



# WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY? A MANIFESTO FOR THE FUTURE



ESGOBAETH LLANELWY

TYFU **FFYDD** • DOD Â **Gobaith** • DANGOS **Cariad**

GROW **FAITH** • BRING **HOPE** • DEMONSTRATE **LOVE**

DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH



### **1 Cathedral**

- A place of worship for nine hundred years; home to a William Morgan Bible, interactive trails and Translators' Tearoom



### **94 serving clergy,**

supported by our retired clergy

# 55

licensed lay ministers, including those who are Readers, Evangelists, Pastoral Chaplains and Youth and Children's Chaplains



### **210 churches**

serving communities across north-east and mid-Wales



### **8 Pilgrim Churches,**

places of significant history and peace, which remain open to all who are passing

# 19

Mission Areas which provide vision, strategy, oversight and administration for our churches and congregations



### **1 Eco-Diocese,**

encouraging all churches to become Eco-churches



# 6,157

pupils who are educated in one of our Church Schools



### **51 Church in Wales Schools,**

including one Anglican and Catholic Secondary School



### **45 projects**

providing essential support to our local communities.



# 7,000

regular Church in Wales worshippers in our churches and online

### **Keep in touch**

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@stasaphdiocese

# INTRODUCTION

The Teulu Asaph, the Family of St Asaph, is weathering the challenges of Covid, but there's no doubt that it has exacerbated the pressures on Church life that we have lived with now for over a generation.

Nonetheless, the family includes a great crowd of disciples, volunteers and professionals, that can lay the foundations for a diocese which is faithfully responding to God's call as we move into 2022 and beyond.

In his first letter to the Church at Corinth, Paul wrote that there were three things that had eternal significance:

**Faith, Hope and Love**

**These are the three values on which we're focusing for the future.**

**FAITH:** *our engagement with God, and our experience of his guiding hand on our life.*

**HOPE:** *being confident about the future, because it is in God's hands, and "if God is on our side, who can be against us?"*

**LOVE:** *fulfilling the command of Jesus to be servants for the sake of God's love to reach out to all in the world to bring healing, help and fullness of life.*

**If these things can be at the centre of all that we do, then we shall be the Church that God calls us to become.**

*The Rt Revd Gregory K Cameron  
Bishop of St Asaph*



# PANDEMIC LEARNINGS

**As a diocese, we have regularly articulated our longing for more people to know the love of God in their lives.**

We were bold in our bid to the Evangelism Fund so that we could create Hope Street in Wrexham to reach out to young people and families. We have invested in two Centres of Mission in partnership with the Church Army, opening our second Centre in Pensarn in 2022. We have completed an ambitious programme of Mission Area Reviews that is re-energising and refocusing all our churches, offering encouragement and support while not avoiding the difficult decisions that must be made.

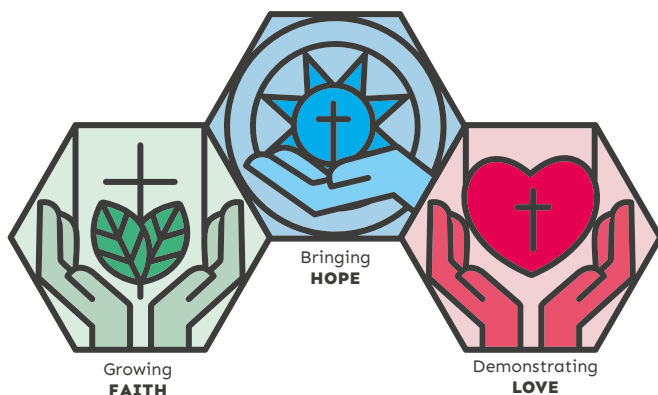
So how has the Teulu Asaph proved itself open to God's love in new ways throughout the extraordinary challenges of 2020 and 2021?

**I think we've shown that we are:**

- Resilient and determined in the face of real adversity.
- Willing and able to change – and to do it quickly. How many of us had never even heard of Zoom at the beginning of 2020!
- Stronger together than when we try to go it alone.
- Kind and generous as we have supported and cared for one another and the communities that we serve.

**My hope is that we can now move forward with renewed confidence and hold these lessons in our hearts as we refocus our mission and ministry on Growing Faith, Bringing Hope and Demonstrating Love in all that we do in the name of Jesus Christ.**

*Diane McCarthy,  
Diocesan Secretary*





## MISSION AREAS

**In 2020 every Mission Area was asked to prepare an Action Plan that would outline their aspirations for the next few years.**

Each plan contains specific targets both for the Mission Area as a whole and for each of its churches. Some of the targets will help the churches to work more effectively together. Others will help the church communities to be more focused on nurturing faith, hope and love in their local contexts. Here are a couple of examples to inspire you!

The Cedewain Mission Area Action Plan has been prepared after conversations with each church, lay leader and cleric, and reflects the different possibilities and challenges in each area. All Saints, Newtown, for example, is about to undergo significant refurbishment and additional building work while St Michael's, Kerry is renovating its tower room as a café. St Cynon, Tregynon plans to develop glebe land into a community garden and St Beuno's, Bettws Cedewain has launched an after-school church.

Creative ideas have also blossomed in the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area Action Plan. A brand-new Community Hub is being developed in Halkyn and there are exciting plans for a Wellness Centre at St James' Holywell. The community in Rhosesmor has launched a Community Shop based in the church, St Peter's Holywell is 'going for gold' as an eco-church and the successful £2 Food Club is being rolled out across the Mission Area.

**Our hope and prayer is that all the Mission Area Action Plans will bear fruit and bring blessings on the local communities.**

*The Venerable Andy Grimwood and  
The Venerable Dr Barry Wilson, Archdeacons*



## ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL

**At the Cathedral, Faith, Hope and Love is building on firm foundations to better serve young people.**

We are fostering stronger engagement with schools after recently enhancing the role of Director of Music to become a full-time position. The Director of Music is visiting schools to share the opportunities available through the Cathedral choir scholarship scheme. Uptake is already encouraging with 25 children joining a new Junior Choir which meets weekly. After voice training and practice, the most proficient singers move into the Cathedral Choir as probationers. This initiative is bringing children into the life of the cathedral to partake in music and creating opportunities for the cathedral to engage with parents, guardians, grandparents and siblings.

We are working towards establishing a School Chaplain to minister in our local Welsh high school, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, which draws pupils from a large geographical area. A School Chaplain will be able to minister in the school and work with feeder primary schools, particularly with year six pupils as they prepare to move to secondary school. Ysgol Glan Clwyd comes to the cathedral for services, lessons and Record of Achievement ceremonies. This is an opportunity for the Cathedral to minister in the school and fully engage with staff and pupils day to day.

**My hope is that the Cathedral reaches a new generation of talented young people and their families from across the diocese.**

*The Very Revd Nigel Williams,  
Dean of St Asaph Cathedral*



## MISSION HUB CHURCHES

**Three Mission Hub Churches have opened, one in each Archdeaconry. Each is distinct and responsive to local needs, but all aim to promote a community that has a heart to deepen their relationship and discipleship with Jesus, through meaningful prayer and engagement with scripture.**

Each hub church is a community committed to working together to reflect the love of Jesus; we are people who step out in faith to carry the message of faith, hope and love to all those who need to hear it.

As we develop the hubs, the congregations will be re-energised, using their gifts to spread the joy of the gospel message. We will be engaging in new ways of worship that are inclusive, accessible and welcoming. New people will be coming to faith and joining a church community embedded in the whole life of the community, to walk with all people through every season of their life.

**Our hope is that people will be guided and inspired, directed, and supported in growing their faith. May they be equipped through the power of the Spirit to gather more people into communion with the body of Jesus.**

*Revd Juliet Fraser, Canon Martin Batchelor,  
Revd Adam Pawley, Mission Hub Church Leaders*



## HOPE STREET, WREXHAM

Hope Street launched in January 2021 with a vision to be “a people of hope,” embodying the message of Jesus as we display God’s grace in our lives.

Over the first year we have sought to bring hope as we sow seeds in mission: whether that is gathering 40 young men each week in a football community called **Bridge the Gap**, opening our doors each Wednesday to young families through **Bouncing Beans** or providing a space for college students to come in their lunchtimes through our **College Café**. In 2022 the ground floor café space will open throughout the week to the public.

We have seen faith grow as lives have been changed by encountering Jesus, with some coming back to church, and others finding faith for the first time through an *Alpha* course. We have begun to demonstrate love to Wrexham, partnering with others through initiatives such as **Love Christmas** and **Feeding the Roofless**.

Our hope is to continue to grow in these things and develop others, reaching out in compassion and making a difference. We are excited to see those who God has called to Hope Street flourish. A new generation is discovering its purpose and realising its potential, becoming a catalyst for new growth in the Diocese.

*Revd Andy Kitchen, Revd Rachel Kitchen,  
Lead Pastors, Hope Street*





## ECO-CHURCH

**As Christians we have a calling to be good stewards of God's creation and to lead by example.**

We acknowledge the universal cry of God's people yearning for a world that isn't being exploited and taken advantage of by those seeking self-gain. Our faith and the institution of the Church is in a unique position to speak the truth of the plight of creation to those in authority. We need a future world worthy of our creator; a world that we can be proud to leave to our children and our children's children.

The Diocese of St Asaph is a Bronze Eco-Diocese. This is thanks to the work of so many churches to achieve their own Eco-Church award. In Bryn a Môr Mission Area, all nine Churches have registered and seven of those have received bronze or silver awards but we need more churches across the diocese to do this. Not just for the sake of promoting Eco-Church but because it helps churches to discover the small changes required to live a more sustainable and eco-friendlier lifestyle.

**I hope that within two years we will see all churches within our diocese registered with Eco-Church and on their way to getting awards. It is also my hope to see a culture of change within our Church. I want to see a Church, whose members are living out the mission of God, in the care of His creation.**

*Revd Gregor Lachlan-Waddell,  
Eco-Church Ambassador*

This booklet is printed on 100% recycled paper.



## CHURCH SCHOOLS

**The Diocese of St Asaph supports 51 schools helping them to celebrate the rich heritage of faith, language and culture in Wales.**

We want our children to understand Christian values and how these impact on their behaviours and relationships. We want them to become ethically informed citizens, understanding the diversity of culture, language and faiths and we want them to be ambassadors for the preservation of our planet for future generations.

Our schools are wholly committed to these values and continue to engage children in so many exciting projects which promote their understanding of what it means to be a responsible and caring individual and how by working together, we can achieve so much more.

One recent project encouraged children to research the life and background of the 16th century Welsh Bible Translators, which resulted in a special service from St Asaph Cathedral. Other schools have been focusing on the plight of refugees and asking what it means to seek sanctuary. A number of schools are helping their local church to improve their green credentials; building bug hotels, studying wildlife and encouraging a switch to green energy.

**My hope is that our church schools nurture children of all beliefs in the context of our Christian faith and ethos, to instil in them a love for their fellow citizens and to encourage them to be forever hopeful about a life that is worthwhile and valuable.**

*Jennie Downes,  
Schools Officer*





## DOT EGLWYS DOT CHURCH

**St Asaph and Bangor dioceses are working together to create a brand-new online presence for the Church in Wales that is not linked to any current physical church.**

This would be a space where interested people can explore faith and spirituality at their own pace, perhaps 'belonging' to the community before 'believing' in its life-changing power. This has the potential to be a compelling method of evangelism that could speak to people whom we currently struggle to reach.

### **dotEglwys dotChurch will be:**

- A wide-open door that is welcoming to all, demonstrating the potential of faith and speaking of the love of God.
- Deep and rich in content, offering an informative, practical and immersive digital experience.
- A Sacred Space where people can experience worship, teaching and spiritual practice.
- Locally Owned, Universally Accessible: it will be bilingual and distinctively Welsh in character but accessible by anyone, wherever they may be.

**I hope dotEglwys dotChurch will offer a balance of mission-focused engagement and worshipful, spiritually nourishing content. Look out for more detail throughout 2022!**

*Diane McCarthy,  
Diocesan Secretary*



## WITH YOU

**People sometimes talk as if “the diocese” is over the hills and far away. Not really. We – you and I together - are the diocese, the “Teulu Asaph”, Asaph’s family in the Church of God.**

What Covid has clearly taught all of us is that we’re stronger when we pull together. Each local Church can support the other; a shared ministry team is stronger than any one member of it.

We hope that this short manifesto gives you some encouragement for our future, by informing you of the new initiatives that the Teulu Asaph is taking, and how we are already building our future.

However, it is the life of each of our 210 congregations that can make the big difference, and the life of your congregation depends upon your contribution. We are sharing the plans in this manifesto with you, because actually it is the faith that you offer, the hope that you share, and the love that you demonstrate which will make you and your Church a focal point of God’s work in the world. “In so far as you do something for the least of my children, you do it for me”, said Jesus. No contribution is lost.

Saint David once said, “Do the little things”, because he knew how the little things can add up. Whether you’re planning to do great things for God this year, or you feel able to offer only small services of faith or hope or love, with God’s grace, each one of us can help to build God’s Kingdom.

**Why not invite a friend or neighbour to a special service?**

**If you’re tech-savvy, could you run the church Facebook page?**

**Can you always be ready with a friendly smile and a warm welcome?**

**Whatever your contribution, it is valued and important.**



# WHY MUST WE DO THIS?

**I am proud to be called to be the servant of the servants of God as Bishop of St Asaph for the last decade and more.**

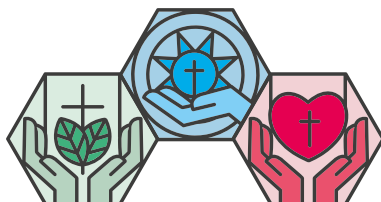
I am constantly amazed by the experiences of commitment and calling, of talent and of discipleship that I encounter in my ministry across the diocese. This makes me confident that God is moving among us, and that we're responding to the Holy Spirit in all sorts of ways. When Joshua took over the leadership of God's people after the death of Moses, God gave him a special promise – one that I've talked about before – "Have I not commanded you? Be bold and of good courage for the Lord your God is with you whithersoever you go!"

As I look at our family, I see so much being done, and the desire to keep on following Jesus. I want to say "Let's get on with it!" I rejoice that this is something we can do together, and I invite you to join the family in:

**Growing Faith, Bringing Hope and Demonstrating Love.**

**May God bless us.**

*The Rt Revd Gregory K Cameron  
Bishop of St Asaph*







**LET US PRAY**

God of all love, draw us close to you,  
that we may know your presence  
with us.

Renew our faith,  
that we may help you grow that  
faith in others.

Fill us with hope,  
that we may bring your hope  
to the world.

Enfold us in love,  
that we may demonstrate your  
love to all we meet.

Unite us, as members of the Teulu Asaph,  
to do your will and make your  
kingdom come through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

Amen.

