

TEULU ASAPH

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

CONNECTING OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

SPRING 2023 | GWANWYN 2023



Rekindling a Lost Passion

Who's Who in the
Diocesan Office

The Big Help Out

Aildanio Hen Frwdfrydedd

Pwy yw Pwy yn
Swyddfa'r Esgobaeth

Yr Help Llaw Mawr

FREE | AM DDIM



In this Issue

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring edition of our diocesan magazine, *Teulu Asaph*. It's out slightly later than usual but (deliveries permitting), in time for the Easter season.

In this issue, we're considering our year of Jubilee to celebrate 1450 years since the consecration of Asaph as Bishop and namesake of the diocese. How are you and your Mission Area seeking rest and refreshment during the year? How might you discover or rediscover your passions?

Over the last year there have been lots of staff changes in the diocesan office. To help you keep track of who's who, we've included a pull-out guide, in the centre, so you can direct any

enquiries to the right person or team. Plus, there's all the usual news from across the diocese, our church schools and forthcoming events.

Do send through your news, articles and photographs for the next edition. It's good to share what's going on across the diocese.



Karen

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Cover image: Bishop Gregory, the Bishop of St Asaph, with Bishop bear, a friend of Teddy Francis John. See page 4

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Bishop's Word / Gair gan yr Esgob

Each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given.

(Ephesians 4.7)

Our God is a generous God. Giving life to the universe, his loving mercy is the attitude he has towards us. God is love, and showers his mercy upon us, urging us from brokenness into fullness of life. The word for this attitude in the Bible is “charis” – grace - and it is closely related to “charism”, a New Testament word meaning “free gift”, as in the gift or talents that God gives us in our hearts. In the unique way that God has woven us, one person may have a gift for hospitality, another for teaching and communicating: in fact, there are several lists in the New Testament of the gifts that God implants in our souls through the Holy Spirit.

It is important to discern our gifting, our “charism”, because in discovering what God has made us to be, we discover how best to follow Jesus, and live life in abundance.

I hope that every reader of *Teulu Asaph* knows that 2023 is a Year of Jubilee in the life of the diocese, when we can recentre our lives on God, and recognise his gifts within us. There is so much talent amongst us in this diocese. To discover our talents, and to use them for God, will bring blessing upon blessing. I hope that each one of us can discern our distinctive charism, and open our lives to God's direction, since by such service we will discover the fruit of eternal life.

Ond mae'r Meseia wedi rhannu ei roddion i bob un ohonon ni – a fe sydd wedi dewis beth i'w roi i bawb. (Effesiaid 4.7)

Duw hael yw'n Duw ni. Ef sy'n rhoi bywyd i'r bydysawd ac mae ganddo agwedd drugarog, gariadus tuag atom ni. Cariad yw Duw ac mae'n tywallt ei drugaredd arnom, gan ein hannog i gyfnewid ein bywyd drylliedig am fywyd yn ei holl gyflawnder. Gair y Beibl am yr agwedd hon yw “charis” – gras – sy'n perthyn yn agos i “charism”, gair o'r Testament Newydd sy'n golygu “rhodd am ddim”, fel y rhoddion neu'r doniau y mae Duw yn eu rhoi yn ein calonnau. Gan fod Duw wedi creu pawb yn unigryw, gall un ohonom gael dawn i gynnig lletygarwch, un arall ddawn addysgu a chyfathrebu: yn wir mae sawl rhestr yn y Testament Newydd o'r doniau y mae Duw yn eu plannu yn ein heneidiau trwy'r Ysbryd Glân.

Mae'n bwysig i ni ddirnad ein dawn, ein “charism”, oherwydd, o wybod beth yw bwriad Duw ar ein cyfer, rydym yn darganfod y ffordd orau i ddilyn Iesu a byw bywyd cyflawn.

Gobeithio bod holl ddarllenwyr *Teulu Asaph* yn gwybod fod 2023 yn Flwyddyn Jiwbilî ym mywyd yr esgobaeth, pryd y gallwn roi Duw yn ôl yng nghanol ein bywydau, ac adnabod ei ddoniau o'n mewn. Mae cymaint o dalent yn ein plith yn yr esgobaeth hon. Os gallwn ddarganfod ein doniau, a'u defnyddio dros Dduw, mi ddaw bendith ar ben bendith. Gobeithio y gall pawb ohonom ganfod ein charism arbennig, ac agor ein bywydau i gyfeiriad Duw, oherwydd trwy wasanaeth o'r fath y darganfyddwn ffrwyth bywyd tragwyddol.



Celebrating Asaph 1450

ASAPH
1450



The 1450th anniversary of the consecration of Asaph as the second Bishop of the diocese will be marked with a special service in St Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 29 April. The Dean of Liverpool Cathedral, Dr Sue Jones, has been invited to preach on the theme of Jubilee. The service is a week earlier than the actual feast day to avoid a clash with the Coronation of King Charles on Saturday 6 May.

In the previous edition of *Teulu Asaph*, Bishop Gregory outlined his hopes for the anniversary, designating 2023 a Year of Jubilee. In his article on the previous page, he is encouraging everyone to centre themselves on God and discover or re-discover their God-given talents. What is God's gift to you? How might Asaph 1450 provide an opportunity to explore that gift or passion further?

Throughout this year, *Teulu Asaph* will be asking different people from across the diocese, how they are marking Asaph 1450 and where they are finding or seeking refreshment. In this edition, **Revd Paulette Gower in Pool Mission Area** explains how her childhood love and collection of teddy bears, has inspired a special ministry. It began during the Pandemic and is now reaching into all our church schools.

Rediscovering my Charism: Working with Teddy Bears!

They say, "never work with children or animals". I wonder whether teddy bears should be added to the list?

It was Christmas 1976, when I was six years old, that I decided to get my teddy bears to perform a Nativity play for my parents. The climax came with the entry of the Three Kings as I proudly announced them bringing gifts of Gold, Frankenstein and Myrrh! I couldn't understand my parents' laughter at what I considered a very poignant moment! After that my toys retired from acting.

44 years later my teddies decided to do their bit for the pandemic. Teddy Francis John and his friends came out of retirement and, joined by a much larger cast, renewed their acting career. In response to lockdown and being unable to visit my local school, I started creating Bible stories with Teddy Francis John and Friends and posting them online. So far, the teddies and I have created more than 90 Bible stories which are all available on *Youtube* and the diocesan website. Although the stories mostly feature Teddy bears, the story of Pentecost and Noah's Ark had me calling on the acting abilities of my other toys. And then when I needed more lions for the story of Daniel or pigs in the prodigal son, I made masks for them to wear.

Having auditioned and rehearsed the actors, working out the scenery, props and costumes needed, further challenged my creativity. Initially by sacrificing tea towels, raiding my stock of cardboard and silver foil and reinventing uses for everyday objects, props were made,





Now, Teddy Francis John has sent more than 50 of his friends into each of the diocesan church schools, so they can help children access stories in the Bible and become a friend to Jesus. Teddy Francis John's new friends were commissioned in a special service in Montgomery in January 2023 and are making their way into every church school with the help of Bishop's Visitors, teachers and the diocesan Schools Officer, Jennie Downes. In addition, one of Teddy Francis John's friends has become a Bishop and can deputise for our own Bishop Gregory if required.

Find out more about Paulette's Ministry with Teddy Francis John and Friends at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/teddies-bring-the-stories-of-jesus-to-life/> which includes a link to all the Teddy Francis John stories.

If you have plans to rekindle a lost passion, rediscover your God-given gift or seek refreshment in a new activity this year, please contact the editor:
karenmaurice@cinw.org.uk

and suitable locations then found around the vicarage and garden. I deliberately let a patch of grass grow for the stories of Moses in the bullrushes and Paul and Lydia. I left branches unpruned for Adam and Eve, and I woke up in the middle of the night realising that if I upturned my washing basket then I could have the tower of Babel!

The production of the videos was a huge learning curve. I learnt a lot about recording and editing, including adding soundtracks and uploading to Youtube. The stories were greatly enhanced by being able to add flickering flames to Moses' burning bush and Gideon's torches, rain to the parable of the wise and foolish builders and rays of light when God speaks to different characters.

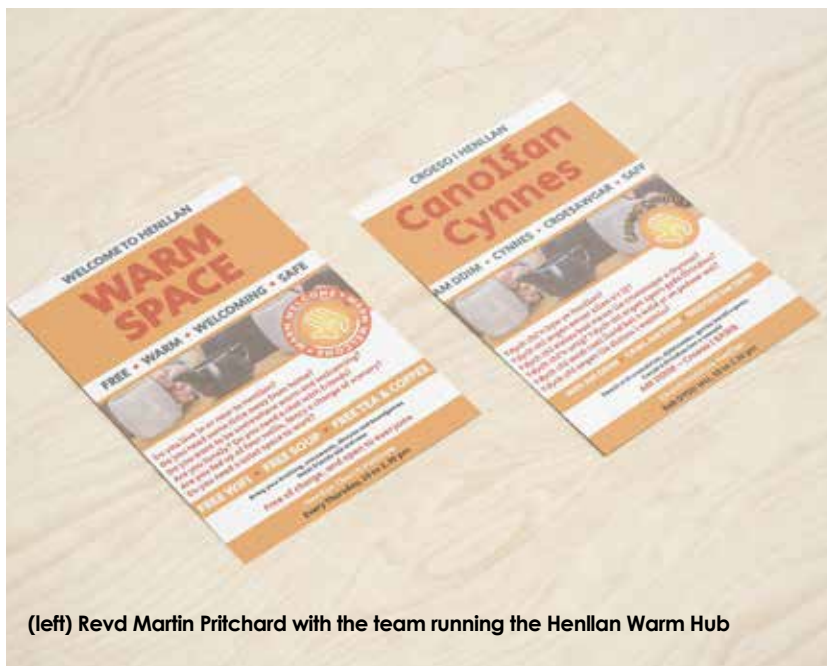
Sometimes producing the actual Bible story can be much easier than working out how the conversation I will have with Teddy Francis John is going to link with the message of the Bible story or how to sum up the story and give people something to think about. This has often made me look much more closely at the meaning of the story and what it may have to say to children and adults today. This can sometimes involve as much preparation as a whole Sunday sermon, especially as I have to think about how this may connect with a 3 year old or a 93 year old.

The stories are used at times by schools for collective worship or as part of the RE curriculum. Recently I had a request from a class in a non-church school wondering which teddy Bible stories would help their 8-10 year olds understand more about Christianity.





Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis



(left) Revd Martin Pritchard with the team running the Henllan Warm Hub

Churches across the diocese have been responding to the cost-of-living crisis in many ways. There have been food clubs and warm hubs. Community fridges have opened and shared lunches cooked. St Sadwrn's Church in Henllan in the Denbigh Mission Area moved their monthly coffee morning to be a weekly event and the response has exceeded their expectations, as Vicky Davies writes.

Dedicated volunteers have provided a monthly coffee morning for several years. During the winter months they served soup and cake from the church institute to the community of Henllan. The aim was to offer an opportunity for the community to come together and socialise whilst raising funds for the life of the church.

In response to the current cost of living crisis and in view of the isolation and loneliness many people face particularly during the winter months, the team were inspired by the Archbishop of Wales' *Food and Fuel* campaign. We wanted to offer a free, warm, safe space to the local community, especially as there were no registered Warm Spaces in our area.

Our Warm Space would give people a chance to come together to chat, socialise, play games, and bring their laptops to work with the free Wi-Fi. It would provide a warm space, where they could enjoy freshly prepared soup, light meals, and an endless supply of hot drinks in a friendly environment all for free. The take up of this provision has exceeded our expectations with over 112 meals provided during the first month.

It has been heart-warming for the team to take a moment during the busy day to listen to the chatter, watch as people move around to catch up with friends and neighbours, to see games of dominoes being played and to hear the positive feedback. The provision is registered as a Warm Space for all on the local authority warm welcome website and is advertised well on social media.

The team have been busy contacting local charities and supermarkets for financial assistance to make this provision sustainable. We have managed to secure funding from a local ancient parochial charity, the *Denbigh Round Table* and from the Community Council who we wish to thank for their support and to individuals who have been generous with money and time. We hope through the *Neighbourly Initiative* and *The Olio app* to be able to prepare most of our meals from surplus fresh food made available to us by our local supermarkets.

We plan to offer the warm space into springtime, consulting with the attendees on how we should move forward once the warmer weather arrives. It is good to be able to do our bit at this difficult time for everybody. One lady in the village shared how "we were ok during World War Two because we clubbed together to share our rations to make them go further".

Praise Jesus for inspiring us to be in the heart of the community, to be his hands and feet in the world, especially at a time like this, ensuring the dignity and worth of every human being.

For more cost of living information, visit <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/cost-of-living/>



New Archdeacon for Wrexham



A new Archdeacon for Wrexham has been installed in a service of Evensong at St Asaph Cathedral.

The Venerable Dr Hayley Matthews took up the post in early March and has been visiting all the mission areas in her archdeaconry since. Dr Matthews moved to Wrexham from the Diocese of Leeds where she was the Director of Lay Training. She is originally from Worcester

and was ordained as a deacon in Blackburn Cathedral in 2006 and priested the following year at Lancaster Priory. She was a chaplain at Media City in Salford and Rector of Holy Innocents in Fallowfield in the Diocese of Manchester before moving to Leeds. Hayley has two children and together they enjoy the outdoors, reading and travelling.

Brown Tourism signs for St Asaph Cathedral

After more than ten years of campaigning, brown tourism signs have been installed on the A55 directing visitors to St Asaph Cathedral and other attractions.

The Cathedral Dean and staff joined with MPs, MSs and council representatives to put pressure on

the Welsh Government to install the signs which direct motorists to places of interest. The new signs on both the east and west bound carriageways of the A55 include directions to Denbigh and Rhuddlan Castles, the Vale of Clwyd as well as St Asaph Cathedral.

Order of St Asaph for Diocesan Secretary and Director of Resources

The former Diocesan Secretary, Diane McCarthy is to receive the Order of St Asaph in honour of her work. Diane left the Diocesan Office in March having been in post since 2010. She has played a huge part in the life of the diocese, overseeing the move to Mission Areas and the opening of the diocese's first Resource Church, Hope Street in Wrexham. In his

January Ad Clerum Bishop Gregory wrote: "I wish to record here the outstanding debt that the diocese owes Diane for giving so much to us over the last fourteen years, and for the transformation that she has contributed to in our life... We wish her all the best for the future."

Just before Christmas, the diocese said goodbye to the former Director of Resources, Tracey White, who has

Bishop Mary as Bishop of Llandaff



A former St Asaph Cathedral Canon will be enthroned as the 73rd Bishop of Llandaff.

Bishop Mary Stallard, who is currently Assistant Bishop of Bangor, was elected as Bishop of Llandaff in January following the retirement of Bishop June Osborne. From 2003 until 2018, Mary Stallard was a priest in St Asaph diocese, firstly as Canon Residentiary at St Asaph Cathedral and Bishop's Chaplain, and then from 2011 as Anglican Chaplain at St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School, in Wrexham. She was also co-director of the St Giles' Centre for Religious Education and Faith Development in Wrexham. Bishop Mary's appointment to Llandaff will be formally confirmed at a Sacred Synod service at Governing Body in April. She will be enthroned as Bishop of Llandaff at Llandaff Cathedral shortly afterwards.



Diane McCarthy



Who's Who in the Diocesan Office – a pull out section to keep

In recent months there have been several new appointments in the Diocesan Office. *Teulu Asaph* thought it would be useful to create a handy pull-out section of the magazine which will help you direct enquiries to the right person. You can find this information in the who's who section of the diocesan website at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/whos-who/>



Director of Operations: Jon Morris |
jonathanmorris@cinw.org.uk 07534 095749 or
01745 532590

Jon is developing, delivering and monitoring the strategy to deliver the diocesan vision of Growing Faith, Bringing Hope and Demonstrating Love. He is looking at effective change and training programmes in support of operational improvement and good governance to release time and energy for church growth.



Diocesan Communications Officer:
Karen Maurice | karenmaurice@cinw.org.uk
07918 133420

Karen deals with all media enquiries. She is the editor of *Teulu Asaph* and oversees the creation of all diocesan publications. She makes films for training and ministry purposes and for use on the diocesan website and social media. She promotes services, events, and news through all media channels.



Diocesan Administration and HR:
Pamela Vernon
pamelavernon@cinw.org.uk | 01745 532581

Pam coordinates the Diocesan Conference, Standing Committee meetings, diocesan and provincial elections, the work of the grants committee and oversees the Annual Returns process. She handles recruitment for the diocese and supports the Ministry Team with vocations enquiries.



Diocesan Finance Officer:
Sandra Davies | sandradavies@cinw.org.uk |
01745 532589

Working with the Diocesan Secretary and Board of Finance, Sandra manages the financial systems for the diocese, developing the financial strategy and preparing the budget and regular updates for the trustees of the Board of Finance. She oversees the processing of invoices, the diocesan staff payroll and finances for the Diocesan Office and contributes towards the development of the Mission Area Share scheme.



Administrative Assistant: Joshua Schoch
joshuaschoch@cinw.org.uk | 01745 582245

Josh provides admin support for the office, handling general enquiries, compiling and sending out StAR as well as taking bookings for St Asaph Cathedral. It is likely to be Josh who answers your call or greets you at the diocesan office door.



Assistant Finance and Resource Officer:
Adam Taylor | adamtaylor@cinw.org.uk
07506 136486

Adam is the main point of contact for Mission Area and church treasurers with regards to the Finance Co-ordinator accounting software, including the delivery of training. He makes payments and maintains the ledgers for the diocese. Adam is part-time and his working days vary to accommodate requirements.



Cathedral Administration & Business Officer:
Jackie Feak | jackiefeak@cinw.org.uk
01745 532597

Jackie looks after the administration of St Asaph Cathedral. She is Clerk to the Cathedral Chapter and organises its business and accounts. Jackie is also the Mission Area Administrator for Elwy Mission Area.



Children and Youth Officer: Hannah Daniels |
hannahdaniels@cinw.org.uk | 01745 532587

Hannah coordinates youth and chaplaincy work across the diocese. She works with children and youth workers, developing partnerships with other organisations and increasing our network of volunteers.



Funding Administrator: Martyn Schlangen
martynschlangen@cinw.org.uk
01745 532588

Martyn provides advice and guidance for churches seeking grant funding for projects. Martyn's usual working days are Monday and Tuesday.



Engagement Officer: Sarah Wheat
sarahwheat@cinw.org.uk | 07909 257899

Sarah is the lead officer for the Engaging Steering Group and supports churches to engage with their local communities. She has developed the *This Works!* section of the website. Sarah's usual working days are Tuesday to Friday.



Director of Education for North Wales:
Dr Justine Baldwin |
justinebaldwin@cinw.org.uk | 07932 433976

Justine has responsibility for 66 church schools across the dioceses of St Asaph and Bangor. She oversees the provision of high-quality statutory education which expresses the Christian ethos and stands at the heart of the Church's mission across both dioceses.



Schools' Officer: Jennie Downes
jenniedownes@cinw.org.uk | 01745 532594

Jennie is responsible for developing curriculum resources for schools and supporting them in the delivery of projects. She looks after Section 50 inspection advice and the Bishop's Visitor Programme. Jennie's usual working days are Mon, Tues and Thurs.



Schools' Officer: Dr Emily Clarke-Jones
emilyclarke-jones@cinw.org.uk
01745 532592

Emily supports the work of the Diocesan Director of Education for North Wales with responsibility for governance and admissions for Church Schools in the diocese, providing guidance on statutory and legal issues. Emily works Mondays and Tuesdays.



Provincial Safeguarding Officer: David Oliver
davidoliver@cinw.org.uk | 07908 963335

Based in North Wales, David deals with safeguarding complaints or concerns arising in the Diocese of St Asaph as well as the Diocese of Bangor.



Churches Conservation and Development Officer: Ceri Jones |
cerijones@cinw.org.uk
01745 532584

Ceri works with Mission Areas and churches to identify appropriate solutions for buildings and sites that meet current and future needs whilst conserving and enhancing their architectural and historical significance. Ceri administers the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and manages the online faculties. Ceri also supports the Capital Repair and Maintenance Programme (CRAMP) for Voluntary Aided Church Schools.



Diocesan Churches Inspector: Ryan Marsh
ryanmarsh@cinw.org.uk | 07399 019165

Ryan carries out the programme of Quinquennial Inspections for over 200 historic churches. He works with Mission Areas to identify opportunities for change, develop a comprehensive property strategy and encourage tourism and visitor opportunities.



Diocesan Parsonage Inspector: Emyr Wyn Hughes |
emyrhu@cinw.org.uk
01745 532586 or 07980 582403

Emyr has responsibility for the care of all parsonages within the diocese. He manages the programme of maintenance, alteration, improvement and replacement of parsonages to ensure that homes are safe for clergy and their families.



Director Of Ministry: Chancellor Pam Powell
pampowell@churchinwales.org.uk

Pam is responsible for developing shared ministry, vocations and ministerial training for ordained and licensed lay ministry within the diocese.



Bishop Gregory and the Esgobty Team
bishop.stasaph@cinw.org.uk | 01745 583503

Bishop Gregory, his PA Siân Sweeting-Jones and his chaplain Revd Michael Balkwill can be contacted at Esgobty.

The diocesan website is kept up to date with appointments and contact information. Visit it at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/whos-who/>





Learning to Breathe

In October 2022, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams led a masterclass on prayer in St Asaph Cathedral. Among the many people who attended was **Elizabeth Day from the Diocesan Spirituality Group**. She reflects on Dr Williams' suggestion that prayer is "God's breath in us returning to God".

If prayer really is "God's breath in us returning to God", then one of the simplest ways to pray is to begin by focusing on our breathing. This reminded me of the Breathing Prayer. There is no special equipment required – just bring yourself!

- Find a place where you can be quiet and still for a few minutes.
- Offer your time to God - perhaps with a very simple prayer "Here I am Lord" (1 Samuel 3).
- Make sure you are sitting comfortably and bring your focus to your breath – breathing in and out without changing the rhythm of your breath.
- Sit for a few moments like this and make sure you are feeling comfortable – for example, just check out that your hands are relaxed, your shoulders aren't hunched.
- When you feel ready, say the following phrase as you breathe in and out:
Breathing in: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God"
Breathing out: "Have mercy on me, a sinner"
- As you breathe in and out, notice whether your attention is drawn to a particular word or a phrase. For example, you might notice the phrase "Lord Jesus Christ" and this could lead you into a reflection on whether Jesus is the Lord of your life.
- Make sure you are not altering your breathing rate.
- Spend a few moments becoming aware that "Closer He is than breathing, nearer than hands and feet" (Tennyson).
- At the end of your time of prayer, thank God for the time you have spent together.
- Get up slowly.



You can find out more about prayer, ways to pray and watch Rowan Williams' lecture at
<https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/prayer/>





Beach Clean to Mark King's Coronation

For the last two summers, Shore to Shore has brought together people from across our coastal Mission Areas to litter-pick on the beach. This year to celebrate the King's Coronation in May, the Archbishop of Wales will be following the example of Shore to Shore, by spending a couple of hours picking up litter, as part of *The Big Help Out*, organized by the Together Coalition. Teulu Asaph caught up with Archbishop Andrew John (right) to find out more.

So Archbishop why are you opting to spend the extra bank holiday doing this?

Well, it's wonderful to have an extra bank holiday and I want to make full use of it. As Archbishop my diary is packed to the brim with meetings, committees and, of course, church services. One thing I don't get much time for these days is volunteering. Yet being in the Church I am acutely aware of how valuable our volunteers are – we are blessed with so many and we really rely on them to help keep our churches functioning, as well as our foodbanks, community hubs and raft of social projects. They are truly amazing and we are very grateful for all they do.

There's a secret volunteers have that not many people know and it's this: when you give freely, you always get more back in return. That's why volunteering is such an amazing gift to celebrate, why giving is such an important part of our Christian faith and why *The Big Help Out* festival is the perfect way to mark our King's Coronation.

You've opted to volunteer at a beach clean at Dinas Dinlle in Caernarfon Bay. Bit out-of-season isn't it?

Not at all! I love being outside, whatever the weather, and spending time at beaches all through the year, so this is a way of combining something I enjoy with

something that will benefit others – I think that's the key to successful volunteering. In actual fact, early May is the ideal time to clean beaches. The winter and spring storms will – hopefully – have passed so we will be collecting the debris left just in time for the arrival of holiday-makers in the summer.

What will you do with the litter you collect?

We will ensure we dispose of it responsibly. That means recycling as much as we can so that it doesn't end up back on the coastline.

Sounds like it could be a fun and productive day. Can anyone join in?

Absolutely! We're meeting at the first carpark at Dinas Dinlle on May 8 and will clean the beach from 10am-12pm. Make sure you come prepared for the weather and bring sturdy waterproof boots and strong gardening gloves for picking up litter.

Or how about organising your own beach clean near where you live? If you want to do that or take part in any other volunteer programme for *The Big Help Out*, have a look at the website where you can see what's going on and register your event. Let's make it a memorable way to mark the new King's reign!



For more information or to sign up visit
<https://thebighelpout.org.uk>





'Well-singing Quoristers': The Early Years of St Asaph Cathedral Choir

Nowadays we sometimes take for granted the skilled singing of our cathedral choir. But have you ever wondered what music you might have heard in St Asaph Cathedral in earlier centuries? Revd Dr Sally Harper from Denbigh Mission Area looks back.

An early witness to music in our cathedral was John Pecham, Archbishop of Canterbury, who made a visitation of all the Welsh cathedrals in 1284. He reported that St Asaph (already severely damaged by English soldiers) was in a particularly bad state. Worship was slapdash, with long-haired clerics dressed inappropriately in striped cloaks, with bare legs. Pecham decreed that from then on, all beneficed priests of the cathedral were to chant the daily office reverently ('cum cantu et reuerentia'), following the form of liturgy used in the English cathedrals.

A period of rebuilding followed, and by 1336 two daily masses were being sung in the new chapel on the south side of the cathedral, one for Our Lady and one for the dead. The celebrated Welsh bard Iolo Goch (c.1325-c.1398) evidently appreciated the music he heard here. One of his poems describes how well the bishop sang the psalms, while another recalls a pleasant dinner enjoyed in the episcopal palace after a 'lovely brilliant Mass', sung by 'mean, treble, quatreble ... and constant bourdon, lovely tune' (Offeren fawr hoff eirian/ A gawn, a hynny ar gân./ mên, trebl, chwatrebl, awch atreg./ A byrdwn cyson, tôn teg').

The cathedral's daily repertory is suggested by an inventory of goods supposedly presented to the bishop, dean and chapter by Edward, the Black Prince (d. 1376). This lists many fine books for the liturgy, including five Graduals (with all the choir chants needed for Mass) and several Pontificals for the bishop's use. Sadly, these books are all lost, though a handsome notated Pontifical (copied c. 1320) surviving from Bangor diocese hints at their musical content.



How large was the body of singers in medieval St Asaph?

A will of 1382 mentions six vicars choral (professional cathedral singers), four minor vicars, chaplains, boy choristers and a sacrist, though modest expansion perhaps followed. Another document requires the dean and two of the prebendaries to find three priests to join the existing vicars choral: they needed to sing well and be 'expert in their art'. Two of the other prebendaries were similarly tasked with finding two 'well-singing' boy 'quoristers', and most significantly, the archdeacon of St Asaph was to identify a priest or layman who could sing well and play the organ.

As in other cathedrals, things declined sharply with the Reformation, and a St Asaph return of 1560 lists just four vicars choral. The liturgical climate was also soon to change in favour of preaching. An episcopal visitation of 1624 specifies that any cleric who failed to show up when it was his turn on the rota would be fined 13s. 4d. – a sum to be 'divided among the Quire for their better help and maintenance'. There may have been few singers to benefit by then, but we can imagine all of St Asaph rejoicing at another new development in 1635, when a 'greate and new Organ [was] sett up and plaid upon', having been 'carried thither from London'!

Photo caption (above right): From the rite for burial of a body (Bangor Pontifical, f. 147) © St Deiniol's Cathedral, Bangor, and Bangor University. Reproduced with permission.



Photo caption (right):
Chanting the Rites of the Dead: detail from a Book of Hours, Paris c. 1450 (Wikimedia Commons: public domain)

Photo caption (left): Three singers singing a 'new song' (from The Howard Psalter, c. 1308-c.1340) ©The British Library/Board



New Director of Education

Dr Justine Baldwin has recently been appointed to the new role of Director of Education for North Wales to support the Church in Wales Schools across both the Dioceses of Bangor and St Asaph.

Until the end of February 2023, Justine was headteacher at Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School in Powys. Dr Baldwin (right) said: "I am delighted to have taken up the DDE role and am excited to be working with all 66 schools across the dioceses. After a career lasting 29 years in primary school, and 10 of those years as a headteacher, I know how hard it is to be working in education, especially at the moment, and I feel it is a privilege to be working with such a

wonderful group of professionals across our schools. Although my role covers a wide area, I hope that I will be able to visit all our Church schools very soon to meet the staff and pupils."

The diocesan education team is working hard to identify areas where support is most needed for our schools, and so a questionnaire has been sent out which should take only a few moments to complete. This will show the areas of greatest concern and allow the team to target support across both Dioceses most effectively. If you haven't already, please support the education team by completing the questionnaire using the links to the right.



English questionnaire:
<https://forms.office.com/e/1CsQByBa4Z>

Welsh questionnaire:
<https://forms.office.com/e/3Q3Q2UyfE8>

CRAMP Funding – are you eligible?



CRAMP (Capital Repair and Maintenance Programme) is financial assistance provided by the Welsh Government for Voluntary Aided schools. Responsibility for the provision, repair and maintenance of a VA School is shared between the school governors and the Local Authority. The Governors are responsible for the external fabric of the school.

The LA is responsible for repair and maintenance and for the initial provision of the kitchen, dining hall, medical inspection room, caretaker's house and playing fields. CRAMP funding is specifically for capital repair and maintenance items which are deemed governors' responsibility. The grant covers 85% of the costs of the Governors approved expenditure, with the

governors themselves required to meet the remaining 15%.

Examples of some of the 2022-23 CRAMP funded projects:

- CCTV installation
- fencing (school buildings)
- outdoor learning canopies
- replacement double glazing

How to apply for CRAMP funding

The budget runs each year from 1 April to 31 March. Head teachers will be contacted by the Diocesan CRAMP Officer, Ceri Jones, and asked to complete and submit a Planned Works Form detailing projects eligible for CRAMP funding. The applications are prioritised and the budget allocated. **For further information, email Ceri at cerijones@cinw.org.uk.**

Photo caption (above): St Paul's School, Isycoed, commissioned a Cloister Garden which was 85% funded through CRAMP.

The Romans in Chirk



Learners from Chirk Pentre VC School have been working to understand the impact of the Roman occupation in AD 43 on Wales and the World. The clergy and volunteers of St Mary's Church in Chirk are supporting the children's understanding of Jesus' life and the life of the early church in Roman times.

Revd Matt Wilkinson is helping the children answer their big question: 'How did the life of Jesus and the early Church in Rome influence the traditions of the Christian Church



today?' To help with their enquiry the children recently spent time at the Church, creating Easter Gardens, ringing the bells in the ancient belltower and even had a numeracy task searching for perpendicular and parallel lines. The children discovered a Roman soldier in the stained-glass window and found out about the changes made to St Mary's Church during the reigns of Henry VIII and Queen Victoria.

Support for Young Carers Praised

Work to support young carers in Welshpool Church in Wales School has been praised during a visit by a Welsh Government minister. Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan, visited Welshpool in February and praised the school's Recognising the rights of Young Carers scheme. Welshpool CinW Primary School has always recognised the rights of young carers, but during the Covid pandemic it found that some pupils had still not been identified as fulfilling this role by staff. To address this, and to help provide support, the school appointed a member of staff to act as a young carers' champion. One of the school's young carers, Luca (seen below with the Deputy Minister), was amongst a group who welcomed the Minister.



Your News / Eich Newyddion Chi

World Day of Prayer in Llangollen



Seven churches and chapels in Llangollen joined together for a bilingual service for the World Day of Prayer in March, reports Susan Stokes, Cytûn representative for St Collen's Church. The service was prepared by Christian women in Taiwan and told of their stories through difficult times. Holy Cross Catholic Church in the town was decorated with colour and orchids for the telling of the stories.



Happy Birthday George

Happy Birthday to George (above) from Mostyn Church who celebrated his 90th birthday on 25 January. George still looks after the churchyard at Mostyn spending hours cutting the grass and making sure the grounds are tidy. His Church friends sent him birthday wishes and thanked him for his continued dedication in keeping the grounds in top condition.



Making Waves in Offa



A dance group with a difference is meeting twice a month in St John's Church in Rhosymedre.

All the dancers have additional needs and gave a performance in Chirk Parish Hall as part of a community show in December. The photograph shows Stephen, Catrin and Matthew along with Michael Wall their dance teacher and Revd Yvonne Pryce from Offa Mission Area. The group received grant funding from the diocese.

Hygiene Packs in Rhyl

St Ann's Church in Rhyl has joined with St Thomas' Church and the local Mothers' Union branch to provide hygiene packs to all the town's schools.

Teachers will be able to give out the packs to families in need. Packs are also being given to

the Domestic Violence Support Unit and Denbighshire County Council for distribution. Items for the £25 hygiene packs have been provided with money given by church members along with products donated by Morrisons Rhyl.



Carols for Transition



St John the Baptist Church Bettisfield had a practically full church for its Carol Service with The Wrexham Salvation Army Band and Songsters, writes Maggie Shaw, Worship Leader.

Despite it being a slightly poignant time as we transition from a place of regular worship to a Pilgrim

Church, there was no sadness simply lots of love and fellowship. The service included traditional and unusual carols and readings telling the story of our Lord's birth. Mince pies and a glass of wine were served along with lots of chat to follow.

Welcomers for St Asaph Cathedral

St Asaph Cathedral is recommencing welcoming in the Cathedral after Easter and is seeking new volunteers to join the rota. This role involves

welcoming visitors to the Cathedral, handing them a self-guided tour sheet and take-home booklet and answering questions such as "Are dogs allowed?" (Yes). "Is the cafe open?" "Are there toilets?" If you are interested in becoming a Welcomer (some minimal training will be arranged), please contact Jackie Feak (jackiefeak@cinw.org.uk / 01745 532597) and she will put you in touch with the co-ordinator.

JOIN US FOR ECO FEST 2023



Saturday 10 June at St Mary's Churchyard, Chirk
11am – 3pm



Drumming workshops, bushcraft activities, outdoor worship, forest church, face-painting, refreshments, nature trails and counts, arts, stalls and stands, information and much more!

Come along and take the next step on
your Eco-Journey.

This year, Eco-Fest coincides with the Church Count on Nature
organised by Arocha UK and Caring for God's Acre.

Find out more at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/eco-church/>