

# TEULU ASAPH

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

CONNECTING OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

HAF 2024 | SUMMER 2024



Ymweliad Brenhinol ar  
Ŵyl Ddewi

Bwyta'n Dda yn  
ein Heglwysi

A Royal Visit for  
St David's Day

Eating Well in  
our Churches

AM DDIM | FREE



## From the Editor

**Welcome to the Summer edition of our diocesan magazine, *Teulu Asaph*, which features some of the exciting events which have taken place recently.**

The visit of the Prince of Wales to one of our church schools on St David's Day will be a memory which stays with those pupils forever, I'm sure.

Also inside, we say thank you and goodbye to the Archdeacon of Montgomery. Dr Barry Wilson will retire over the summer, and we look back at some of his highlights with us.

Plus, there's an encouragement to feed your communities both spiritually and physically, a celebration of our church organists and helpful information from both the Property Team and our Rural Affairs Advisor. Plus, much more.

If you have exciting, new and different plans for your church this summer, please send them to me for the next edition of *Teulu Asaph*. I'll be looking to share many more of your good ideas with churches across the diocese so please email through your news, stories, reflections and photos. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the summer!



*Karen*

**Karen Maurice, Editor**

karenmaurice@cinw.org.uk

07918 133420

Diocesan Office, High Street,  
St Asaph, LL17 0RD



Page 6



Page 11



Page 14

## Contents

- 3 Bishop's Word / Gair gan yr Esgob
- 4 Feeding People Physically and Spiritually
- 5 Celebrating our Church Organists
- 6 Wishing Archdeacon Barry a Happy Retirement
- 7 Newyddion / News
- 8 Celebrating St David's Day in Royal Style
- 10 Schools / Ysgolion
- 10 Hitting the Google Highs!
- 11 Rural Round-up
- 12 Property Matters
- 13 Following a Graveyard Trail
- 14 Chaplain Debbie in Southwest Tanganyika
- 15 Your News / Eich Newyddion Chi
- 16 Shore to Shore 2024

**Cover photo: His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, visiting Ysgol Yr Holl Saint/All Saints' School in Gresford on St David's Day.**





## Bishop's Word / Gair gan yr Esgob

### God's Provision

One of the best-known miracles of Jesus is the Feeding of the Five Thousand. This miracle is recorded in all four Gospels, but it is not widely known that Matthew and Mark also record a second, a Feeding of the Four Thousand. Taken with the miracle of turning water into wine in John's Gospel, Jesus seems to have quite a line in providing sustenance for his disciples – indeed, on all three occasions, Jesus provides not just what is sufficient, but in abundance – twelve baskets of fragments are left over in the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and the equivalent of 800 bottles of wine are produced at the Wedding at Cana. The point that the Gospel writers are making is that God doesn't merely seek to provide 'our daily bread' for his children, but to provide more generously than we can desire or deserve.

How do we square this with a world in which there is famine, and in our own country, where there is food poverty? The famous saint, Theresa of Avila, wrote that "Christ has no hands in the world today but our hands", and here is the key – God provides plentifully in creation, but humanity is often consumed by selfishness and a failure to respond to need. As Christians, it is we who should be at the forefront of making sure that everyone has enough to eat. It is our responsibility to address the inequalities of a world in which the ten richest individual humans have more wealth than the eighty-five (!) poorest countries put together.

God calls us to act, how do we respond?

### Darpariaeth Duw

Mae Porthi'r Pum Mil yn un o wyrthiau mwyaf adnabyddus Iesu. Mae pob un o'r pedair Efengyl yn cynnwys y wyrth hon ond mae Mathew a Marc yn sôn hefyd am wyrth arall, debyg ond llai adnabyddus, Porthi'r Pedair Mil. O gofio hefyd am y wyrth o droi'r dŵr yn win yn Efengyl Ioan, mae'n ymddangos bod Iesu'n rhoi cryn dipyn o bwyslais ar ddarparu bwyd a diod ar gyfer ei ddisgyblion. Yn wir, ar y tri achlysur, mae Iesu'n darparu mwy na digon – mae'n darparu digonedd! Roedd deuddeg basgedaid o dameidiau dros ben yn hanes Porthi'r Pum Mil, a darparodd Iesu swm yn cyfateb i 800 potelaid o win yn y Briodas yng Nghana. Y pwynt y mae'r Efengylwyr yn ei wneud yw bod Duw yn gwneud mwy na rhoi 'ein bara beunyddiol' i'w blant – mae'n cynnig darpariaeth sy'n fwy hael nag yr ydym yn ei dymuno nac yn ei haeddu.

Sut mae cysoni hyn â'r ffaith fod newyn difrifol yn y byd a thlodi bwyd yn ein gwlad ein hunain? Ysgrifennodd y sant enwog, Theresa o Avila, "Nid oes gan Grist ddwylo yn y byd heddiw ond ein dwylo ni", a dyma'r allwedd – mae Duw yn darparu'n helaeth yn y greadigaeth, ond mae dynoliaeth yn aml yn llawn hunanoldeb, gan anwybyddu angen. A ninnau'n Gristnogion, dylem fod ar flaen y gad o ran sicrhau bod gan bawb ddigon i'w fwyta. Mae cyfrifoldeb arnom i fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau mewn byd lle mae gan y deg unigolyn cyfoethocaf fwy o gyfoeth na'r wyth deg pump (!) gwlad dlotaf gyda'i gilydd.

Mae Duw yn galw arnom i weithredu. Sut rydym ni'n ymateb?



# Feeding People Physically and Spiritually

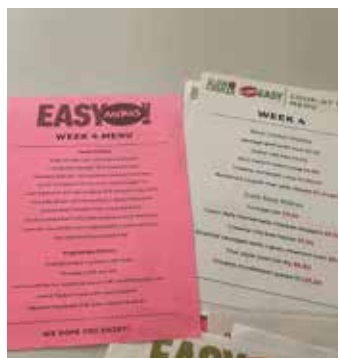


**Over the last year, three churches in Flintshire have opened Well-Fed food hubs to offer high-quality affordable meals for their communities. In May, a fourth church, All Saints in Newtown, joined the list of Well-Fed hubs, and 100 meals a week are being delivered to the Powys town. The Diocesan Engagement Officer, Sarah Wheat, is looking for other churches who might like to feed their community.**

St Bartholemew's Church in Sealand, St Paul's Church in Rhosesmor and St Mary's and St Peter's in Bagillt all run weekly food hubs. These coincide with activities already taking place and are seen as enhancing what the church has to offer. St Bartholemew's runs the Figtree Café in the Church. On a Wednesday, as people are enjoying coffee or lunch at the Café, Well-Fed deliver meals. People from across the community come along to collect their meals and order for the following week. As a result of launching as a food hub, Figtree Café has seen more footfall and people engaging with church, says the church warden, Jennifer Watson. "It's been surprisingly easy and brought a lot of people into the church who have never been into a church," Jennifer told me. "We get a lot of people wishing to light a candle. It's broken down those barriers for people who might be afraid of coming into a church. They realise it's nothing scary."

St Paul's in Rhosesmor is host to the village shop, The Outpost, and receive a Well-Fed meal delivery every Wednesday. One of the volunteers, Jackie Blain, said people are coming into St Paul's who've never been to church. "The meal service is appealing to a wide range of people, including those with young children, carers collecting food for those who can't leave the house, as well as older people coming out for a walk, collecting their food and stopping to have a chat or a coffee."

In Bagillt, Well-Fed deliver meals while the church Knit and Knatter group is meeting on a Tuesday lunchtime.



In Newtown, All Saints run a Soup Lunch on a Tuesday which coincides with the delivery of meals.

So far, the experience of all the churches is positive. Each church takes the orders on behalf of Well-Fed using a simple iPad till-system. Payment is made via card (cash is possible too) and the food is delivered to the church the following week. The menus rotate on a four-week basis and Well-Fed offer a range of ready-made meals, easy-cook-at-home options and slow-cooker bags. The meals are all chef-made and contain no ultra-processed ingredients.

For Well-Fed, which is a social business based in Shotton, there are big advantages of working alongside churches. The Social Programmes Manager for Well-Fed, Faith Lightfoot, describes the food hubs as creating a bigger sense of community. "People are coming to a church who might not necessarily do so. While collecting their food, they see there's a coffee morning or a knit and knatter group and join in. You can't under-estimate the impact of good food on people's lives."

Later in the year, Well-Fed will hold a conference in St Asaph Cathedral to encourage more churches to get involved. They hope to install refrigerated food lockers in various locations, including St Asaph Cathedral, to enable more people to access their meals.



**Look out for the date of the conference and come along to sample the food. You can find out more at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/this-works/> or email [Sarahwheat@cinw.org.uk](mailto:Sarahwheat@cinw.org.uk)**



## Celebrating our Church Organists



David Scott



Paul Whittaker



Richard Elmore

**For many people, the choice of music during a Sunday service is crucial. Realising that one of your favourite hymns has been chosen can enhance the worship. For some, a beautifully played organ can be the difference between a good service and bad. Teulu Asaph caught up with four organists from the Maelor and Offa Mission Areas.**

Paul Whittaker has been playing the organ for more than 50 years. Every Sunday, he plays at St Mary-the-Virgin at Overton-on-Dee. Previously, he's played at St Mary's in Ruabon and St Margaret's, Garden Village in Wrexham. "I choose the hymns," says Paul. "Lots of thought goes into the selection to ensure there are always some well-known hymns that people can belt out. I like new music and I do introduce new songs, but it's a careful balance. There's nothing worse than a list of hymns for a service, that no-one knows or wants to sing!"

David Scott, organist at St Mary's in Johnstown and St John's in Rhosymedre, agrees. He's been playing the organ for more than 58 years and was organist and choirmaster at Rhos Parish Church for 38 years until its closure in 2005. "I don't introduce new hymns," he said. "Congregations like to sing what they know but getting people to sing at funerals is difficult. People just don't know the hymns these days."

Richard Elmore has been playing the organ for over 50 years, since the age of 11. He's now organist and choirmaster at St Mary's Church in Ruabon and introduces up to six new songs a year. "There is such a rich collection of church music available, however, a new song must truly merit its place in the service if it is to oust a much-loved hymn."

For Richard, music is the glue that holds the elements of a service together. "It can be a quiet background to prayer and contemplation; a way of praising God in hymns and psalms; the signal that the service is to start or has finished. Music is the thing that a congregation will always comment on more when it is missing than when it is present."

And Paul agrees: "An experienced organist can bring an extra dimension to a service with the choice of music beforehand, the selection of hymns, the liturgical settings and the finale music played."

Matthew Povey plays the organ every week at St Thomas' Church in Penycae. He's unusual as an organist, being only 36 years old! He followed a similar route to his older counterparts, starting as a choirboy, before transferring his keyboard skills to the organ at the age of 14. Nowadays, he finds faith through music and it's this which maintains his commitment to the church. "My faith sits in the music," he said. "Hearing the congregation singing is what is important to me."

And that's a common feeling among all the organists. They and the choir form a faithful backbone to many churches and have been regular attenders and worshippers for decades.

So, where are the next generation of organists coming from? "Church organists are a very rare breed," said Richard. "I would encourage all keyboard players of Grade 5 and above to think about what they could offer to the Church. Live music, be it on piano or organ, is appreciated by a congregation, much more than singing along to a CD."

**Could you offer your musical skills to your local church? Do have a chat with your local vicar or churchwarden.**



# Wishing Archdeacon Barry a Happy Retirement



Being collated and installed as Archdeacon in October 2018.



Fellow Archdeacons, Andy & Hayley.



With Canon Nia Morris in All Saints, Newtown.



**This summer we will say goodbye to the Archdeacon of Montgomery. The Venerable Dr Barry Wilson is retiring from full-time ministry after six years as Archdeacon. Teulu Asaph looks back over his time in the Diocese of St Asaph.**

Barry, and his wife Yvonne, moved to the vicarage in Llandrinio in Poole Mission Area to take up the post of Archdeacon in 2018. Barry, a former RE teacher from Stoke-on-Trent, was ordained in 1997, and had previously worked in the Dioceses of Lichfield and Chester.

His boundless energy and enthusiasm was infectious, and he was soon gathering a team together to reinvigorate rural ministry. One of his first projects was the launch of a Rural Strategy. He selected prayers for a booklet to accompany the launch in 2019, and regular meetings and consultations were held to gather feedback. And then, Covid hit. Everything stopped and as we emerged from the pandemic, the Rural Strategy morphed into a process of Mission Area Reviews across the diocese.

Since then, Archdeacon Barry has played a pivotal role in energising the churches for the post-Covid world. He continues to promote the importance of rural ministry and has been a champion in calling for funding and resources to support rural churches. He leaves an Archdeaconry stronger and more resilient to meet the challenges of the future.

Bishop Gregory paid this tribute: "It has been a joy to have Barry as a colleague and archdeacon this last six years. Barry brings three things to his ministry – a bounce which sees how things could be better, a determination to affirm those around him, and a passionate desire to bear witness to the Gospel. We wish him and Yvonne

well for the future."

We join Bishop Gregory in wishing Archdeacon Barry and Yvonne all the very best as they move back to Staffordshire and a big THANK YOU for all your ministry with us.



A meeting of the Rural Strategy Working Group in February 2020.



The launch of the Rural Strategy Consultation in September 2019.



Licensing Revd Paulette Gower as Pool Mission Area Leader.



## Petertide Ordinations

**One new deacon and six new priests will be ordained in St Asaph Cathedral in June.** Beci Kelly will become a non-stipendiary deacon in the Denbigh Mission Area. She will be ordained by the Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron, on

Saturday 29 June at 10am. At the same service, Emma Dale, Ana Evans, Wendy Gardner, Kathryn Hall, Hugh Richardson and Cass Meurig Thomas will be ordained as priests. All are welcome to the service.



## Rekindling the Finland Connection



**A delegation from the Diocese of Helsinki in Finland visited north Wales in April as part of a partnership agreement under the Porvoo Common Statement.** The group from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland joined Bishop Gregory for a service of Evening Prayer at the Cathedral followed by refreshments and a tour of the ancient building. The following day, they visited Hope Street in Wrexham for workshops led by the



Archdeacon of Wrexham, Dr Hayley Matthews. On the last day, they split into smaller groups to attend services across the Mission Area of Wrexham. Next year, members of St Asaph Cathedral Choir are hoping to visit Finland as part of the partnership.

## New Home for LGBTQIA+ Chaplaincy



**The Diocesan LGBTQIA+ chaplaincy is to get a new home.** The monthly Open Table Eucharist will take place at All Saints Church in Deganwy, near Llandudno. It follows a move by the Chaplain, the Revd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn, from Llanrwst to serve churches

in Deganwy, Llandudno Junction and Llanrhos. The next Open Table Eucharist takes place on Saturday 22 June at 11am. You can see the dates of future meetings at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/chaplaincy-services/lgbtqia-chaplaincy/>

## Church's Youngest Ever Bishop Consecrated

**History was made in May when the youngest person ever to become a bishop in the Church in Wales was consecrated.** David Morris, 38, was anointed and receive the symbols of the office of a bishop at a special

service at Bangor Cathedral on 11 May. It follows his appointment in January as Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Bangor. David takes the title of Bishop of Bardsey.





## Celebrating St David's Day in Royal Style

**On St David's Day, the children and staff of Ysgol Yr Holl Saint / All Saints' School in Gresford were delighted to welcome a special guest. His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, included a stop at the school on his way between Cae Ras in Wrexham and the memorial to the Gresford Mining Disaster 90 years ago.**

As it was St David's Day, the Prince of Wales was keen to see how the school was celebrating and took part in some traditional activities, such as Dawnsio Gwerin and baking Bara Brith. In addition, he met some of those in Year 6 who made it through to the UK Finals of the F1@ in Schools competition. Finally, he talked to pupils about the history of the Gresford Mining Disaster and the research they had carried out to understand the impact on the local community.

Here are some of the photographs from his visit and a write-up from three of the pupils who were introduced to Prince William.



The school was keen for Prince William to meet and speak to as many pupils and staff as possible.





The Bishop of St Asaph was among those who met Prince William. He presented him with a copy of his Easter Book of Days.

On Friday the 1st of March, St Davids Day, We were all brought in to a school service and were told that we were going to meet Someone Special. With the whole school discussing, we were told that the future King, Prince William was coming to visit. Everyone was shocked. When Prince William arrived at our school, he was given a tour by our amazing headteacher Mr Hatwood. We all showed the future King what we had been working on the past couple of months such as singing to him, showing him our F1 project and sharing our knowledge about the Gresford Mining Disaster. Before Prince William left our school had a whole school photo and we gave him some gifts for him and his family to say thank you.

This experience was truly a once in a life opportunity and a unforgettable moment. Our whole school really enjoyed the day. It was wonderful for our school to meet the future King. We were all very proud of that amazing moment. What an honour to meet Prince William, it was a special Dydd Gwyl Dewi.

By Charlotte, James and Mason



Making Bara Brith.



Watching the Dawnsio Gwerin.



### Daffodil Festival

**The Madras VA School in Penley recently held their Eisteddfod, and as part of the craft competitions, Year 3 children were asked to create a daffodil using any materials.**

Shortly after, the school received an email from Michelle Davies, chairperson of the Floral Committee of the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, asking if the children

would like to take part in the Daffodil Festival in St Collen's Church in Llangollen. The school has taken part in two Peace Messages in the past, and the school often visits the Eisteddfod. The Daffodil Festival took place on 5–7 April.

Alison Jarvis from Madras School went along to see the daffodils, and the photo shows Father Lee Taylor from St Collens, and John Gambles,



the Vice Chair of the International Eisteddfod, standing in front of the Wall of Daffodils.

## Hitting the Google Highs!

**Google 'Sunday Reading Sheets' and the first ones to be listed are those on the St Asaph Diocesan website – after the adverts, of course! The obvious answer as to why these appear above the commercial alternatives is that they get more 'hits' than the others. The Revd Martin Snellgrove creates the Reading Sheets and uploads them to the site. He explains why there might be several reasons for their popularity.**

The Sunday Reading Sheets on our website are **free-to-download** and ready-to-print. This means that as few or as many as required can be produced for any occasion.

**Readings are divided into paragraphs** to improve both appearance on the page and the standard of reading. Paragraph breaks occur when:

- there is a change of speaker
- a different person is being addressed
- there is a change of subject or an interval of time.

Without dividing into paragraphs, a reading may look like just a sea of words, which is daunting to an inexperienced reader. Paragraph breaks may help readers do their thinking for them.

The **biddings and responses** before and after the Gospel readings are the correct ones for the Church in Wales, so there is no need for worshippers to refer to an order of service for these.

**The psalm** is handled in a variety of ways to accommodate any congregation's preferences:

- responsorial
- by whole verses
- pointed – for chanting
- by alternate half-verses.

Additionally, the psalm provided may be replaced by a metrical version – one set to a hymn-tune – since the material is in Word and can be readily edited.

All conceivable permutations from the **Lectionary** are covered, principally the Continuous and

Related options for the Sundays after Trinity, and shorter texts – and therefore larger print – when there are passages suggested for omission.

In addition to the above, for every variation of the Reading Sheets there is a **Welsh version** with the psalm set by whole verses only. These can be printed back-to-back with an English version to provide a bilingual copy.

This section of the website has a page called **Hymn Suggestions**, which has just celebrated its third anniversary. It focuses on items suitable for congregations, rather than for choirs and other worship groups. When it was launched three years ago it took a mere month to rise from nowhere on Google rankings to being listed first!

**You can find the Reading Sheets and Hymn Suggestions on the website at [dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/church-service-resources/](http://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/church-service-resources/)**



## Rural Round-Up

**Much has been happening in Welsh farming communities throughout the Spring, as our Rural Affairs Adviser, the Revd Hermione Morris writes.**

### A Spring of Challenges

**For sheep farmers, Spring is, of course, a time of lambing. For all farmers, Spring is a time for planting crops, but for many, the poor weather has meant continually water-logged fields and delays.**



At the same time, protests have taken place this Spring, at the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals. These present a new way of farming that more overtly requires those in the agricultural and land management sectors to consider and meet environmental targets.

In mid-May, the Rural Affairs Secretary Huw Irranca-Davies announced that these change to the farming subsidies would be delayed by another year until 2026, following the widespread protests. Please continue to pray for all involved in and potentially impacted by the decision.

However, ministry in a rural context is about SO much more than agriculture and land management. There are growing concerns in the tourism and hospitality sectors, as well as in the provision of health services. Rural GP practices and medical centres are under threat from a lack of funding and difficulties recruiting personnel, as are independent pharmacies. The review and proposals for the Welsh Air Ambulance Service is viewed by some people within St Asaph Diocese as disproportionately disadvantaging their rural communities; although the aim and hope of the changes is to enhance the service provided.

All of these (alongside other concerns and activities) are places where we, as God's people, can and need to have a voice, in whatever way we are able. At the same time, we can support and pray for those making decisions and those impacted by the decisions made.



### Diocesan Rural Ministry Day 2024

**Blessed by warm spring sunshine, we held our diocesan Rural Ministry Day in April in Llanfechain for all those considering a call to licensed or ordained rural ministry.**

The eight participants were at various stages in their vocational journeys, which brought a delightful and energetic mix to the day, which was facilitated by the Chancellor Pam Powell, Director of Ministry, and myself.

By video, Bishop Gregory provided a thought-provoking introduction which fed into later discussions and reflections. We were joined for a session by people running businesses in the Vyrnwy valley. After lunch and a group discussion in the sunshine, the day ended with a Eucharist in Llanfyllin, looking out across the valley down to the River Cain.

#### Participant reaction included:

*'A great way to test and affirm a call to rural ministry.'*

*'Amazing to see that God's mission doesn't only show in the church as a building – it is shown even when people don't even realise it.'*

The Rural Ministry Day is a bi-annual diocesan event, with the next one planned for late spring/early summer 2026.

#### Upcoming Rural 'events' – for your prayers and consideration

- June/July: Rural Mission Sunday – an opportunity to celebrate rural churches.
- 22–25 July: Royal Welsh Show, Llanellwedd.
- August: How might your church/Mission Area have a presence at a local show?
- September/October: Harvest celebrations.

**Visit the Rural Ministry pages of the website at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/rural/>**



We have more than 200 churches across the diocese, many of which have grade I or grade II listed building status. As custodians of this heritage, there are always jobs to do to ensure the building and surrounding churchyard or glebe land is looked after. The Diocesan Property Team will be writing a regular Property Matters section for *Teulu Asaph* to offer support and advice.

## Property Forums

### A series of Property Forums was launched in the Montgomery Archdeaconry at the end of 2023.

The first was held in Llangollen for Valle Crucis Mission Area and was well attended. As well as the useful agenda items covered by the property team, it was a great networking opportunity for the wide-reaching Mission Area. The most recent Property Forum took place at St Bartholemew's Church in Sealand on 12 April. Alyn, Borderlands and Wrexham Mission Areas were well

represented. The topics presented covered:

- quinquennial inspections
- faculties
- building repairs and maintenance
- inventories
- eco church
- the Energy Footprint Tool.

The next forum will cover the other Mission Areas within Wrexham Archdeaconry. Look out for the

invitation that will be sent to the property teams, church and Mission Area wardens and clergy. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible and hope to inspire you to take care of your wonderful historic buildings in the best way possible.



## Churchyard management planning

### Creating a 'Churchyard Management Plan' could be key to having a well-maintained yet wildlife-friendly churchyard.

The plan could include:

- The management (who does what!)
- The maintenance regime (when is the grass cut or the hedges trimmed? What sort of safety inspections are required?)
- The policy for grass cutting (mowing regimes and mowing policy)
- Wildlife conservation policies (encouraging native wildlife, birds, hedgehogs, moths and butterflies, etc. Plants for pollinators; trees and hedgerows; growing fruit and vegetables)
- Policies concerning monuments and tributes.

## Permissions

**Almost all work within the curtilage of the church, including the churchyard, needs some level of faculty permission.** Portalooos cannot be placed in the churchyard without a full faculty permission. Benches require Type B faculty

permission. Please consult the Diocesan Churches Inspector, Ryan Marsh, if you want further advice about installing toilets, or Ceri Jones, the DAC Secretary, regarding the type of permission required.

## Involve your community

**Our burial grounds are public cemeteries.** It is well worth spending time talking to your community and explaining how the churchyard is managed and financed. A Churchyard Friends Group might be appropriate, involving both the local community and relatives of people buried there. A Friends group might enable you to receive regular donations to assist with the costs of maintenance.

Prepare a plan and schedule of graves and who is buried where, perhaps with the help of a local history group. This will help people to trace their ancestors. Subject to faculty, erect an information panel about the churchyard (and church) to explain its history and features of interest (see page 13 for an example). Other items, such as birdbaths, labyrinths, flower beds or accessible planters, could be included in a faculty application.



# Following a Graveyard Trail



**The church of St Tysilio in Llantysilio has warmly welcomed visitors to the peace within its walls for many years. Open each day of the year for the last two decades, its location by the River Dee and the Horseshoe Falls has made it a popular stop-off point, as John Gambles, churchwarden, explains.**

Visitors' comments show that they find great peace and tranquillity within the church building, and many come here regularly to pray. Others leave their prayers on the Prayer Tree and these form part of each Sunday's intercessions. The other warden, Ceinwen, and I refer to them as 'our passing congregation', and they are a significant proportion of the 10,000 plus visitors a year to St Tysilio's.

It is clear too that the graveyards hold a fascination for visitors who show a keen interest in both natural and historical features. The grassland has been managed as a haven for flowers, insects, birds and small mammals for over 30 years. This was boosted by a partnership with Caring for God's Acre (CfGA) who completed a Grassland Survey of the graveyards in May 2022. Out of this came an agreed management plan to protect and boost the spring and summer flora.

This work was enhanced by developing a project plan for 'Welcoming People and Nature' funded by the AONB Sustainable Development Fund. The project looked at how visitors might learn more about rural life and its economic and social history as well as the wonderful natural history of the area. Outcomes so far have been the development of a Graveyard Trail. Paths have been cut to form a route around the graveyard that 'visits' the graves of nine varied and different people or families from different backgrounds. The stories were researched by David Crane and volunteers from the Llangollen Museum and are published in full-colour leaflets, available in both



Welsh and English, within the church.

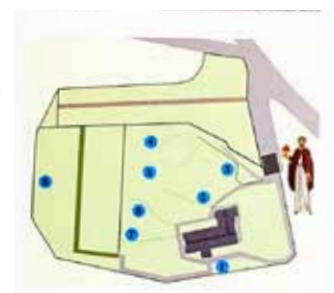
The historians have also digitised all the graveyard records, and produced a map of all the marked graves, that will be on display in the church. Accompanying this will be three newly published books that list, with photographs, all of the graves in the records.

There is one book for each of the three distinct areas of the graveyard. This will aid family descendants and visitors to locate the resting places of their forebears.

The last two phases of the Project will see folding display boards containing explanation and interpretation boards, and a people's history book – memories of people who live, or have lived, in Llantysilio.

David Crane, of Thomas Crane Associates, Llangollen Museum, and Ros Stockdale of DCC Countryside Services have been key partners in the Project. David Crane said: "This programme ensures that so many stories and memories, that would otherwise have been lost, have been recorded for enjoyment by future generations. Whilst the buildings of a place form an important backdrop, it is the tales and recollections of the people living in those buildings that help to bring the history of an area alive. All of those people of Llantysilio who have contributed to this programme have had the opportunity to become a part of that recorded history."

**The Graveyard Trail at St Tysilio Church will be officially launched on 22 June between 11am and 3pm with guided tours of the trail and the church with the Wardens and some of our project partners. Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.**





## Chaplain Debbie in Southwest Tanganyika



Earlier this year, Bishop Gregory appointed **Deborah Sawyer, a Pastoral Chaplain** in Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area, as our diocesan USPGE representative. Debbie has a deep sense of vocation to global ministry, having returned from spending three months in our link Diocese, Southwest Tanganyika, at the end of 2023. Here's an insight into her experience, using extracts from her diary, written during her stay.

So, the day finally dawned, and I was going. Months of preparation with few hesitations, I confess to feeling a touch anxious as I closed the door to my home for the last time.

As a newly fledged Church in Wales Pastoral Chaplain, I felt privileged to be presented with such an opportunity.

It's an odd feeling when no one meets you. There's an even more odd feeling when an airport closes and you're still waiting five hours later! The Diocesan drums were beaten and along came a driver from Mbeya who whisked us through traffic jams, roadblocks, around piki-piki (motorcycle) cyclists transporting coffins, mattresses and all sorts, and onwards along the TransZam Highway; a single right turn and on to Njombe, and a very warm welcome.

The lady, very nicely dressed sitting next to me in the English Service, didn't appear to know what we were doing or what page we were on, so I kept helping her. She left before we received Communion, which I thought rather strange, thinking she must feel very out of place. Later, in the Swahili service, the sermon was very long, very loud, and delivered with extreme passion. She was now robed, and head covered, the lady preacher who had been sitting next to me during the English service.

As we poured out of the Cathedral, we each received a tiny piece of bright pink cake on a toothpick in a napkin. It's these simple things which make it so special here. Sugar is so terribly expensive.

The bus was prettily adorned with stickers of Dutch tulip fields, but its condition was truly past its prime. My legs cramped against a sack of potatoes and my head was pushed onto the shoulder of the lady next to me. Breathing alone became quite a challenge and the heat intensified mélange with the usual carbon monoxide smoke filtering through the floor. Happy, laughing, chatty people: ladies in dresses of colourful fabrics: children with curling lashes and shiny fresh skin, only the cockerel got a thumbs down, otherwise I loved it! Five hours later, we arrived.

The time came; the arrival of my last day in Njombe. I potted off to the kitchen to make tea as usual and this morning, the sisters were singing softly. I shall miss that sound.

As the sun rose, it's orange light illuminated the rich, ochre soil deepening its intensity. Women moved gracefully along the road carrying heavy loads on their heads ready for another day of hard labour in their fields.

These are a selection of extracts from Debbie's journal from 15 September to 13 December 2023. You can read more on the diocesan website at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/faith-in-action/south-west-tanganyika/> or for the full journal, email Debbie at [debbiesawyer7@mail.com](mailto:debbiesawyer7@mail.com). Paper or electronic copies are available.



## Llythyr Gobaith, Llythyr Cariad

This is the title of a new book by one of our ordinands, **Glyn Wise**. It is a self-help book that draws lessons from Biblical stories and characters that carry relevance to our lives today. Glyn, a former Big Brother runner-up in the 2006 series, writes in Welsh.

Mewn cyfnod ble mae hunan-les yn un o ffactorau pwysicaf mewn cymdeithas, dwi wedi edrych ar sut mae storïau a chymeriadau'r Beibl yn berthnasol i'n bywydau ni heddiw. Mae llyfrau self-help yn hynod boblogaidd dyddiau yma ond wrth ddarllen drwyddynt gyda chrib man gwelwn fod llawer o'u prif negeseuon yn deillio o'r Beibl.



Llythyr cariad yw'r Beibl i ni gan Dduw, ac os nad ydych yn credu yn Nuw, wel, mae'n parhau i fod yn llyfr llawn gwybodaeth ar sut i fyw'r bywyd gorau posibl.

Ar gael mewn siopau Llyfrau Cymraeg, siopau Cristnogol. Ar lein **gwales.com** neu mae e-lyfr at wefan **ysgolSul.com**

## Children's Work in Llandrillo



**Our children's After School Club is flourishing, writes Carol Jerman, a Licensed Lay Reader at St Trillo's Church in Llandrillo in the Valle Crucis Mission Area.**

Fifteen young people regularly attend, and they are helped by members of the Friends of St Trillo.

On Mothering Sunday, the children made posies and an informal, interactive evening service was well attended, with 25 adults and seven children.

The service and the homemade cakes afterwards were enjoyed by all.

## Congratulations to Richard!

**The congregation of St Paul's Church in Colwyn Bay were delighted to present their Crucifer, Richard Redmond, with a gift, writes the Revd Christine Owen.**

This was to acknowledge Richard's achievement in being awarded an LD Leaders List Award by Dimensions for promoting health screenings for people with a learning disability. He went to the

O2 Arena in London to accept the award and your church family is very proud of you.



## Celebrating World Day of Prayer

**The Caereinion Mission Area marked the World Day of Prayer in March with a service led by women and written by Christian women in Palestine, writes Ann Molton, secretary of the World Day of Prayer committee for Pontrobert.** Women from St John's Church, Dolanog, St John's Church in Pontrobert, SS Tysilio and Mary

in Meifod and St Mary's in Llanfair Caereinion marked the occasion. The theme of the service was 'I beg you. Bear with one another in love' and was especially moving, given the current situation in the Middle East region. The service was followed by traditional Palestinian refreshments which were enjoyed by all.





Join us for a summer of walking, praying and picking up litter, as Shore to Shore returns for 2024.

It's a promenade with a purpose,  
journeying along the north Wales coast.

Shore to Shore starts with a Pop-up Beach Mission at 1pm,  
with the litter-pick at 2pm.

**Tuesday 23 July**

Meet at Pensarn and walk to Kimnel Bay

**Tuesday 30 July**

Meet at Kimnel Bay and walk to Rhyl Lifeboat Station

**Tuesday 6 August**

Meet at Rhyl Lifeboat Station and walk to the  
Nova Centre, Prestatyn

**Tuesday 13 August**

Meet at Nova Centre, Prestatyn



For more information, visit <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/shore-to-shore/>

**It's exercise, it's social, it's a pilgrimage and it's good for the environment!**