

TEULU ASAPH

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

CONNECTING OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

SUMMER 2023 | HAF 2023



Following God's Call
Dilyn Galwad Duw

FREE | AM DDIM



From the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of *Teulu Asaph* as we look ahead with hope, to plenty of seasonal sunshine and warmth.

In this edition, we are hearing from people following God's call to serve as deacons, priests and licensed lay ministers. There is information about all those being ordained and licensed this summer by Bishop Gregory. Plus, there's news on forthcoming spirituality events, a look at the welcome received by our newest Archdeacon, Hayley, and a taste of some of the best posts you may have missed on social media recently.

If you have news, interesting events, exciting activities taking place over the summer, please

share them with me so I can include them in the next edition. You may have plans taking shape for Christmas too, and it is always helpful to use *Teulu Asaph* to invite people to come along, rather than show them what they have missed!

Details of how to send me news, photographs, articles and information is just here – I look forward to hearing from you.



Karen

Karen Maurice, Editor

karenmaurice@cinw.org.uk

07918 133420

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



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The cover image depicts those being ordained as deacon and priests by the Bishop of St Asaph this year, along with those being licensed as Pastoral Chaplains.

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Bishop's Word / Gair gan yr Esgob

“For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11.29)

I take both comfort and inspiration from this text. Paul is writing to the early Church in Rome to explain the Gospel message he preaches, but in three chapters, Romans 9-11, he wrestles with the question that if the Jews are God's chosen people, how could they reject the one God sent to be the Messiah?

You'll have to read Paul's argument for yourself, but in this confident verse Paul argues that God will never give up on his people. In the same way, God gives us gifts – abilities and aptitudes that show up in our lives – and calls us to do great things for him with them. There are times when we can wonder where our gifts have gone, or feel that we've lost our call, but, says Paul, once God gives, he never takes back. We can rely on his faithfulness.

Last month we saw the splendid ritual of the Coronation. This month we will see seven candidates offer themselves to God to become deacons, and four candidates to become priests. Next month, we will see members of our diocesan family licensed for new lay ministries. All these services will be remarkably similar, a candidate humbly offers him or herself to God, God promises his grace to uphold, direct and support them. The gifts for ministry have been discerned in all of our candidates – and the call of God. They will have to hold on to God's promise that they are gifted and called when things get tough, and know that his call and his gifts are never taken back.

“Dydy Duw ddim yn cymryd ei roddion yn ôl nac yn canslo ei alwad.” (Rhufeiniaid 11.29)

Mae'r adnod hon yn gysur ac yn ysbrydoliaeth i mi. Mae Paul yn ysgrifennu at yr Eglwys fore yn Rhufain i egluro neges yr Efengyl y mae'n ei phregethu. Fodd bynnag, mewn tair pennod, Rhufeiniaid 9-11, mae'n ymgodymu â chwestiwn penodol – os mai'r Iddewon ydi pobl etholedig Duw, sut allen nhw wrthod y Meseia a anfonwyd gan Dduw?

Bydd raid i chi ddarllen ymresymiad Paul dros och eich hunan, ond yn yr adnod hyderus hon mae Paul yn dadlau na fydd Duw byth yn troi ei gefn ar ei bobl. Yn yr un modd, mae Duw yn rhoi rhoddion i ni – galluoedd a doniau sy'n ymddangos yn ein bywydau – ac yn galw amon ni i'w defnyddio i wneud pethau gwych drosto. Ar adegau, gallwn feddwl bod y rhoddion a gawsom wedi diflannu, neu deimlo ein bod wedi colli ein galwad ond, meddai Paul, unwaith y bydd Duw yn rhoi, dydi o byth yn cymryd yn ôl. Gallwn ddiwynnu ar ei ffyddlondeb.

Fis diwethaf, mi welson ni ddefod fawreddog Coroni'r Brenin, a'r mis hwn cawn weld saith ymgeisydd yn cyflwyno'u hunain i Dduw i fod yn ddiaconiaid, a phedwar ymgeisydd i fod yn offeiriaid. Fis nesaf, fe welwn aelodau o deulu'r esgobaeth yn cael eu trwyddedu ar gyfer gweinidogaethau llewy newydd. Bydd yr holl wasanaethau hyn yn rhyfeddol o debyg – mae ymgeiswyr yn cyflwyno eu hunain yn ostyngedig i Dduw ac mae Duw yn addo rhoi ei ras i'w cynnal, eu cyfarwyddo a'u cefnogi. Gwelwyd tystiolaeth o roddion ar gyfer y weinidogaeth – a galwad Duw – ym mywydau pob un o'n hymgeiswyr. Pan fydd y gwaith yn anodd, bydd rhaid iddyn nhw ddal eu gafael yn dynn yn addewid Duw bod ganddyn nhw ddoniau a'u bod wedi cael eu galw, a gwybod nad yw Duw byth yn cymryd ei ddoniau yn ôl nac yn canslo'i alwad.

Over the summer, 13 people who are following God's call will be ordained or licensed by the Bishop of St Asaph. Seven new deacons will be ordained and four new priests. In addition, two people will be licensed as Pastoral Chaplains. *Teulu Asaph* asked all the candidates to introduce themselves. You can find out more about those being ordained as priest and licensed as Pastoral Chaplains on page 8.

Seven New Deacons

The seven new deacons being ordained at St Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 24 June are:



Emma Dale, who will serve in the Alyn Mission Area

I was born in St Asaph 48 years ago and have lived in Shotton ever since. Prior to training, I was a School Business Manager at a large local high school in Connah's Quay, which was a very different way to serve my local community.

I'm excited to be moving to Brymbo, another place which has a proud history of steel making. I'm looking forward to the opportunity of sharing and showing God's love to the communities of Brymbo, Coedpoeth and Southsea.



Ana Davies, who will serve in the Alyn Mission Area

I am 27 years old and from Bodelwyddan originally but now live in Wrexham. I first heard God's call in 2014 but ignored it until 2016 when I could avoid it no longer and God made his plans super clear. At the time I was a PA and a Care Navigator for a GP Surgery.

Now, I'm looking forward to serving God in the way he intended for me which I think will include working with those who are marginalised. I feel called to deliverance ministry and have tailored my degree and current Masters course towards this subject. I look forward to exploring it more in years to come.



Gwen Dixon, who will serve in the Tanat Vyrnwy Mission Area

I am from St Helens in Merseyside originally but now live in Four Crosses in Powys. After hearing God's call to me at the age of 16, I developed tuberculosis and spent the next two years in hospital. The second time I was planning to start training, I slipped and fell in the snow while taking my sons to school and developed spondylitis, a debilitating back condition. During my working life, I was a comptometer operator before the days of computers and worked for a safety glass company. When we moved to Wales, I worked for BGB as a staff trainer. I am so blessed to finally be entering into the service of God. I truly believe God is looking after me and I can do the work God requires of me.



Hugh Richardson, who will serve at Hope Street in Wrexham

I am moving from southwest London to serve in Hope Street in Wrexham, along with my wife and three daughters. I have been studying Theology at St Mellitus College and doing my placement at St John's in Hampton Wick near Kingston Upon Thames. Before training, I spent 20 years running a painting and decorating business when I felt God calling me into full-time church ministry.



Kathryn Hall, who will serve in the Estuary and Mountain Mission Area

I am 52 years old. I was born and brought up in Yoxall, Staffordshire then moved to Chester for my nurse training which is where I met my husband, Robert. We now live in Colwyn Bay and have three grown up children.

I first heard God's call about 15 years ago during a retreat in St Bueno's. During the closing Eucharist, I had a profound sense of the real presence of God alongside the thought of what a great privilege it is to serve Christ in this way. The return thought was 'well you can do that' and therein began a long journey of exploration and discernment.

Prior to ordination training, I was a Registered Nurse predominantly working in theatre and intensive care but more recently in community nursing and as a disability assessor.

I am really looking forward to my curacy, to getting to know the community and seeing what God has in store for my ministry.



Cass Meurig Thomas, who will serve in the Valle Crucis Mission Area

I am from Beverley in East Yorkshire originally and moved to Wales after learning Welsh at Cambridge University while studying Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. I went on to do a PhD at Bangor University in music. I now live in Bala with my husband and three teenage children.

I first heard God's call through reading Isaiah 6 in 2011 when I was living near Llanberis. The passage came alive for me and I felt I had to say 'Here I am, send me.' My life was never the same again! After that, Bible verses about priesthood kept leaping off the page at me, I had a recurring vision of myself in clerical clothes, and the conviction grew in prayer that this was God's call. Initially I trained as an Evangelist but I returned to train for the priesthood in 2021.

Before the call to ministry, I worked as a musician playing and recording Welsh traditional music as a soloist and in bands. Since I gave up my secular music career, I have been writing Christian songs and setting liturgy to Welsh folk tunes.

I am currently working in the Ceiriog Valley as a lay Interim Minister and what excites me most is pioneering and evangelism. I see a lot of potential for it and some good things happening in the Church in Wales at the moment. It's a time to get creative!



Pam Hallam Wedley, who will serve in the Offa Mission Area

I am 62 years old and was born in Southsea in Wrexham. I still live nearby in Gwersyllt. I've never had a passport and don't like travelling but my favourite place to stay and relax (weather permitting) is the swing in my garden. I have two sons and I am blessed to be "Naini Pam" to my precious grandson. I am lucky to be part of a big family (25 of us!) and we all live within three miles of each other and see each other almost every day!! (Thankfully we all get on very well.)

I felt a call from God in my early 50's and following my retirement three years ago, I felt able to act on the call. I am looking forward to meeting new people, perhaps getting involved in work with schools in my curacy and working alongside the team to support the people in the community. I am learning British Sign Language and enjoy making cakes.

Later in the year, **Wendy Gardiner** will be ordained as a deacon to serve in the Cedewain Mission Area. Wendy's ordination will take place on Sunday 26 November at All Saints Church in Newtown.



The First 100 days



Members of the Offa Mission Area Team with Archdeacon Hayley



Earlier this year, a new Archdeacon was appointed to Wrexham. The Venerable Dr Hayley Matthews (above, centre) moved from the Diocese of Leeds with her two children to take up the post. Here, after (roughly!) 100 days in the role, she reflects on the welcome.

In the Musical, *Rent*, the finale song is *Seasons of Love*. It opens with a count of 'five hundred, twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes', the length of a year, with a challenge as to how we actually measure our time. Is it in 'daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee? In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife?; 'in truth that she learned, or in times that he cried? In the bridges he burned, or the way that she died?' all summarized in that well-known chorus, 'How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love.'

I have been struck by the loving kindness I have experienced and witnessed since arriving in Wrexham and starting work. From Pam Powell's team in Offa Mission Area warmly welcoming me to my Grandfather's Church in Ruabon for my first Sunday as Archdeacon of Wrexham, to Dave's welcome to the food club in St Mark's on Caia Park (top, right) as Jonathan introduced me to Wrexham Mission Area. From Ryan and Rob weeping for joy over Wrexham's triumphant goal, to Andy and Rachel hosting an ecumenical prayer evening for Wrexham at Hope Street. From Andy Jones and her team in Borderlands, looking at post-pandemic mission and ministry in both rural and industrial contexts that will serve their communities, to Sue and the Mission Area team in Maelor, whose historic churches include some of the seven wonders of Wales (four of which I believe are in our Diocese, and three in my Archdeaconry, but I'm not boasting). Mold Mission Area is busy training to better serve their communities, whilst Huw works hard to ensure Alyn Mission Area enables a Christian presence in every community.

Amidst all this, are plans to make buildings warm, welcoming and user-friendly for the communities they serve. Many of our laity are exercising their own discipleship from roles as diverse as caretakers to Mission Area Leaders; from Worship Leaders to *Open the Book* teams in schools. People's commitment to Christ both in and beyond the Church has been evident. Grace, mercy, reaching out, bringing in, welcome, warmth and support for one another for the people we serve have all been evident, along with a desire to grow in our discipleship, learning to be better able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those we serve and those we meet. I also know that prayer is underway as the undergirding force which brings us not only into deeper relationship with God through Jesus, our Risen Lord, but when we join together we become a force for God, not only good. I wonder what this next season will bring in terms of new life, resurrection and lives changed?

The song *Seasons of Love* ends with the words 'It's time now, to sing out, though the story never ends, let's celebrate, remember a year in the life of friends'. This reminds me so powerfully of the words of Jesus when the religious elite are deriding Mary for her outpouring of precious perfume over Jesus' feet; 'the poor you will have with your always', He says, reminding us that the season of God's love is here and now, and will never end; the season of love.



Paul Whittaker and Revd Jeremy Dussek, Maelor Mission Area



End Food Poverty in Wales

Every church in the diocese is invited to find out how they can help tackle food poverty in Wales. A conference is taking place in St Asaph Cathedral on Tuesday 4 July in partnership with Well-Fed, a Shotton based social enterprise, to look at how churches can be hubs for good food in their community. The conference will include the launch of a new 'Meals on Wheels' service, which aims to bring people together using fresh meals providing the opportunity to



eat well and cook easily at home. The service makes good food affordable to everyone. You can register for the conference which is free and includes lunch at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/real-meals-on-wheels-tickets-625553526437

Membership App Roll-out

St Asaph Diocese is on course to become the first in Wales to record its membership figures online. The new Membership App was rolled out at the end of April and since then Mission Areas across the diocese have been given access to it. The Membership App has been created to allow Mission Areas and churches to enter weekly congregation data online, providing a real-time record of people

engaging with church in some way. It aims to support the hard work done by all churches and Mission Areas and will indicate the wide range of ministry activity underway. The data received will help in the allocation of effort and resources to new projects and initiatives. You will find help and advice on our website at www.dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/membership.

New Diocesan Secretary

A new diocesan secretary for St Asaph has been appointed to lead the Diocesan Office team.

Olwen Lintern-Smyth (below), a fluent Welsh speaker, was born and brought up in mid-Wales, before moving to Oxford for University and then a career in publishing. Olwen will begin in post on 3 July and will be commissioned to the role during a service at St Asaph Cathedral on Sunday 16 July. The Bishop of St Asaph, the Rt Revd Gregory Cameron said: "We are delighted to announce Olwen's appointment to this vital role in our diocesan life. Olwen is coming home to Wales and brings with her a lively faith and a breadth of skills that will make her an asset to our team."



Online Energy Calculator

Churches across the diocese are being asked to measure their carbon footprint using a new online tool. The Energy Footprint Tool is a quick and easy way for churches to find out how much carbon they use each year, helping them plan action to reduce and offset it. Clerics and volunteers can input data from their annual energy bills and the tool instantly calculates the carbon footprint of their church. With such baseline information, plans can

be made locally to encourage mitigation measures for each church in context, while high energy users can be identified and targeted for further help. Each church should have received a unique password, via email from the Church's Climate Change Champion, Dr Julia Edwards, to enable them to register and use the Energy Footprint Tool. Once they have that, they can access the Tool and submit their information.

Find the Energy Footprint Tool at <https://.eft-wales.parishreturns.info/>



Four new priests will be ordained at St Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 1 July and they are:



Alyson Goldstein, who will continue to serve in the Denbigh Mission Area

I am originally from Pontllanfraith in South Wales but I now live in Llanbedr D C near Ruthin. I was ordained to the diaconate last year and before that I was a Reader. During my working life, I was involved in education.

My first year as a deacon has gone by so quickly. It's such a privilege to walk alongside people at both the high and low points in their lives and to build relationships both with people who regularly attend church and those on the margins. I feel very fortunate to have spent time with such lovely people in Denbigh Mission Area and I'll really miss them when I return to Dyffryn Clwyd, but I am also looking forward to going back and catching up with everyone there, meeting new faces and ministering there as a priest. Life is wonderfully exciting, and I feel very blessed indeed.



Grace Lomas, who will continue to serve in the Aberconwy Mission Area

I am 28 and grew up in Colwyn Bay with my family. I love Wales - the people, the heritage and the natural beauty, and it's such a joy to be back here having spent time living elsewhere. It's also been wonderful to serve the first year of my curacy in the area which I grew up in - there are many familiar faces and places and it's exciting to see how God continues to bring life to a community over the years. Being able to play a part in that is truly special.

I originally felt called to ministry earlier in my twenties, and from that point it was a journey of trusting the Lord that he would lead me where he wants me to minister and serve. Prior to this I worked for the charity Tearfund, which partners with local churches to bring transformation to communities across the world. Many of the practices I learnt there I have been able to transfer to my ministry here in Wales - giving what little we have to God and allowing him to grow something beautiful and bespoke from it.

My first year of curacy has been thoroughly enjoyable. I felt so welcomed into my church from the very first day. My favourite parts of the role are the variety, seeing our children's ministry come to life and the privilege of being part of such a wonderful family of faith filled people many of whom have been worshipping in Penrhyn Bay long before I was even born!



Dan Morgan, who will continue to serve in the Mold Mission Area

I was a secondary school teacher and an ordained non-conformist minister for a number of years before I started to hear God's call to make my home in the Church in Wales. From 2018, I combined training for the priesthood with my job as a secondary school science teacher. Since my teenage years, I have lived in the Holywell area, but I am now based in the vicarage in Northop. I enjoy heading to the mountains with my bivvy-bag to hike and sleep under the stars.

I have appreciated the welcome and support I have been given by the congregations as well as the opportunity to explore ways of reaching out to and connecting with the communities we serve. I am looking forward to seeing momentum build in the work we are doing in the Mold Mission Hub.



This year's priests, Marcus, Grace, Alyson and Dan, were ordained as deacons last year, alongside distinctive deacon, Revd Gareth Williams (second from left).



Marcus Pipe, who will continue to serve in the Wrexham Mission Area

I was born in Sussex and now live in Horseman's Green near Bangor-on-Dee. I am an IT Director and first heard God's call to ordination when driving along the Bangor-on-Dee straight mile, while heading to work! I have been serving my curacy at St Giles' Church in Wrexham and I'm looking forward to presiding at my first Eucharist – it will be an amazing privilege.

I have loved my first year as an ordained minister and have been very happy at St Giles' with the Revd Canon Dr Jason Bray and the team. It's a very happy place!

I am looking forward to serving there as a priest and continuing to enjoy the wonderful worship with our congregations. Any opportunity to share the life-changing message of Jesus in the wider community will be enthusiastically seized!

New Licensed Lay Ministers

On Saturday 15 July, two new Lay Ministers will be licensed by Bishop Gregory during a special service at St Asaph Cathedral. Both Joanne Bowles and Deborah Sawyer have been training to become Pastoral Chaplains.



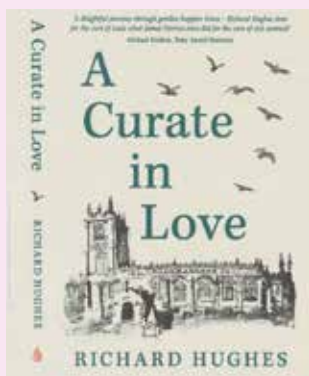
Joanne Bowles, who will serve as a Pastoral Chaplain in Aberconwy Mission Area

I am originally from a small mining village called Thorne in South Yorkshire. My grandad was from Wrexham and moved to Yorkshire to work in the mines. I now live in Llandudno where I work as a learning disability registered nurse and as a homeless prevention project worker for a charity called NACRO in Colwyn Bay. I play guitar and write my own songs and poems and can often be heard singing really loudly with my headphones on while walking around the Great Orme! Looking ahead I am most excited about how God will use me in His kingdom here on earth, and really hope and pray that I hear him correctly!!

Deborah Sawyer, who will serve as a Pastoral Chaplain in Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area.

Two new books have recently been published which may be of interest to readers of *Teulu Asaph*. The first is a book by the former vicar of Llansilin, Revd Richard Hughes who remembers his early days in ministry. The review of his book is offered by **Jeffrey Olstead, church warden at St Silin in the Tanat-Vyrnwy Mission Area.**

Love in a Mold climate



For a naive young curate fresh from theological college arriving in Mold in the 1950s was to say the least a culture shock. Apart from the irascible vicar, there was also the flock of predatory young ladies who set their sights on a handsome curate;

at least they swelled the numbers in the pews. And then there were the teddy boys who, having trashed the youth club, met their match in the local boxing champion.

The Reverend Richard Hughes, who ended his ministry as vicar of Llansilin, and lives there in retirement, has produced an enthralling and delightfully humorous picture of Mold as it was more than 60 years ago. It is a story full of rich characters, extraordinary anecdotes

and some interesting theological observations.

Richard was born into an ecclesiastical family. His father, also Richard, was vicar of Cilcain when his son entered the ministry. Richard himself subsequently became a vicar choral and minor canon of St Asaph Cathedral before becoming vicar of Towyn. He taught in England for a while before becoming rector of a parish on the banks of the Thames where the poorest resident could probably have bought Mold lock-stock-and-barrel. After 'retiring' to Gascony he ended his career, at the age of 80, as a much-loved vicar of Llansilin.

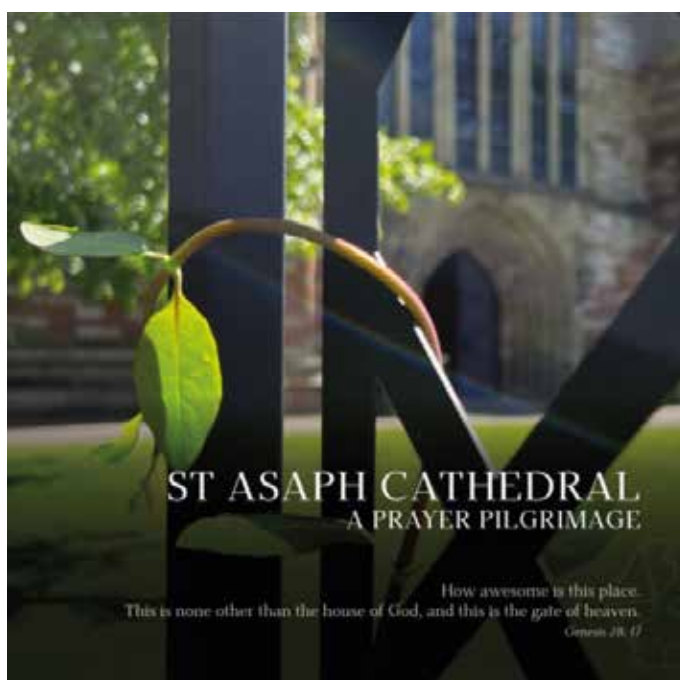
His last sermon was preached at St Dogfan's church in Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, where his father had been vicar many years before and also preached his final sermon.

Copies of *A Curate in Love* are available on Amazon or from Richard at millreer@icloud.com for £9.99 plus p&p.

Cathedral Pilgrimage

A new book offering a spiritual pilgrimage around St Asaph Cathedral is now available. It is a collaboration between the Cathedral Canon for Communication, John Liston and the Diocesan Director of Spirituality, Revd Dr Sally Harper.

The 24-page booklet offers a route to be walked around the cathedral with suggested prayers, reflections and beautiful photographs. In the words of Bishop Gregory, this is 'something of beauty and of value ... that I hope will aid you in your visit to this holy place'. The book is available in either English or Welsh. You can buy your copy in person from the Translators' Tearoom or order it by emailing stasaphspirituality@cinw.org.uk. You can find payment details at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/prayer/>





Exploring Wholeness and Healing



A day dedicated to healing is to take place at St Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 9 September. It is being run by the Diocesan Spirituality Group and one of its members, Revd Linda Mary Edwards explains why they are focusing on wholeness and healing.

Wholeness and healing can be a very neglected part of the Gospel, and why would we want to omit an essential component of the Good News? Jesus gave the disciples a clear mandate to heal the sick (Matthew 10:8) and a large part of His ministry demonstrated God's passionate desire to bring healing and wholeness to people.

But how many of our churches offer the laying on of hands, anointing and prayer for healing? Yet St James says: 'Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.' (James 5:14)

The Healing and Wholeness event organised by the Diocesan Spirituality Group this September is an opportunity to find out more about healing ministry, to benefit from it on the day, and to be encouraged to practise it. We have called it 'Exploring Wholeness and Healing' because Healing Ministry has a much wider concern than individual recovery from physical illness. It includes mental health, spiritual health and the healing of communities.

Our guest speaker will be Revd Katy Hacker Hughes, who is Priest Pastor of Marylebone Parish Church in the Diocese of London. Here there is a thriving healing ministry for which the church is well known. As Katy said in an initial conversation: 'It's free, it's a gift of grace and it's what Jesus told us to do.'

There will be two main talks with lots of space for Q&A

Katy will speak in the morning about her experience at Marylebone Church and its tradition of wholeness, healing and deliverance.

I, as both a priest and a Jungian analyst, will speak in the afternoon about how Jungian ideas of individuation or wholeness correspond to a Christian approach to healing.

There will be small groups and opportunities for spiritual conversations with volunteers trained in spiritual direction. The day will end with a liturgy including anointing and the laying on of hands with prayer for healing.

What the day is not!

It is not promoting an American TV evangelist style of ministry, the 'throw away your crutches' variety.

It is not promoting any split between medical, psychotherapeutic or psychiatric care and prayer for healing.

It is not about cure but about wholeness and healing (which is the root meaning of the English word 'salvation'.)

We are fortunate indeed to have Katy Hacker Hughes with us for the day, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this central feature of Jesus's ministry to which, as Christians, we are all called.

The day will run from 10.30am to 4pm. It is free of charge and you can book through stasaphspirituality@cinw.org.uk or through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-exploring-wholeness-and-healing-tickets-640405850137>



Community Coronation at St Chad's

St Chad's School, Hanmer, celebrated King Charles III's coronation with a community event, writes the

headteacher Nicola Locker. Firstly, the children led an abridged version of the Coronation service with clergy, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, taking a role. The robes were kindly lent to us by St Asaph Education department. The Service included the key events of the Coronation including the King taking the Oath, the presentation of the Holy Bible, orb, spectre and sword. The service also included the children singing a new coronation song and a blessing from our new vicar, Father Jeremy Dussek.

The children designed invitations that were sent to parents and the village of Hanmer. We had over 200 guests in the Church! After the service the children sang

in our amphitheatre and paraded in the crowns they had made at home, which were judged by our Bishop's visitor Mr Andrew Partridge.

We continued in the afternoon with an afternoon tea and lawn games, followed by a presentation of a King Charles Commemorative medal for every pupil presented by Father Jeremy and Lady Hanmer.

Before the day, the children had created a Coronation Garden in Forest School and designed a stained-glass window on the theme of the King and Christianity. Both have been displayed in St Chad's Church as it was a project set up by Father Jeremy for the Church Schools in the Cluster.

It was a truly historic, memorable day that the children were able to celebrate.

Asaph 1450



Teachers and children at Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St Asaph have been exploring the stories and legends of their town as part of the 1450 Asaph Year of Jubilee, writes the Diocesan Schools' Officer, Jennie Downes.

The project has been run with support from the St Asaph Cathedral Education Team with funding from Culham St Gabriel's.

The classes began their enquiry by hearing the story of Kentigern's journey from Scotland to Wales. This led to questions such as: Who was Kentigern? How did he live? What was he escaping from? What was he searching for?

The children in Year 3 spent time exploring the life of the Celtic Saint Kentigern and others who settled and built a 'llan' on the banks of the River Elwy. They learnt that the original settlement was a place where the community worked together to build the place today known as Llanelwy.

Older pupils explored the role of the river and thought about why the Elwy was such an important part of

life in the 6th Century. The legacy of the early settlers is still evident in the names: Kentigern, Asaph, Elwy.

Year 5 have been researching the area and creating information leaflets, whilst Year 6 are working to investigate the difference the life of the 'llan' made to the place we know today as St Asaph / Llanelwy. Their learning journey is prompting them to explore deeper questions around identity and belonging.

The project is being shared at the Culham St Gabriel's Grants Showcase event in June. The work will inform part of the provision offered to schools by St Asaph Cathedral's Education Team.

Caru Creadigaeth

Teachers, youth workers, school governors, bishop's visitors and many others who work in church schools will be taking part in Caru Creadigaeth at St Asaph Cathedral in July. More than

120 people have been invited for the training day based on environmental themes. Children from four local schools are leading the worship for the day. Among the speakers are

the Bishop of St Asaph, creative artist and musician Dai Woolridge and archaeologist Professor Harold Mytum from Liverpool University.



Rural Round-Up



Our Rural Life Advisor (RLA), Revd Hermione Morris will be providing a regular feature in Teulu Asaph updating you on her work across the diocese and news on what is coming up.

A little like a farmer's work I've discovered, the role of Diocesan RLA is one of numerous and varied activities. Here are some of the things I've been doing recently:

- **Visiting rural and part-rural Mission Areas** as I learn more about how rurality manifests in the differing contexts, locality and geography across the diocese.
- **Going to Welshpool Livestock Sales** regularly, in my capacity as a volunteer chaplain with Farming Community Network (FCN). There we aim to "walk" alongside farmers and their families, as well as the market auctioneers and other staff, being a visible, Godly presence there, we hope.
- **Annual training for the chaplaincy team to the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanelwedd**, as we prepare to offer this service at all their events, large and small.
- **Online meetings with my Provincial RLA colleagues** across Wales, to worship and pray together, catch-up and discuss matters common to us all.
- Committee meetings for the **Agricultural Chaplains Association (ACA)**, of which I am a part.



What's coming up?

There'll be agricultural and local shows to attend, including the Royal Welsh Show in July which is always a great day out for visitors! Plus:

- **Rural Mission Sunday to celebrate in July** see the shaded box below for some ideas!
- Working with Archdeacon Barry on the **Diocesan Rural Strategy** after the disruption of the pandemic.
- **Continuing to visit Mission Areas** - please get in touch if I haven't visited you yet.
- **Continuing to build links with agricultural charities** working across the diocese, Province and UK.

Let's Celebrate - Rural Mission Sunday 2023

In July each year, we celebrate Rural Mission Sunday (RMS) – celebrating the rural church, and rural communities.

There are five Sundays in July so you may wish to join together with other churches in your Mission Area (MA) on one of them. In Tanat Vymwy MA, we celebrate Rural Mission Sunday on the fifth Sunday.

Here are some suggestions for Rural Mission Sunday:

- Ask a representative from each rural church in your MA to share what they are celebrating – it may be as simple as being grateful to God that we're still here.
- If you have more urban and/or coastal churches in your MA, why not share what you are doing.
- Have a picnic or a 'bring and share' lunch.
- Think about ways you could bless your local community – maybe a card for local farming families to say you'll be praying for them.
- Support an agricultural charity, like those listed on the diocesan website at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/rural/>, through your monetary offering on this occasion.

Whatever you decide to do, please do celebrate this occasion, and email your pictures and a sentence or two to the Diocesan Communications Officer for inclusion on the website: karenmaurice@cinw.org.uk

Let's share the good news of our rural churches as we celebrate Rural Mission Sunday 2023.

To find out more about Rural Ministry, visit <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/rural/>



Montgomery Food Miles

Montgomery Church in Pool Mission Area hosts a Bring and Share lunch on the 4th Sunday of each month, writes Emma Bailey-Beech. It's open to everyone and is normally well attended. The church's Eco Group saw this captive audience as an opportunity to widen its message.

The group decided to challenge the congregation to think about "Food Miles" and try and make low food mile items to share. Food miles is a bit like "seasonal eating" - it's making the best of what is around locally rather than insisting on eating strawberries at Christmas, for example.

A beautiful poster was created by one of the young members and the competition was on!

Puddings didn't fair quite so well. The sugar, although made with British sugar beet all grown close to the factory, was all the way from Bury St Edmunds. But, the only other option was sugar from cane – which comes from much further afield!

The winning savoury Frittata had a very modest count of just 1 mile, and the joint sweet winners (rhubarb meringue with cream, and an apple crumble) had about 207 and 245 miles respectively. We did have to make some assumptions about miles. Whilst it is fairly easy to find locally sourced items at our weekly market, and British items can be distinguished by the Red Tractor label on produce, it can be harder to find out where they actually came from within the UK. However, we all agreed this was a good start!

Winners went away with some yummy and very local Trefaldwyn Blue cheese, and beer from Monty's brewery.

The Eco-church group are considering their next challenge, but in the meantime, they are encouraging everyone to think about how far their food has travelled to get to them!



Photobombing the Bishops



A regular member of St Mary's congregation in Chirk managed to time a visit to Llandudno to coincide with the meeting of Governing Body and the confirmation of Bishop Mary as the new Bishop of Llandaff.

Catrin Pryce from Offa Mission Area persuaded the Bench of Bishops and leading Church in Wales officials to let her join them for photographs after the Sacred Synod at Holy Trinity Church in Llandudno.

Church Bells celebrate Eva's 100th!

The bells of St Mwrog's Church in Llanfwrog near Ruthin were rung at the end of March to celebrate the 100th birthday of Eva Hartshorn. A birthday party for family and friends was held in the church for the former land army girl and church stalwart. Local bell-ringers Elis, Brian, Ian and David rang 100 rounds of the three ring-able bells to celebrate Eva's birthday.





Abergele Wedding Shop

Clergy, wedding planners and anyone getting married are reminded that the St Kentigern Hospice Shop in Abergele has a floor dedicated to wedding dresses and fashions, including prom dresses, mother of the bride outfits, mens fashions, jewellery, hats and shoes. In this current cost of living crisis and the huge costs of a wedding or prom evening, the preloved outfits will save £££££. Plus, the hospice benefits from every purchase! The shop is open Monday to Friday and people are welcome to call ahead or just pop in.



The best of online!



First Rev Run

St Asaph hosted a special service for bikers in May. Called the Rev Run, the service was created by biker and ordinand, Stuart Dean, who preached the sermon. Stuart also led the ride out after the service which saw the group head out across North Wales.

Coronation Quilt

A beautiful quilt made by members of Meifod community to celebrate the Coronation is on display in the village church. Meifod church is open every day for visitors and people are encouraged to record their comments in the visitors book. The Coronation Quilt will be on display throughout the summer.



Knitting the Easter Story

Llanfair Church and community have knitted the Easter Story! The group originally intended to knit the Last Supper but got carried away and ended up with a knitted Easter Story. The group's creativity has been on display around the church throughout the 50 days of the Easter Season.

Rockets for Jesus at Ascension!!

Bryneglwys Families enjoyed an all-age celebration on Thursday 18 May to mark the ascension of Jesus.



Ascension from Above

The Ascension Day sermon in Denbigh Mission Area was preached from the world-famous pulpit tree in the churchyard of St James' in Nantglyn. The hollowed-out Yew Tree is said to have been used by John Wesley on one occasion. This year, it was Revd Rebecca Sparey-Taylor who ascended the tree steps.



Our Church Schools need you!



The diocesan education team is seeking more Foundation Governors to support our 50 Church Schools. Here, Schools' Officer, Emily Clarke-Jones, explains the role and how you can get involved.

Church schools have a trust deed and an instrument of government which contains an ethos statement laying out the main purposes of the school. While the whole governing body agrees to the ethos statement, foundation governors have a particular responsibility to ensure that the ethos is reflected in all aspects of school governance, the Christian character of the school is preserved and developed, and that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed.

The Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body plays an important role in developing the core strategic function of the school and a general responsibility for strategic leadership meaning that they set the vision, aims and objectives for the school. Achieving the aims and objectives is supported by:

- Developing policies
- Setting targets
- Reviewing progress

Role of a School Governor

Specific qualifications are not required to be a governor, however the following are important:

- A commitment to regularly attend meetings of the governing body and any committees to which you are appointed
- A desire to raise the standards of education within the school
- A willingness to share skills and expertise for the benefit of the governing body and the school

Who can be a Foundation Governor?

Foundation Governors are identified by the local church in consultation with the Headteacher and the Mission Area Leader. Nominations must be recommended by the Mission Area Conference (Trustee Board) and are appointed by the Diocesan Board of Statutory Education. There are no set rules or selection criteria for Foundation Governors. Applicants need not necessarily be a member of the Church in Wales or have experience of working in an educational setting. The MAC will seek applicants with integrity and honesty, who will support and uphold the work of the school as a Church school, providing an excellent experience of education within the context of Christian values.

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor and would like more details regarding vacancies in your area please contact Diocesan Schools' Officer, Emily Clarke-Jones: emilyclarke-jones@cinw.org.uk or contact the Headteacher, your local Vicar or Mission Area Leader.