

TEULU ASAPH

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

CONNECTING OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2022 | MEDI - TACHWEDD 2022



**Inspiration to Grow Faith, Bring Hope, Demonstrate Love
Keeping Everyone Safe in Church**

**Ysbrydoliaeth i Dyfu Ffydd, Dod â Gobaith, Dangos Cariad
Cadw Pawb yn Ddiogel yn yr Eglwys**

FREE | AM DDIM



From the Editor

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Teulu Asaph* where we're showcasing inspiration to help you grow faith, bring hope and demonstrate love in your churches and communities.

Over the last two years you may have heard people talking about Mission Hub Churches and wondered what they are! In this edition we hear from two of those hubs and find out how they are reaching out to meet the needs of their local communities. We also take a trip around Mold Mission Area, discover how Godly Play can help your children's work and meet this year's Diocesan Conference speakers.

Thank you to everyone who's sent me details of their good news stories to include in this edition. We've been inundated which is an encouraging indication that churches are open, active and running all sorts of services and events once again. Please do keep sending me your news, photos, articles and information. Hwyl!



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Cover image: The children of Ysgol Cwm Banwy with staff and governors at the official opening of the newest Church in Wales school.

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Bishop's Word / Gair gan yr Esgob

The Harvest of our Hearts

Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. (John 4.35)

We think about our harvest festivals about this time of year. Perhaps we're in the farming communities of the diocese, and living close to agricultural realities, or in our more urban areas, thinking about food shortages and food banks, and gathering tinned goods to support local charities.

If we think about the words of our harvest hymns, however, they often speak to us, not of the physical harvest, but of the spiritual harvest. I remember harvest services from my childhood. We endured the harvest preacher for the sake of the supper that was to come, but some of the words must have stuck.

All the world is God's own field,

fruit as praise to God we yield;

wheat and tares together sown

are to joy or sorrow grown;

first the blade and then the ear,

then the full corn shall appear;

Lord of harvest, grant that we

wholesome grain and pure may be.

Jesus is interested in the harvest of our hearts, filled with gratitude, open to the Holy Spirit, seeking his will, committed to the Kingdom. I don't think I can say too many times about us growing faith, bringing hope and demonstrating love, because that is what it is all about. So, as we thank God for the fruitfulness of our creation and commit ourselves to feed the hungry, let us also present the basket of thankfulness which is our own response to God's love and with Jesus recognise that the people of this world, of our communities, are "white for harvest" and yearning to find wholeness, which we can find in Jesus, and would do well to share.

Cynhaeaf ein Calonau

Codwch eich llygaid ac edrychwch ar y meysydd, oherwydd y maent yn wyn ac yn barod i'w cynhaeafu. (Ioan 4.35)

Rydym yn meddwl am ein gwyliau diolchgarwch yr adeg yma o'r flwyddyn. Efallai bod ni mewn cymunedau ffermio'r esgobaeth ac yn byw'n agos at wirioneddau amaethyddol, neu efallai, yn ein hardaloedd mwy trefol, yn meddwl am brinder bwyd a banciau bwyd ac yn casglu nwyddau tun er mwyn cefnogi elusennau lleol.

Ond wrth i ni feddwl am eiriau'n hemynau diolchgarwch, fodd bynnag, yn aml maen nhw'n sôn wrthym, nid am y cynhaeaf corfforol ond am y cynhaeaf ysbrydol. Rwy'n cofio gwasanaethau diolchgarwch o fy mhentyndod. Roeddem yn dioddef y pregethwr diolchgarwch er mwyn y swper a oedd i ddod, ond mae'n rhaid bod rhai o'r geiriau wedi treiddio.

All the world is God's own field,

fruit as praise to God we yield;

wheat and tares together sown

are to joy or sorrow grown;

first the blade and then the ear,

then the full corn shall appear;

Lord of harvest, grant that we

wholesome grain and pure may be.

Mae gan Iesu ddiddordeb yng nghynhaeaf ein calonau, yn llawn diolchgarwch, yn agored i'r Ysbryd Glân, yn ceisio ei ewyllys, wedi ymrwymo i'r Deyrnas. Dydw i ddim yn meddwl y gallwch sôn gormod amdanom yn tyfu ffydd, dod â gobaith a dangos cariad, oherwydd am hynny y mae. Felly, wedi i ni ddiolch i Dduw am ffrwythlondeb ein cread ac yn ymrwymo'n hunain i fwydo'r newynog, gadewch i ni hefyd gyflwyno'n basged o ddiolchgarwch sef ein hymateb ni ein hunain i gariad Duw a chydag Iesu, gydnabod fod pobl y byd hwn, o'n cymunedau, yn 'wyn ac yn barod i'w cynhaeafu' ac yn hiraethu am ganfod y cyfanrwydd y gallwn ei ganfod yn Iesu ac y byddai'n dda i ni ei rannu.



Confirmation service, October 2021



Father Dominic Cawdell

A fourth mission hub has been created in the diocese as a result of the emergence of a new congregation. St Peter's Church in Holywell in Estuary and Mountain Mission Area has been added to our growing family of hubs. As the Archdeacon of St Asaph, Andy Grimwood, explains, the fourth hub church is part of plans to invest in growth.

The newest mission hub will support the work already begun at St Peter's, where the £2 Food Club began during the Coronavirus Pandemic. In order to make this sustainable and meet the wider practical, spiritual and emotional needs of the community, the £2 Food Club was re-launched as The Table. Given the number of people who were beginning to ask questions about faith, the Bread of Life service was launched over a year ago. The Bread of Life congregation meets every Monday for a simple Eucharist with an evangelistic talk from Fr Dominic, to which all are invited. It's followed by The Table, which includes a free lunch and the opportunity to shop in the pantry. More than 150 people are attending The Table each week. During the meal, there is always someone to offer prayer, pastoral care and support.



The Bread of Life service has now grown to over 80 people each week, most of whom have no previous church connection, and the congregation in Holy Trinity, Greenfield has tripled from its pre-Covid average.

One important sign of spiritual growth is that 11 people were presented for confirmation last October, the largest confirmation service in Holywell for many years, and there are a further 20 people preparing for confirmation this October. It's seeing this sort of growth which has prompted the diocese to add St Peter's to the list of hub churches. In August 2022, Jon Andrews was appointed to the St Peter's

team as a youth and children's worker to support the church in its work.

Fr Dominic Cawdell, the Mission Hub Leader, explained that his hope for the Holywell Mission Hub is that the church becomes "the heart of God in the heart of Holywell" and that many people, young and old, come to find fullness of life in Jesus. He added: "We want to see the transformation of individuals and our whole community, and we hope this investment will help to make this possible".

The original three mission hubs were launched in 2021 to re-energise and resource congregations to grow. Already positive signs are emerging but these are five year projects and in many ways they are only just getting started. St David's Mission Hub in Penrhyn Bay was launched by Revd Juliet Fraser, Mold Mission Hub based at St Mary's Church in Mold is led by Canon Martin Batchelor (you can read about that on page 8) and St Mary's Mission Hub in Welshpool is led by Revd Adam Pawley. Each Mission Hub Leader is building a team in a way that meets the local context and complements the Mission Area Action Plan. The Mission Hub teams meet regularly to pray together, learn together and share experiences and ideas.

The plan is to create further hubs to support churches experiencing growth. It's a key part of the faith, hope and love strategy and you can expect to see more announced.

You can find out more about our existing mission hubs at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-hope-love/>





Paying for Mission and Ministry to Grow Faith, Bring Hope and Demonstrate Love



A new formula to calculate how much each Mission Area pays towards local mission and ministry is being rolled out across the Diocese of St Asaph this autumn. As the **Diocesan Secretary, Diane McCarthy explains, it's based on Christian principles of generosity and is designed to encourage the diocesan priorities of growing faith, bringing hope and demonstrating love.**

Until now, Mission Area Share (previously known as Parish Share) was based on the number of clergy in a Mission Area and the number of regular Sunday worshippers. This had been the model for 15 years and was adapted slightly to account for the creation of Mission Areas. However, one of the unintended consequences of the formula was a disincentive to grow – the higher a church's attendance, the more Share payment was required. During Covid, churches closed so the ability to accurately measure attendance was no longer possible; a new formula was required.

In March 2022, the Diocesan Board of Finance commissioned a working party from across the diocese to ensure the Mission Area Share was fit for purpose to support the delivery of key diocesan priorities. It proposed a new method of calculating the Share Formula which has been accepted by the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference and will be used to calculate the 2023 Share for each Mission Area.

The new methodology will help Mission Areas achieve their strategic aims and work towards growing the church. It will continue to use the number of clergy in a Mission Area but doesn't use attendance figures to calculate the Share. Instead, it will consider general population which will help make the calculation more equitable between rural and urban areas. There will be a fixed charge for each church building which will support the strategic review of buildings started by the Mission Area Reviews. Overall, the new formula will offer churches every incentive to grow

and to draw as many people as possible into the life of the *Teulu Asaph* to share their time, talents and resources in the service of God.

A series of information sessions will take place in September to explain the principles behind the change and how it will work in practice. These Zoom sessions are open to anyone and I would encourage you to come along, find out more and ask questions. Later in the autumn, our usual series of meetings will take place with the Finance Sub-committee (Mission Area Treasurers and Church Treasurers) to agree how much each church will pay as part of the Mission Area Share. As in previous years, those Mission Areas who pay their Share in full by an agreed date will receive a discount.

You can find out more at

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/finance/>

The Share information sessions (on Zoom) are:

- **2pm, Tuesday 6 September**
- **7pm, Wednesday 14 September**
- **11am, Saturday 17 September**

To book a place, email **Ceri.Jones@cinw.org.uk**





My Church People – Keeping Everyone Safe



A new safeguarding procedure is being launched this autumn to ensure everyone in our churches is safe. It's part of the Church in Wales's response to the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) inquiry. *My Church People* is a new online system which records and updates DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks and safeguarding training. Denbigh Mission Area will be piloting the new system which will be rolled out across the diocese shortly. **Mary Steel** is the MA Safeguarding Co-ordinator for Denbigh. She told *Teulu Asaph* why the new system will be better.

My Church People will ensure that all Mission Areas and churches are compliant with the latest safeguarding and DBS requirements. It will make safeguarding an easier and smoother process with Mission Areas having direct access to monitor DBS checks and training of their ministers and volunteers. It will ensure the system is up to date, with no one missed or forgotten, so everyone is safe.

Automating the Process



All licensed and commissioned roles, along with church volunteers, will be registered on the *My Church People* database and someone like myself, a dedicated Mission Area Safeguarding Co-ordinator,

will input the necessary information. The process will be automated so people requiring a DBS will receive a link via email asking them to complete the DBS form. Once it is done, and an individual's identification is verified, the system will be updated and an automatic reminder will be sent out when the DBS becomes due again. If an individual doesn't complete the process or doesn't renew their DBS in time, this will be flagged up on the system.

My Church People will also keep track of safeguarding training, and once again, the system will automatically send out reminders when training becomes due.

Better Safeguarding

My Church People is a big change but one that is necessary. Other organisations have been operating with this level of safety for a while and it's important that churches do the same. Mission Areas will have to gather information about who is involved in any capacity in each church and record their details on a register. An assessment is then made as to whether a DBS is required, but every volunteer will be asked to undertake safeguarding training. This will help everyone know how to keep children and vulnerable people safe, how to keep

themselves safe and what to do if someone reports an incident or makes a disclosure.

Having been involved three times in the past giving evidence in child protection cases, I know how important it is for the church to be keeping everyone safe. It's easy to think "that can't happen here" or "nothing like that could happen to me" but it can, and it could. *My Church People* is about keeping everyone safe.

We have been working closely with the Provincial team for almost a year and will be piloting *My Church People* in Denbigh Mission Area very soon. In the last year, I've completed 38 DBS checks on our commissioned ministers (worship leaders, pastoral assistants and children's workers), using the current system and I can see how much easier it will be with *My Church People*. As a pilot Mission Area we'll be able to offer feedback on the system, which I hope will make it simpler for everyone going forward.

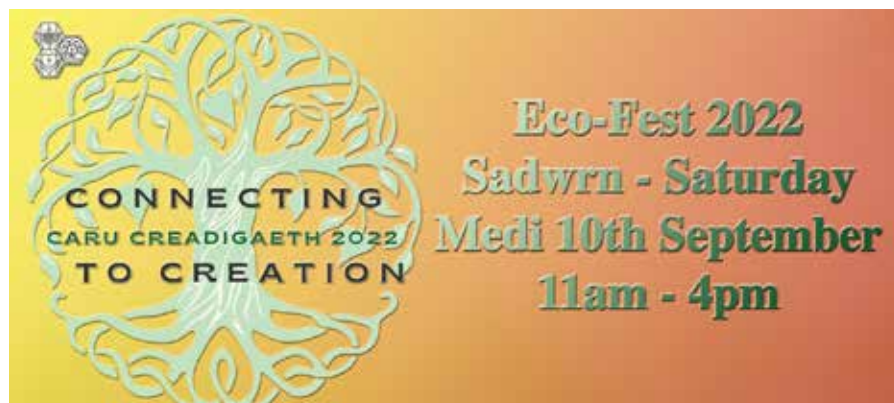
You can find out more about *My Church People* at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/safeguarding-children-young-people-and-vulnerable-adults/>

Full training on *My Church People* will be provided and information will be sent directly to Mission Areas.





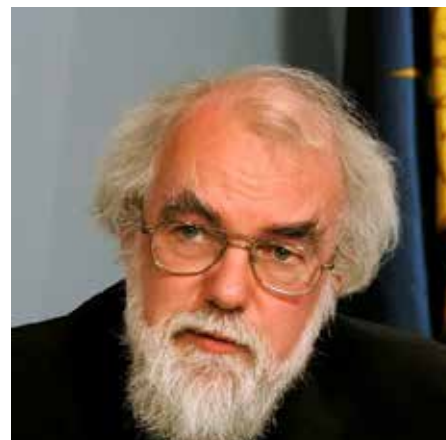
Caru Creadigaeth / Connecting with Creation



A new festival celebrating creation and all-thing eco will take place in St Peter's Church in Llanbedr on Saturday 10 September. *Caru Creadigaeth / Connecting with Creation* will be a fun and entertaining day out to find out how to make your church, your community and your lifestyle eco-friendlier. It will showcase forest church, mindfulness walks, drumming workshops, music, arts activities, bushcraft and more. Food

will be available from The Griffin pub over the road from the church. In addition, there will be information stands offering advice on signing up to Eco-Church, looking after your churchyard and small businesses selling their homemade or ethical produce. The event is free and open to all. There will be plenty of parking, so do join in from 11am until 4pm at St Peter's in Llanbedr. There's more information at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/eco-fest>

Rowan Williams at St Asaph Cathedral



The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Williams of Oystermouth, will be speaking at St Asaph Cathedral this autumn. His talk, *Finding the Centre: The Journey of Prayer*, is part of a series of events organised by the Diocesan Spirituality Group. Tickets for the event will be available soon and you can find out more at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/prayer/prayer-events/>



(Bishop Mary was collecting coffee when this photo was taken!)

Wales at Lambeth

The seven bishops of the Church in Wales joined bishops from across the Anglican Communion for the Lambeth Conference this summer.

More than 600 bishops, representing Christian communities from 165 countries, took part in the

Conference, held in Canterbury from July 26 to August 8. In a statement issued ahead of the Conference the seven bishops said the meeting will be a chance to "speak and act for the good of our world."

On-demand Training

A series of online training sessions is now available on the diocesan website. On-demand training covering Mission Area governance

matters, being a church warden, a guide to risk assessments, insurance and keeping your church open are now available. Sessions on Gift Aid

and the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme will be added soon. You can access the training at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/training>



For this edition's Mission Area Focus, **Teulu Asaph** drops into Wrexham Archdeaconry to focus on some of the work underway in Mold Mission Area. Its Mission Area Leader is Canon Carole Poolman. She and other clergy are supporting the development of Mold Mission Hub Church at St Mary's in the town. It's hub specialist, **Canon Martin Batchelor** gives us an update on progress.

Mold Mission Hub

When we launched the Hub last November, we made our strapline, *Intentionally Making Disciples and Growing Faith*. Since then, much of our time has been taken putting the team together and making connections in the community to deliver on our strapline!

The team is now complete. Esther Andrews started as a full-time youth worker in June. Revd Dan Morgan was ordained in July and is our curate. Dawn Wolstenholme was licensed as a Reader to the hub in July. As Dan, said: "In LYCIG terms it's getting the presence part right so that we can build from there."

One of Esther's first tasks has been to put together a community survey seeing what resources and needs there are for young people. Over the summer she worked alongside other youth workers at Parkfields Community Centre on a holiday club for young teenagers and helped with a playscheme run by one of the primary schools. One of the exciting opportunities which has come our way is an invitation from Mold Alun to be involved with the High School. After meeting staff and the school council, we assisted with a Day of Reflection for Covid and have made plans for a variety of activities including developing prayer spaces and looking at opportunities for discussion. We hope to support a variety of areas of the curriculum.

In June, we invited the high school and primary schools to be involved in Refugee Week. Class groups were asked to produce reflections or artwork which was then displayed

in St Mary's during Refugee Week. Mold Alun, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia and Ysgol Glanarfon all produced work. One staff member thanked us for the invitation, as it helped give a way to discuss some important and difficult subjects.

In July, we held an outdoor messy church event at St Mary's for about 40 adults, children and teenagers. It ended with marshmallows around a firepit. As part of that event, we spent time asking those in Years six to eleven how they would like our youthwork to develop.

At the beginning of 2022, we ran our first START course with 13 people attending. The plan will be to run this course a couple of times a year. One course member said, "I am on a journey to explore my faith in God. The course has helped me with this and indeed exceeded any expectations that I may have had. I greatly enjoyed the company of all the people there and found it really interesting to listen to what everyone had to say. I particularly enjoyed the discussions around God's grace... I am intending to further explore my relationship with the church."

We are currently looking at the best forms of outreach and evangelism for us, exploring how we minister to all ages as well as developing worship. I am aware that there are lots of things we could do. However, we need to pray, plan and prioritise. We want to see sustainable growth in faith as well as numbers of followers of Jesus, and that takes time!

Duw, Dysgwyr a Diod

Many people in our congregations are either first language Welsh or learning the language, writes **Emma Dale**. Their experiences inspired me to sign up to an online course with *Learnwelsh.cymru*. The course started just as we began to move to a post Covid reality, a world of new opportunities.

At the time there were no services in Welsh in the Mold Mission Area and I started to feel God nudging me to start something. As an ordinand and a new learner this seemed to be an improbable course of action. However, the nudging grew stronger. My placement tutor Revd Chris Thomson and placement supervisor Revd Daniel Stroud, both thought it was something I should do too! Canon Martin Batchelor, who is heading up the Mission Hub in Mold, was also enthused and so together we began *Duw, Dysgwyr a Diod*. It's a café style church which runs on the first Sunday of the month at 4pm in the church hall in Gwernaffield. We have tried to make it accessible for learners of all levels as well as those who are fluent. It's an opportunity to come together and create a community of all ages who worship God through the medium of Welsh. There is ample opportunity to sgwrs / chat and bwyta teisen / eat cake together and much hwyl a chwerthin / fun and laughter.



We next meet at 4pm on 4 mis Medi / September and I'm praying we will continue to grow in numbers and faith. All are welcome and if you are interested in coming or would like more gwybodaeth / information please contact me on emma.dale19@stpadarns.ac.uk



Swapping Pulpits

Decades after it started to help heal the racial divide in the USA, writes **Mold Mission Area Warden, Kevin Weston**, a tradition known as pulpit swapping is making a comeback in our Mission Area.

In the 1970s, pulpit swaps played a central role in the civil rights movement. Predominantly black and white congregations would exchange pastors – and often choirs – on consecutive weeks, promoting a message of healing and unity.

In the Mold Mission Area, we occasionally come together in one building to celebrate the arrival of new clergy, ordinands and vigils for the Ukraine and other causes. On most Sundays, worship takes place at our eleven churches led by our clergy, readers and worship leaders. The pulpit swap allows our shared ministry team to visit and preach in different churches in the Mission Area on a regular basis. This allows the team to meet all the congregations and gain a first-hand understanding of the communities making up the Mission Area.

Likewise, worshipers can meet and become acquainted with the clergy on their own doorstep and will meet all the team who will administer services, baptisms, weddings and funerals.





Welcoming Ex-Offenders

Wrexham's HMP Berwyn is one of the largest prisons in the UK. Its multi-faith chaplaincy team looks after almost 2,000 men. One of those ordained as a priest at St Asaph Cathedral this year was **Revd Michael Winwood who volunteers as a chaplain at HMP Berwyn. He's asking for your help to support those who leave prison having found faith.**

For two years I have been regularly speaking to one of the prisoners in HMP Berwyn. Like us all, he has good days and bad days, but he is now having more good days than bad. Several months ago, his world was severely rocked by the death of someone who was very close to him. He was not allowed to attend the funeral but to coincide with it our Managing Chaplain conducted a simple memorial service for him in the prison chapel.

Since that service, he has regularly attended Sunday services and is finding great comfort from spending time in the chapel. This sense of belonging has now reached the point where he is asking to be baptised and become a member of God's family.

He is being released next year and he wants me to recommend a church near his home where he will continue to be well looked after, nurtured and loved; a place where he will feel safe. Where do I find such a church? This man is so confident that I will be able to find one for him.

There is a directory we can use, called *The Welcome Directory*, though some regions are very sparsely represented including north Wales. The directory lists UK churches which have committed themselves to the ministry of helping and coming alongside ex-offenders. To be included in the directory, the church must either have

some experience of working with people leaving prison, a strong connection with a local prison (such as providing volunteers to the prison) or complete a prison awareness course which is offered by *The Welcome Directory* over three virtual sessions. It is a good idea if as many people as possible in the church can be involved with the decision making and attend the training so that this is something owned by the whole faith community.

Inclusion in the directory may not necessarily lead to ex-offenders joining but it indicates to prison chaplains across the country that you would be a willing church to approach and helps give you the skills to welcome and work with people leaving prison.

Maybe you and your church could help? To find out more, please email michael.winwood@btinternet.com or visit www.welcomedirectory.org.uk



Revd Michael Winwood with HMP Berwyn's Managing Chaplain, Revd Alan Pierce-Jones.





Remembering Lis Perkins / Cofio Lis Perkins

Tributes from across Wales poured in after the death of Lis Perkins, a leading advocate of Fairtrade and a familiar face in our Diocesan Conference marketplace. Lis' conference colleague, Jean-Audrey Speare brought together Anna Jane Evans, Philip Williams and Barry Wynne to remember their friend.

Lis' skills and talents stretched far and wide. Not only did she run her Fairtrade company, Just Shopping, but she was also the chair of the Church in Wales' Provincial Standing Committee, a strong advocate of the Welsh language, a founder of Gŵyl Tysilio on Church Island near Menai Bridge and a fabulous alto! She was "multi-talented" remembers Barry, who helped her set up her Fairtrade shop in Conwy, Cynnyrch Cyfiawn and often kept the shop open while Lis was fulfilling other commitments.

Before opening the shop, Lis had worked for Christian Aid and it was Anna Jane Evans who took over her job, after Lis stepped back. Lis had never liked flying, remembers Anna Jane, and a visit to the island country of the Philippines with Christian Aid, was a plane journey too far.

"Lis was purposeful," said Barry. "She didn't waste time. She had great gifts and a great sense of humour. She found strength from her faith." Lis and her husband, John, lost their daughter, Emma to cancer in 2010 and struggled through the pain of that loss. Lis spoke about it with Aled Jones in an edition of *Songs of Praise* filmed at Island Church, which is still available online.

"I still expect her to ring," says Philip Williams, "but we have wonderful happy memories of her." "She enriched our lives", says Jean-Audrey, "and enriched the lives of everyone in whom she came into contact."

Lis' funeral took place at Bangor Cathedral on 3 May. People travelled from across Wales and beyond to attend.

Llifodd teyrngedau ar draws Cymru yn dilyn marwolaeth Lis Perkins, hyrwyddwr amlwg i Fasnach Deg a wyneb adnabyddus ym marchnad ein Cynhadledd Esgobaethol. Galwodd ei chydweithwraig yn y cynadleddau, Jean-Audrey Speare ei chyfeillion, Anna Jane Evans, Philip Williams a Barry Wynne ynghyd i gofio eu frind.

Roedd sgiliau a doniau Lis yn ymestyn ymhell ac yn eang. Nid yn unig oedd hi'n cynnal ei busnes, Cynnyrch Cyfiawn, ond roedd hi hefyd yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Sefydlog yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, yn hyrwyddwr cryf i'r iaith gymraeg, yn sylfaenydd Gŵyl Tysilio ar Ynys Tysilio, Porthaethwy, ac yn alto gwych! Roedd hi'n aml-ddoniog, cofiodd Barry a helpodd hi i sefydlu ei siop Masnach Deg yng Nghonwy, Cynnyrch Cyfiawn ac a gadwodd y siop yn agored pan oedd Lis yn brysur efo ymrwymadau eraill.

Cyn agor y siop bu Lis yn gweithio i Cymorth Cristnogol ac Anna Jane Evans gafodd y swydd ar ei hôl pan aeth hithau mlaen i'r busnes. Doedd Lis erioed yn hoffi hedfan, meddai Anna Jane, ac roedd ymweliad ag ynysoedd y Philipines efo Cymorth Cristnogol yn un daith yn rhy bell!

"Roedd Lis yn berson llawn pwrpas," meddai Barry. "Doedd hi ddim yn gwastraffu amser. Roedd ganddi doniau rhyfeddol a synnwyr digrifwch gwych. Cafodd nerth mawr o'i ffydd." Collodd Lis a'i gŵr, John, eu merch, Emma i gancr yn 2010 a gweithio eu ffordd drwy boen y golled fawr honno. Siaradodd Lis am y profiad efo Aled Jones yn un o raglenni *Songs of Praise* a ffilmiwyd ar Ynys Tysilio. Mae'r rhaglen yn dal ar gael arlein.

"Dwi'n dal yn disgwyl iddi hi ffonio," meddai Philip Williams, "ond mae gennym atgofion hapus a melys iawn ohoni." "Fe wnaeth hi gyfoethogi ein bywydau", meddai Jean-Audrey, "a chyfoethogi bywydau pawb ddaeth i gyswllt â hi."

Roedd angladd Lis yng Nghadeirlan Bangor ar Fai 3. Teithiodd pobl ledled Cymru a thu hwnt i fod yno.



Could you be a Foundation Governor?



Pupils from St Chad's Church in Wales School in Hanmer, which is one of the oldest in Wales.

More than 7,000 children across the diocese go to one of our 50 Church in Wales Schools. Each school requires Foundation Governors who are appointed by the Mission Area to ensure the school acts in accordance with its Christian foundation. There are several vacancies for Foundation Governors in schools across the diocese. The [Diocesan Education Officer, Jennie Downes](#) explains their origin and why the role is so important today.



Many of the first Diocese of St Asaph church schools were founded more than 200 years ago to provide education for the poorer children of a parish. The purpose and reason for setting up a school were laid out in a Trust deed which still influences the governance of these schools today. For example, St Michael's Church School in Kerry was initially intended to teach up to 15 poor children 'at the charity of the parish', in subjects associated with the Christian Religion, as well as other topics 'as are suitable to their condition and capacity'. This early church school continued throughout the 1700s, with a Sunday School established in 1788, following a legacy of £3,000, from Richard Jones of Black Hall. This charitable legacy was held in trust and used in accordance with the school's trust deed for the education of local children.

The first free school in Wales was founded in the village of Penley in 1811 by the second Lord Kenyon, Baron of Gredington. The original design of Penley Madras Voluntary Aided School is based on Lord Kenyon's experience of an Indian bungalow, having lived in Madras. It was here that he saw and brought back to Wales, the work of Revd Dr Andrew Bell. He developed the 'Madras' system of teaching where two or three teachers teach the older pupils, who then pass that knowledge onto the younger children.

Today our 50 Church schools continue to serve the children of our towns and villages across the diocese. It is the role of Foundation Governors, appointed by the Mission Area, who maintain the intentions of the school's original founder and foundation as set out in the Trust Deed. The primary duty of the Foundation Governors is to ensure that the school continues to act in accordance with its Christian foundation.

Foundation Governors form part of the schools' Governing Body which have a vital role in developing the core strategic function of each school. Their work is to ensure the school's distinctive Christian vision is developed and their role is to inform strategic decision making.

Foundation Governors are identified by the local church in consultation with the Headteacher and the Mission Area Leader.

They must be recommended by the Trustee Board (Mission Area Conference) and are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Statutory Education.

If you would like more information about becoming a local Foundation Governor, please contact your local vicar, Mission Area Leader or Jennie Downes: jenniedownes@cinw.org.uk



Retiring Governor

In July, Bronington Church in Wales School celebrated the 'retirement' its longest serving Foundation Governor, Edward Wardle. He had been a governor for 37 years and for most of those was chair of Governors. The school's headteacher, Angie Birkinshaw, describes him as "a real friend to the school, appointing five headteachers and many other staff. He has been a real ambassador for the school and for the diocese and his formal input will be greatly missed." Mr Wardle was presented with a watercolour, created by a local artist and commissioned for the occasion. It depicts the old school, which was still in use until 37 years ago, the new school which was built after much planning and fund raising and Holy Trinity Church, Bronington which has remained a focus for the school for many years.

Official Opening of New Church School



Pupils in the Diocese of St Asaph's newest church school wrote and performed a musical depicting the school's values as part of official opening celebrations. Children at Ysgol Cwm Barwy wrote the words and music for Deryn. As part of the occasion, a new garden on the school site was also officially opened. It was created in memory of Richard Tudor, former Chair of Governors, who died tragically in 2020.

New Chorister for St Mary's Ruabon

A pupil from St Mary's VA School in Ruabon has joined the choir of nearby St Mary's Church. Georgia was presented at the altar rail by her sponsor and inducted into the choir by Canon Chancellor Pam Powell. Georgia was welcomed by the choristers and congregation with hearty applause as she started her life journey of worshiping God through music.



Carol Perry (Georgia's Sponsor), Georgia, Richard Elmore (Choirmaster).



Bishop's Pilgrimage

Children from Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl in Llandegla welcomed a special guest to the village's holy well. The Bishop of Shrewsbury, Sarah Bullock, was leading a group of pilgrims from St Winefride's Well in Holywell to Shrewsbury when she stopped at St Tecla's Church in Llandegla. The children took the opportunity to tell Bishop Sarah the story of the holy well, explaining its origins and history.



Commemorating the Falklands

The community of Llanfyllin reflected, remembered and honoured all those involved in and impacted by the Falklands Conflict 40 years ago. Veterans, members of the Llanfyllin branch of the Royal British Legion, Llanfyllin Mayor Alison Alexander, and members of the public gathered at the War Memorial to lay wreaths, say prayers and hold a two-minute silence. In the evening, there

was a service of commemoration in St Myllin's Church, led by Revd Hermione Morris, with music from the Porthywaen Silver Band, whose musical director, Dougie Graham is a Falklands veteran (left).



Sunday Services on Hospital Radio

Patients at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd can now join the Sunday morning service live from St Margaret's Bodolwyddan. The hospital radio team has installed equipment in the church enabling

staff, patients and visitors to listen to the service. Revd Jayne Coxall said: "This is such a wonderful way to be able to connect to the hospital and it means that anyone can now listen to

our service as it's broadcast online. It is a fantastic opportunity, and we are excited for what else we can do."

You can listen to the service at www.radioglanclwyd.co.uk

Gwaith ad-drefnu wedi'i gwblhau yn Eglwys Sant Paul, Gorsedd



Ar ôl i'r gwaith ad-drefnu gael ei gwblhau yn Eglwys Sant Paul, Gorsedd, yn Sir y Fflint, arweiniodd y

Gwir Barchedig Gregory Cameron, Esgob Llanelwy, wasanaeth Diolchgarwch ac Ail-gysegru yn yr eglwys ar 5 Mehefin. Dros yr wythnosau canlynol, cynhaliwyd nifer o ddigwyddiadau diwrnod agored gyda lluniaeth i roi cyfle i drigolion lleol weld y newidiadau trawiadol yn yr eglwys. Mae'r newidiadau i du mewn

yr eglwys yn fan cychwyn cyfnod newydd a chyffrous i Eglwys Sant Paul a'i phresenoldeb a'i chenhadaeth yn y gymuned leol.

(On 5 June, the Bishop of St Asaph, led a service of thanksgiving and re-dedication after the re-ordering of St Paul's Church in Gorsedd.)

100 years of Mothers' Union in Bistre

The Bistre branch of the Mothers' Union is celebrating its centenary this year. On 30 June members and invited guests gathered in Emmanuel Church Bistre for a lively service of celebration. The guests included Jenny Lane, the Mothers' Union Provincial President for Wales, who was making her first visit to a MU branch in the St Asaph Diocese. The service was led by

Archdeacon John Thelwell, St Asaph Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain and Revd Sally Baird with the music provided by Ivor Walker. Following the service members and guests enjoyed an extensive and enjoyable celebration buffet, including a gloriously decorated cake made by Karen Chapstick, a Bistre church member. The Bistre Branch has since



received a card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the patron to the worldwide Mothers' Union.



I wonder if you can remember a spiritual experience you had as a child? Maybe it was in your room. Maybe it was in the garden or playing in the woods. It might even have been in a church! Godly Play is a contemplative way of working with children, based on long research into children's spirituality and **Cass Meurig explains how you can find out more about it.**

Godly Play is a method of teaching children the Christian faith which begins with the notion that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. It aims to nurture children's spirituality through the medium most natural to them: play. It provides a space where children can engage with God for themselves and learn to speak of their own spiritual experience using the language and symbols of the Christian faith.

Sessions begin with the children sitting in a circle, where they are encouraged to slow down and be ready for the story. Then the storyteller tells the Bible story, using objects and symbols such as sand, wooden figures and pictures. The children love it; they are drawn into the story and almost mesmerised as the narrative unfolds.

The Godly Play curriculum includes sacred stories, which tell the great narrative of Scripture, parables, and 'liturgical action' presentations which help them to understand the practices of the church. There are also stories about individual Bible characters and saints, and presentations which connect to the seasons of the church year. The aim is to give them an inner working model of the Christian faith which will last a lifetime.

After the story there is a time of guided 'wondering', asking open questions to encourage the children to engage personally with the story. We don't preach at them but rather guide them to discover for themselves the exciting world of the Christian faith.

After the wondering, there is a time of free art response or play. Good quality art materials are provided so that the children can respond as they wish to the story they have heard.

We then return back to the circle for prayers and the 'feast'. This is usually a biscuit and squash but with a bit of ritual about how we share it, resembling the Eucharist. It's then time to say goodbye!

I fell in love with Godly Play about 12 years ago and have been using it in many different contexts ever since. Currently, I use it in an after-school children's club for the local primary school, an all-age Bible study, and a care home. I have taken it into schools to help with RE lessons and used it for adult retreats and clergy days. People engage with it at their own level - and it really works. My own children came to faith through Godly Play.

I also train other people in the method and am planning a 3-day training course in Llandudno next year (13-15 July).

Diocesan Training Bursaries will be available for this. You can apply at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/training/>

Recently, I have come to the end of a long project translating the stories into Welsh. The Welsh volume of scripts is published by Cyhoeddiadau'r Gair.

If you would like to experience Godly Play for yourself, come along on 29 October to Christ Church, Bala for a 'retreat' afternoon of Godly Play suitable for all ages. Come and play! You can find out more at:

<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/prayer/prayer-events>

For more information or to book Cass to do a Godly Play taster session at your church please email CassMeurigThomas@cinw.org.uk.



Meet the Conference Speakers

The 2022 Diocesan Conference will once again be taking place online giving plenty of people the opportunity to hear our keynote speakers. The theme Growing Faith, Bringing Hope, Demonstrating Love will help to further embed those values across the diocese. The Conference will take place on Saturday 8 October and here's an introduction to our two guest speakers, both of whom were recently appointed Canons at St Asaph Cathedral: Sister Gemma Simmonds and Father Richard Peers.



Richard Peers

The Revd Richard Peers trained and worked as a teacher before being ordained in 1993. He became the Sub Dean at Christ Church, Oxford in September 2020; a joint foundation of a University of Oxford college, and the cathedral church of the Diocese of Oxford. Before moving to Oxford, Father Richard was Director of Education for the Diocese of Liverpool and CEO of Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust. In addition, he is Superior of the Sodality of Mary, Mother of Priests, a dispersed religious community with 60 members around the world.

Richard has extensive experience as a Spiritual Director, retreat giver and leader of pilgrimages. He has been practising meditation, now commonly known as mindfulness, for over 30 years. He is much influenced by the Spanish Mystics, Thomas Merton, the Philokalia (a collection of texts written between the fourth and the fifteenth centuries by spiritual masters of the Orthodox Christian tradition) and both Soto Zen and Theravada Buddhism. Richard lives with his partner Jim, a garden writer, and their dog Teilo.



Gemma Simmonds

Dr Gemma Simmonds is a sister of the Congregation of Jesus. After a career in teaching at secondary level in the UK she trained in Christian spirituality at the Ignatian spirituality centre in Wernersville, USA and this led to work as a retreat giver and spiritual director and as chaplain in the Universities of Cambridge and London. Alongside this she spent 26 years as a volunteer chaplain in Europe's largest women's prison, Holloway. Until 2018 Gemma taught pastoral theology at Heythrop College in the University of London.

Gemma is currently a senior research fellow at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge where she teaches pastoral theology, ecclesiology and Christian spirituality and is director of the Religious Life Institute.

She has been a spiritual director, retreat giver and lecturer for over 25 years.

You can find more information about the 2022 Diocesan Conference at
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/diocesan-conference/>