charities. Our Movement for Good Awards are a way of recognising and supporting the efforts of these dedicated men and women – people who devote their energies to changing people's lives for the better.

500 charities will receive a £1,000 donation

Anyone can get involved by simply nominating an eligible charity*. You can nominate between Tuesday 23 April and Friday 17 May.

10 charities will be awarded a £50,000 grant

Eligible charities* can apply for a grant via a simple online application. Applications open on Monday 23 June and close Friday 26 July.



So, if your church is a registered charity, you have a charity associated with your church, or there's a charity anyone in your congregation is associated with, you can get involved.

You can find out more on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/movementforgood

*Please note, anyone can nominate but you must be an eligible charity to win an award. Go to the website address above to view the full Terms and Conditions.



Taking a sabbatical in 2020?

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provides financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2020. You can find out more about the awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba

Risk Management Advice Line

We know that managing the risks of a church or church hall can be a demanding responsibility.

That's why we've introduced the Risk Management Advice Line. Whenever you need information about managing risk and can't find what you are looking for on our website, our experts are here to help.

Call our Risk Management Advice Line: **0345 600 7531**

The line is open from 9:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays.

Alternatively you can email us at: risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

Our Risk Management Advice Line offers Ecclesiastical customers free risk advice. Please have your policy number to hand when you call.

Our new-look website

Have you seen our newly refreshed website? We've changed our site to make it easier to use, but you will still find all our useful guides, information and videos available on the site.

The website has a clean and fresh style, which makes it easier for you to find the information you need. If you have any trouble finding information on our new site you can always call our team who will be happy to direct you to the right place.

Call us on: 0345 777 3322

www.ecclesiastical.com/church

We would like to hear what you think of our new website. You can email comments and feedback to: churches@ecclesiastical.com



Allchurches announces record giving and changes to grant programmes

In 2019, Allchurches Trust, owners of Ecclesiastical, is making changes to its giving that will place even more of an emphasis on helping organisations in less-affluent areas.



The changes have come about following a Strategic Grants Review, which set out to ensure that the Trust continues to meet the needs of its beneficiaries

and make the greatest possible impact with the funds available. The aim is to improve effectiveness, transparency and reporting, including for annual grants to dioceses and cathedrals.

These annual grants are now guaranteed until 2022, facilitating longer-term, strategic planning. At the same time, the Trust aims

to steadily make a greater amount of funding available to churches, charities, dioceses and cathedrals that apply for grants to fund projects in their communities.

As well as giving a higher percentage of the total project cost, Allchurches has doubled the uplift on grants to projects in areas of greatest need.

Annual grants are also now allocated based on population and the degree of deprivation of the area, and dioceses and cathedrals have been asked to provide more information about what they intend to spend their grant on and report back on the impact that the money is having.

Chairman of Allchurches Trust, Sir Philip Mawer, said: "We've already heard about some great initiatives being funded by our annual grant, including a youth outreach partnership project called Growing Faith for Generations (GF4G) in the Isle of Man. We're keen to work with dioceses to share these stories about the good work our funding is helping to enable in their parishes."

You can find out more about Allchurches Trust at: www.allchurches.co.uk

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Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services provide independent financial advice. Our experts advise clergy, church people and PCCs on making investments (including ethical investing), pension and retirement planning, mortgages and life assurance.

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Email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com



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*Ecclesiastical claims satisfaction survey 2017 - direct customers



Funeral Plans

A funeral plan from Ecclesiastical is an ideal way to make financial provision for your funeral, as well as reducing the worry for your loved ones at a difficult time. Making your funeral wishes known in advance and providing for the cost makes sound financial sense.

Call: 0800 055 6503

www.funeralplans.co.uk

Going for Growth

By 2020, 450 people from across the Diocese of St Asaph will have been trained in how to grow the church. The Diocese has invested in sending representatives from each Mission Area on the *Leading Your Church into Growth* (LyCiG) course in Derbyshire, as well as encouraging the use of LyCiG local courses. Tracey White, the Diocesan Director of Resourcing, explains how more and more people are getting involved.



Tracey White

In 2017, we held our first Diocesan LyCiG course and 60 people joined the LyCiG team in examining what we had, who we knew and how we could use that to grow our churches. In November 2017, we held a Follow-up Day where over 100 people came together to be inspired. This pattern of learning was repeated in 2018 and is the same in 2019. It means by 2020 we will have trained 450 people in how to grow God's church. This approach has proved a confidence booster to many churches.

20 out of 21 of our Mission Areas adopted the 10% growth target set by Standing Committee. We're hoping that as churches aim for this target, a rise in discipleship will encourage more people to attend a LyCiG course. St Asaph has adopted the LyCiG

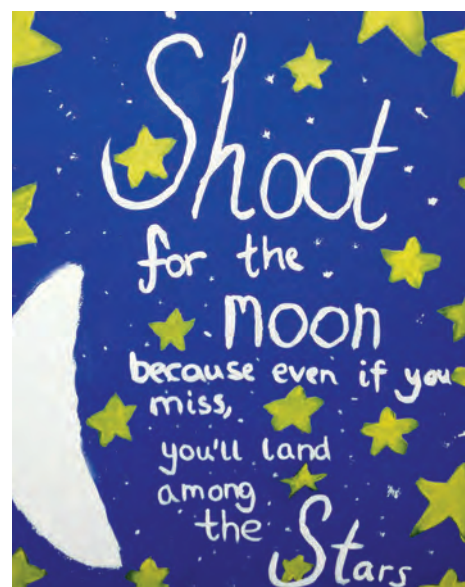
method of measuring growth – it's not just about numbers. LyCiG looks for growth in three areas – numerical, spiritual and missional.

All Mission Areas are looking at their local context and putting together plans to grow their churches. Not all churches will grow in all three areas, or in the same way, but when a church grows spiritually or missionally it nearly always grows in numbers.

We may not all have made the 10% target, but that isn't the point. If we are aiming for a target there is an expectation of movement. Some churches may end up in a different place altogether, because in all our plans and strategies we must never forget that God is in it all – and God sometimes takes us to unexpected places.

For 2019, Mission Areas were asked to set their own target for growth, in consultation with their archdeacon. This was done after reviewing what was achieved in 2018 and alongside their knowledge of local circumstances and resources available. Once again, Mission Areas are drawing on the principles of LyCiG to do this and use the skills and tools acquired through the LyCiG training to work towards those targets.

My daughter made this piece of artwork for me (above right), and it hangs in the kitchen where I see it every day. It reminds me that aiming for something isn't always about reaching the target – sometimes it is about the journey, and sometimes that journey takes us far beyond our original destination.



Shoot for the Moon



LyCiG event

The next LyCiG event is on:
2 November 2019 at: Llangollen Pavilion, Llangollen

It's a one-day event, and delegates who have already attended a residential course are encouraged to bring along two friends to introduce them to LyCiG.

To book, please email
Bridgetfoster@cinw.org.uk



Directing Resources

Many of you will know Tracey White from her days offering stewardship and funding advice. Tracey has a new role in the diocese as Director of Resourcing. She is supporting churches as they manage the transition from parish to Mission Area, offering advice and providing resources on Governance, Gift Aid, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and training as well as growth. Outside of her diocesan commitments, Tracey is one of the trainers on the LyCiG courses, helping churches all over the UK to grow. She also runs Taste and See, a fresh expression of church, in Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area. You can email Tracey at **TraceyWhite@cinw.org.uk**

Faith Tourism

Several people from the Diocese of St Asaph were fortunate to be able to attend the National Churches Trust Conference last summer. As Michael Plane, Diocesan Churches Inspector, explains it was a genuinely inspiring, thought-provoking and challenging day.

Alongside discussions and presentations about Church maintenance, the main theme of the day was the rising interest in 'Faith Tourism' in the UK. Recent figures from Visit Britain, indicate that of all those people arriving in the UK by plane, as a visitor in 2017, 35% cited coming to see famous monuments or buildings as a main reason for their visit. 7.6 million of those visitors visited religious buildings during their stay. The vast majority of these religious buildings will be historic Christian Churches and Chapels. Over 7 million people not only visited our historic and ancient places, and walked in the footsteps of ancestors, the saints and of pilgrims, but over 7 million people came into contact with unique places of worship and – we pray – grew in their understanding of our faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in the twenty-first century.

Visitor growth

Research by the National Churches Trust and national tourism bodies has identified that Faith Tourism is and continues to be one of the biggest visitor economy growth areas across Britain.

It is increasingly apparent that reaching out to visitors provides us with a unique and

exciting means to engage people not only with their past, and with the heritage of our many beautiful historic sites, but also with the message of love and hope, and of our own faith in action.

Many more people are spending their leisure time on UK 'staycations', often seeking 'thin' places to connect with. The visitor economy for local and regional visitors is every bit as significant as that for visitors from abroad – if not more so. Day-trippers are particularly likely to seek out local places of interest to call into – and our Churches are perfectly placed in terms of their physical, spiritual and historic heritage. We are the guardians of the places where the most significant events in families' lives took place – and people are increasingly seeking to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors, to stand at the altar rail where their forebears were married, to touch the font where their great grandparents were baptised, or to see the headstones recording the details of their ancestors' lives.

Younger people state that they want to see the Church living its faith – to see faith in action. There are real opportunities to show our visitors that we are a living faith community – that we are about so much more than hymns

and candles – lovely as they are. Our Churches are a living expression of the life that takes place within their walls but that also spreads out into the wider community.

Tools to help

There are some very useful tools available that – with little effort – can help you start a discussion about the opportunities, and challenges, of Faith Tourism at your next Church Council or Mission Area Conference meeting.

- A good starting point would be the National Churches Trust Faith Tourism Questionnaire: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/sites/default/files/resources/NWMFTA%20why%20faith%20tourism%20questionnaire%202012.pdf>
- The Welsh Government Wales Faith Tourism Action Plan – <https://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/tourism/faith-tourism-action-plan/?lang=en>

Several websites already exist highlighting the best Churches and Chapels to visit:

<https://www.visitwales.com/explore/faith-tourism/north-wales-churches-chapels>

The Explore Churches website established recently by the National Churches Trust is aiming to be the 'go-to' site across the UK. Setting your Church up on the system takes only a matter of minutes (and signing up is now a condition of their grant schemes!) – <https://www.explorechurches.org/>

The opportunity is there to invite people in to share with our heritage – and our living faith.



Pilgrim Churches in the Diocese of St Asaph. Left to right: Ss Mael and Sulien, Cwm, St Elidan, Llanelidan and St Garmon, Llanarmon Mynydd Mawr

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust



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