

# *Newydd*

*The Parish Magazine  
of the Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon*

[www.parishofaberavon.org](http://www.parishofaberavon.org)

*May 2009*

**60p**



# *The Rectorial Parish of Aberavon*

www.parishofaberavon.org

## **The Rector**

883630

The Reverend Nigel Cahill  
The Rectory, Forge Road, Port Talbot SA13 1US

rector@parishofaberavon.org

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892306

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## **The Parish Deacon**

01656 784840

The Reverend Mrs Jane Slennett  
42 Carlton Place, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan, CF36 3ET

deacon@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Benefice Wardens**

Mr Len Jones (also Parish Reader) 898939

ljones@parishofaberavon.org

Mrs Paula Durnell (also Parish Treasurer) 770829

pdurnell@parishofaberavon.org

## **The Parish Secretary**

office hours only

886740

Mrs Denise Tamlyn

## **The Parish Office is open on**

**Mondays**

**from 12pm to 3pm**

**Tuesday**

**from 10am to 1pm**

**Thursday**

**from 12pm to 3pm**

## **Weddings and Baptisms**

To arrange a wedding or baptism please call the Parish Office on a Monday, or Thursday between 12pm and 3pm

## From the Rectory

Last month's magazine proved to be rather controversial in its coverage of the money given to help the medical centre in Gaza. A few people objected to what they considered to be "never ending coverage."

I thought that maybe some facts and figures might help us all understand more about the whole scheme.

In the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic

- ♦ 33,793 children were registered
- ♦ 20,137 mothers were registered
- ♦ 5609 mothers were receiving antenatal care
- ♦ This was the only pharmacy serving a population of 70,000

A new activity for 2009 was to have been emergency nutrition and health response for vulnerable children, helping to identify and treat malnourished and anaemic cases, and the promotion of health awareness in the community.



This is what it looked like before the bombing.

And this is what it looked like when the bombing stopped.

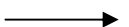


The Jubilee Fund was established by the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in April 2000, with the aim of:

- marking the Millennium by creating a Church in Wales Fund attracting new money for funding overseas projects supported by their local churches;
- responding to the 1998 Lambeth Conference resolutions concerning economic justice and the funding of international development programmes.

The Fund has raised over £250,000 and supported 11 projects worldwide. At present only the Church in Wales funds the Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic, and is assisting the Near East Council of Churches in restocking and rebuilding the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic.

Can you imagine a town three times the size of Port Talbot with no



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health centre and one pharmacy?

I truly believe that this is important work, and that is why I wanted to support the idea of Wales' biggest coffee morning, and opened the Rectory on Friday 1st May.

The needs of the world-wide church must not be forgotten amidst the equally compelling needs in our own communities, within our church and our society.

I am enormously grateful for the support given to USPG through the Lent boxes, and although at the time of writing I am unable to give you a precise figure I do hope to have the results of the giving from each church within the next week or so. If you have still not returned your Lent box, please bring it in as soon as you can.

I keep on repeating that we cannot afford to be inward looking: we must look out if we are to secure the future for Christ, and attract people to him by living our lives in accord with his example or service to others as well as to God.

It was to meet another great need - that of the European people trying to rebuild their lives after fleeing the communists in 1945 - that the British Churches set up what has become ***Christian Aid***.

Since then the organisation has been responsible for helping millions of people throughout the world, in all sorts of ways, working through the local church communities to ensure aid is received by those who most need it. Christian Aid does not give aid to governments, but to the local church networks.

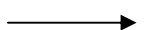
*A history of Christian Aid appears on pages 25 to 27*

Each year, in May, Christian Aid launches an appeal to the churches of Britain to help it raise money to continue its work.

Sometimes people complain that organisations like Christian Aid spend too much on administration and not enough on aid itself.

The Annual Accounts of Christian Aid shows that it spends 1p per pound on administration, 19p per pound on raising funds and publicity, 47p per pound on long-term development projects in the Third World, 18p per pound on emergency relief and 15p per pound on advocacy and education projects. So for every £1 received 80p is spent on aid activities, 1p on staff and 19p to raise more money.

That's quite an efficient operation! Will you support the work of Christian Aid, please? And are you



prepared to collect house to house to invite other people to help in this important Christian work?

Year on year the number of willing volunteers wishing to help in the door to door collection is declining. People have all sorts of reasons why they don't want to take part. Some just don't like asking for money; others are afraid of abuse by the householder on the doorstep; others are too busy; some are not interested.

One of the huge benefits of a door to door campaign is that it raises awareness of the organisation, and the work undertaken. One of the huge drawbacks is that it only works when people are willing to engage in that work.

One indisputable fact is that Christian Aid Week (this year 10th to 16th May) is the single largest fund raiser Christian Aid has in the entire year. One more supporter in each street would make such a difference to the amount we can raise to help this on-going work.

*With prayers and good wishes*

*Nigel Canice*

Fr Nigel

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## *Condolences*

Hilda Williams, a life long member of the Church at St Agnes' died on 1st April. Her funeral mass was held at St Agnes' on Maundy Thursday.

She had been an enthusiastic and loyal churchwoman all her life, and a keen member of the sewing guild that met on a Tuesday afternoon, even in this her 94th year. The numbers of people attending her funeral mass testified to the affection and esteem in which she was held.

We extend our sympathy to June and her family.

June invited donations in lieu of flowers for the Friends of St Agnes' Church, and we are most grateful to her for this kind gesture.

## *& Thanks*

June writes:

"June, Rachel and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Benefice for their prayers, flowers, cards and words of comfort they received during their sad loss of a dear Mum and Nan. Special thanks to Father Nigel and Father Anthony, they have both been a tower of strength at this time.

Sylvan would also like to express his thanks for the many donations he has received for The Friends of St. Agnes in memory of Hilda.

Finally we are very grateful to the ladies of St. Agnes who organised the refreshments after the funeral. It was a warm and friendly occasion just as my mother would have wished."





## ***Jewellery Demonstration with Cheese and Wine at St Mary's Centre***

The Fun Raising Committee warmly invite everyone to a Jewellery Demonstration with Cheese and Wine on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm at St Mary's Centre. Tickets £3, *first glass of wine included*, available in church. Bring your own Wine.

## ***Quiz with Buffet***

St Agnes Church Social Committee invite you to their Quiz with Buffet on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7 for 7.30 pm. Tickets £3, available from church.

## ***Neighbourhood Watch***

### **Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership**

Welcome to Neighbourhood Watch

### **Are you interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in your area?**

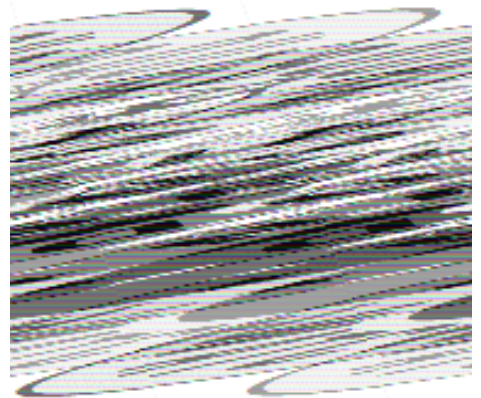
Neighbourhood Watch is one of the biggest and most successful crime prevention initiatives ever. Behind it lies a simple idea, and a central value shared by millions of people around the country:

'Getting together with your neighbours to take action can cut local crime.'

**If so please contact the**

**Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership and speak to either:**

**Lisa Voisey or Colin Jones on 01639 889163**



## **Thanks**

When Barbara and Duncan Roberts celebrated their Golden Wedding at the end of March they asked their friends not to buy them gifts, but to make donations which they would divided between two charities.

As a result, the restoration fund at St Agnes' received £250, and we are most grateful to them for the original idea, and to their friends for their generosity.

## **Easter flowers**

Our thanks also goes to all who made donations towards the cost of Easter flowers and to the church people in all our churches who worked so hard in Holy Week, thus enabling us to celebrate the Easter festival in great style. There was a marked improvement in attendance in Holy Week this year, and at the Easter Vigil, although, sadly, a surprising number of people did not come to church on Easter morning. That said, there were 69 communicants at St. Mary's - more than has been the case for a few years.

Without Easter there is no Christian faith. Something to think about for next year.

## **St Mary's Sponsored Walk**

Everyone is invited to join us on our sponsored walk on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 11 am from the Bar Gallois with lunch after in the Four Winds. If you cannot walk but wish to come please join us in the Four Winds. Sponsor forms are available from the Fun Raising Committee or contact Mrs. Christine Morris on 774982.

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## *New PCC*

At the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 26th April at St Paul's Church the following were confirmed in their election to the Parochial Church Council for 2009/2010:

### **Churchwardens**

Elizabeth Jones & Simon Burton

### **Sub Wardens**

*at St Mary's:*

Len Jones & Jean Maloney

*at St. Agnes':*

Edna Williams & Jeff John

*at St Paul's:*

Ivor Morgan & Val Rees

*at Holy Trinity*

Mike Isaac & Gill Davieson

### **Other elected members:**

Paula Durnell, Treasurer

Alison Murray

Mike Howe

Joan Oxley

Muriel Jarvis

Joan Richards

Anne Rees

Margaret Williams

Elizabeth Thomas

Mary McCarthy

Christine Morris

Linda Lewis

### **Co-opted member:**

Denise Tamlyn, Secretary.

## *New Arrival*

Catherine and Peter Morgan-Barnes are the proud parents of Trystan Charles Henry, who was born at the beginning of April.



We wish them all well.

## *Other news*

Haydn John has been quite unwell of late, and has been in and out of hospital; Joyce Davison is still a patient at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, George Forrest (Betty's husband) has been in hospital but is now home; Selby Bailey has been unwell; Danny Bird is awaiting a hip replacement and is in much pain; Gerald Jenkins has fallen and broken his Achilles tendon, and has had to have an operation to repair it - he will be in plaster for some months. Christine Collins and Colin Jones are still in hospital; Eileen Cowley is very poorly, but has some good days; Margaret Fussell, Betty Lane & Olive Foley have been ill but are now back in church; Val Mears has injured her foot.

We continue to offer prayers for all these and others, including John Elcock, father of our prospective curate.

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## ***The Faithful Departed***

The following have received a Christian funeral:

Dorothy May Llewellyn

Vivian James

Mary Jane Davies

Hilda Williams



We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.  
Please pray for the departed and all who mourn their loss.

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## ***Our deepest sympathy***

We were sorry to hear of the death of Doreen Bee, who worshipped at Holy Trinity Church. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

## ***New Canons***

The Archbishop has appointed Fr Nigel a canon of Llandaff Cathedral. He has also appointed to the Cathedral Chapter Fr Derek Belcher, and as honorary canons, Fr Roy Doxey and John Parkin.

The installation will take place at Choral Evensong on Sunday 31st May at 3.30pm. There will be no evensong in the Benefice that day.

## ***Secretary of the Diocesan Readers' Association***

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Archbishop has appointed Len Jones the new secretary of lay readers in the Diocese of Llandaff. Len has been a faithful Reader for many years, and his sermons are always well prepared, well structured and worth listening to. Len is a member of the Diocesan Conference Standing Committee and for many years advised the Church in Wales on the board of publications.

## *Call to end paid hospital chaplains*

A call by the National Secular Society (NSS) for the National Health Service to stop funding chaplaincy services has been widely condemned. The biggest union in the country, UNITE, described its assumptions as "erroneous and simplistic".

The society said last week that chaplaincy services cost the NHS around £40 million, a sum it says would be better spent on nursing and cleaning staff. Terry Sanderson, president of the NSS, emphasised: "We are not asking for an end to chaplaincy services, but we are asking that the taxpayer not be made responsible for them."

"In these times of financial stringency, hospitals are going to have to think very carefully about how they spend their budgets. Hospital chaplains are not on most people's list of essential services in a healthcare setting."

Religious support for patients "could be done as part of the [local] clergy's regular duties", he suggested.

UNITE, which embraces the College of Healthcare Chaplains, said that chaplains added value to the NHS. Having them in hospitals meant

that fully stretched nurses, particularly at night, did not have to balance the needs of bereaved families when other patients needed urgent care.

"Nurses know they can rely on the availability of a professional chaplain," a union spokesman said.

The union also criticised the NSS report for "concentrating its fire" on the Church of England. The union's former president, the Revd Dr Chris Swift, described the NSS report as "based on erroneous and simplistic assumptions that do not delve into the real work that chaplains from all faiths carry out in the NHS on a daily basis in often emotionally fraught situations".

A spokesman for the Department of Health said in a statement: "We are committed to the principle of ensuring that NHS patients have access to the spiritual care they want, whatever faith or belief system they follow. Chaplains do an extremely demanding job, often in difficult circumstances, and their skill and dedication is highly valued by patients, relatives and staff within the health service."

A spokesman for the Church of England said:

"Spiritual healthcare has long been acknowledged by both medical practitioners and the Churches to be an



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intrinsic part of caring for people in hospital. NHS Trusts pay for chaplaincies because they see them as part of their duty of care to patients, not because the Churches force them to.”

The director of Theos, a theology think tank, described hospital chaplaincy as “not an optional extra”, and the £32 million as “a tiny fraction” of the annual NHS budget of £100 billion.

“The choice for NHS trusts is not between the clinical or pastoral needs of patients. Clearly, trusts are under financial pressure, but if they are to provide holistic care, the provision of appropriate chaplaincy support must be a priority,” it said.

But some chaplains acknowledged that there was a debate to be had. The Revd Chris Johnson, chaplaincy manager for Bradford NHS Trust, said that the NHS funded chaplaincy “in a very haphazard way”, and the NSS had highlighted a need for chaplains’ work to be more widely understood. He went on to say:

“There are so many different models of chaplaincy over the country, and no standardised expectation of what chaplaincy should be doing. If I’m a physiotherapist, I know what I can expect. It’s not the same with chaplains. You get some who are very religious and provide nothing but religious care; and you get people at the other end of the scale who are very similar to social workers. Until we get a standardised expectation of what chaplains are about in the NHS, what they should be doing, and how chaplaincy should be funded, then this is going to keep coming to the fore.”

*Fr Nigel comments:*

Although the secularists have said they don’t want to do away with chaplains, it is obvious from other pronouncements in recent weeks that they are clearly focussed on removing religion of any description from the heart of society’s life. This is one of the biggest threats facing us in the coming years in this country, and we need to stand up in the face of this desire to remove faith from life. Now, more than ever in the history of our nation, church-going is essential. If we give up on the need to witness and worship regularly then we will have played our part in proving that religion is not an essential element of life, and we will have handed on to our children and grandchildren a much poorer society as a result. If we don’t start taking this seriously we will hand them a victory by our apathy.

## *Easter sermons*

**The Archbishop of Canterbury**, preaching in Canterbury Cathedral, said it was time to turn to the new ways of living, in a new climate, with new thoughts. That had been the response of the first Christians to the "new universe" that began with "the actual emptying of a grave" at Jesus' resurrection. He said, "The present financial crisis has dealt a heavy blow to the idea that human fulfilment can be thought about just in terms of material growth and possession. Accepting voluntary limitation to your acquisitiveness, your sexual appetite, your freedom of choice doesn't look so absurd, after all, as a path to some sort of stability and mutual care."

**The Archbishop of Dublin**, Dr John Neill, said:

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ is God's challenge to a society that has lost all meaning and direction — and a society that has lost a grip on its ethical foundations."

One woman who had experienced at first hand the financial meltdown had said to him, "I have begun to notice that people are being just that bit nicer to each other."

**The Archbishop of Armagh**, the Most Revd Alan Harper, said that Christians should live as children of the resurrection, "as much in secular as in sacred things", living by faith, not by sight, and keeping their nerve in an uncertain time.

**The Archbishop of Wales**, Dr Barry Morgan, said that the seeming absence of God in society was countered by faith in "love's small victories". People were open to the love shown by those who refused to take revenge, "soldiers who jump on grenades to save their fellow soldiers' lives", parents who sacrificed their lives for their children in need, or those who cared for years for a sick relative. "They have seen glimmers of God's presence."

**The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church**, Dr Idris Jones, said that Christians were "called to oppose and fight against anything that threatens to deny life, hope, and opportunity to the people of the world. Resurrection brings with it a call to justice in the name of the one who, though denied justice by any human agency, yet gave the promise of new life and God's purpose for creation."

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## *Holy Days*

### **St Matthias, 14th May**

Mass with hymns 10am St Agnes'

### **Ascension Day, 21st May**

Sung Mass 10am St Agnes'

Sung Mass 7pm St Mary's

### **Pentecost, 31st May**

Usual Sunday times, but please note there will be no evensong at St Paul's.

### **St Paul's dedication festival**

This year we will keep the dedication festival on Friday 5th June at the 10am Mass.

### **Corpus Christi, 11th June**

Sung Mass 10am St Agnes'

### **St Agnes' dedication festival**

There will be a Sung Mass at 12 noon on Saturday 20th June followed by lunch, and the AGM of the Friends of St Agnes' Church.

## *Walsingham Cell*

The next Cell is on 5th May at St Agnes' at 7pm: Evensong & Benediction. On Monday 18th May the 6.30pm Mass at St Agnes is being offered for the Holy House of Walsingham.

## *Flower Festival*

The first weekend in June is fast approaching, and the flower festival will open on the evening of Friday 5th June at 7.30pm.

This will be a ticket only affair, with buffet, at £5 per head, though people can pay at the door if they wish.

The flowers will be available for all to see on Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th June, when admission will be free.

The theme of the flower festival is *films* and we hope to have a good number of displays for you to see.



If you would like to provide a display please put your name on the list at the back of church as soon as you can.

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## *Daily Readings from Scripture*

11th May 2009	Acts 14: 5-18	John 14: 21-26
12th May 2009	Acts 14: 19-28	John 14: 27-31
13th May 2009	Acts 15: 1-6	John 15: 1-8
14th May 2009	Acts 1: 15-17. 20-26	John 15: 9-17
15th May 2009	Acts 15: 22-31	John 15: 12-17
16th May 2009	Acts 16: 1-10	John 15: 18-21
18th May 2009	Acts 16: 11-15	John 15: 26 - 16: 4
19th May 2009	Acts 16: 22-34	John 16: 5-11
20th May 2009	Acts 17: 15. 22-18: 1	John 16: 12-15
21st May 2009	Acts 1: 1-11	Luke 24: 44-end
22nd May 2009	Acts 18: 9-18	John 16: 20-23
23rd May 2009	Acts 18: 23-28	John 16: 23-28

## *Daily Readings from Scripture*

25th May 2009	Acts 19: 1-8	John 16: 29-33
26th May 2009	Acts 20: 17-27	John 17: 1-11
27th May 2009	Acts 20: 28-38	John 17: 11-19
28th May 2009	Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11	John 17: 20-26
29th May 2009	Acts 25: 13-21	John 21: 15-19
30th May 2009	Acts 28: 16-20. 30-31	John 21: 20-25
1st June 2009	Zephaniah 3: 14-18	Luke 1: 39-56
2nd June 2009	Tobit 2: 9-14	Mark 12: 13-17
3rd June 2009	Tobit 3: 1-11. 16-17	Mark 12: 18-27
4th June 2009	Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1. 9-14 8:4-9	Mark 12: 28-34
5th June 2009	Tobit 11: 5-17	Mark 12: 35-37
6th June 2009	Tobit 12: 1. 5-15. 20	Mark 12: 38-44

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## *An evangelist at work*

### *A letter from Jean Morgan*

As I am sure most of you know by now, I moved into Ysbryd y Mor on 30th October last year and I'm very happy and settled here.

Fr Anthony was already bringing Holy Communion to 2 or 3 people in the flats, and after a visit he asked me to see if there was anyone else that I thought would like to receive Communion at home because of their mobility difficulties. I found several and our group has now expanded to eight.

Two of our group were not baptised, but Bishop Barry agreed that under the circumstances, they could receive Holy

Communion after baptism. Pat was determined to be baptised in church and we shall get her there in a few weeks time. Connie was unable to make church, but to her great delight, Fr Anthony came along to do the service here on April 2nd. What a wonderful service it was, too. Connie was baptised at the age of 85 and it made her very happy. Her family came, and we were also joined by some members of Holy Trinity Church, and some other flat mates.



The service went beautifully, and the baptism was followed by Holy Communion, with Mike Isaac helping Fr Anthony. What a wonderful morning, especially for Connie. It ended with christening cake and a drink to wish her well, as well as a present from Holy Trinity Church. Connie told me that she almost cried, because she was so happy.

And so I'm sure that after the joy everyone had, we can expect more residents with us next month. Wouldn't that be great?!

## ***Parish Festival***

June 5th to 7th	Flower Festival at St Mary's (See page 15)
Saturday 13th June	Benefice Fete at St Paul's church grounds
13th to 20th	Art exhibition by pupils of Glan Afan School at St Mary's
Saturday 20th	St Agnes' Dedication Festival & Lunch 12pm Côr Afanedd Concert at St Mary's 7pm
Tuesday 30th	Fashion Show at St Agnes' 7pm
Friday 3rd July	American Evening at St Mary's 7pm
Sunday 5th July	Parish Bring & Share Tea in the St Mary's Centre 3.30pm followed by Songs of Praise at St Mary's Church 5.30pm

On Wednesdays evenings in June there will be the annual musical recitals in St Mary's organised by Howell Price.

### ***Songs of Praise***

You are invited to make suggestions of hymns to be sung at the Songs of Praise service on Sunday 5th July.

There will be a box at the back of each church for you to place your suggestions, and if there are so many different hymns that it would not be possible to sing them all we will place the idea in a large box and pick out the number we need by this ballot.

### ***Benefice fete and other events***

Each church is invited to have a stall at the fete at St Paul's on 13th June and keep the money raised at the event.

Similarly, you are invited to sell tickets for the music recitals and the fashion show and the money you raise will be kept by the church you attend.



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

## ***Congratulations***

We are delighted that Jennifer and Russel Jones are grandparents again. Their new granddaughter is called Gwen Elizabeth.



## ***Christian Aid Week***

Please support Christian Aid Week 2009 which runs from the 10th to 16th May.

Diocese of Llandaff Children's Committee present an all Age Event

Ewenny Priory, Bridgend

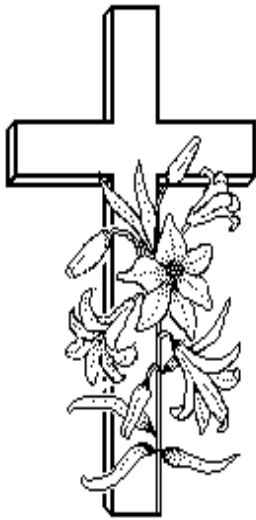


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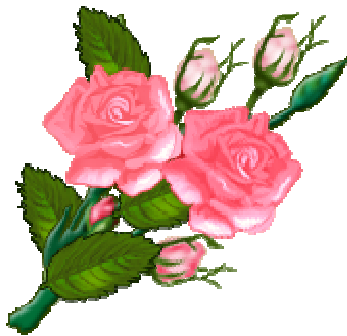
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## *Archbishop calls for a rethink at Governing Body*

The role of parents needs to be re-evaluated to ensure children are brought up in a loving, stable environment, the Archbishop of Wales said at the beginning of the April 2009 Governing Body Meeting at Llandudno.

Parenthood, he stressed, was a serious commitment and parents needed to work hard to stay together and to spend enough quality time with their children. They should also be given help, advice and support to do so.

Today's children and young people, he said, were facing huge social problems, exacerbated by the credit crunch, because they were being brought up in a society which fostered greed and individualism rather than a sense of community and responsibility.

“I am not saying that a woman's place is in the home.”

He said, “The recession is not something we can lay at the door of ‘them’ – the drunken youngsters, unmarried mothers, knife-carrying youths, anti-social gangs or any of the other groups we blame for the ills of society. Its causes well and truly belong to ‘us’ – comfortable Britain, and those that we are so fond of blaming for the ills of society are themselves products of a society we have created.”

A loving family was crucial to the welfare of all children and parents needed to be fully aware of the responsibility they have.

He said, “We may all know the real needs of children, but we frequently refuse to recognise that these often come at a personal cost to ourselves and our own needs and desires – be they compromises in our earning capacity or career development, or commitment to and the need to work at a less than ideal relationship. Children are not ours by right but a sacred trust. They have to be nurtured and cared for.”

He stressed it was the responsibility of both parents to care for their



children and that they should do everything they could, including seeking counselling, to prevent family break-ups.

"I am not saying that a woman's place is in the home. Fathers are no less important than mothers in a child's life..... Nor am I saying that parents must stay together at all costs.

Where there is a high level of conflict that cannot be resolved, or an abusive relationship, the child would obviously be better served if the parents separate. What I am saying is that we need a huge change in our thinking. Parenthood should not be embarked on lightly.

It is the commitment of two people both to one another and to the child. We need a culture where parents consider whether it is in the best interests of the children to stay together and we need high quality counselling and support services readily available to help them to do so."

Schoolchildren, he said, should be taught about the commitment and responsibility involved in parenting, alongside education about sex and contraception.

"We have the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe. It was

announced last month that the ban on advertisements for contraceptives may be lifted. That may help reduce the numbers of

teenage pregnancies, but what does it do to teach young people that parenthood is an awesome responsibility that requires both love and self sacrifice from parents committed to the child and to one another? We need to be teaching these basic concepts as

well as parent-craft, in our schools from an early age, particularly to those who have not experienced it first hand, and not simply informing them about the mechanics of a sexual relationship and contraception divorced from the basic concepts of love, responsibility and self-respect."

"Parents and children alike receive constant messages from society and the media that they need to possess more goods and compete successfully against others in workplaces and schools to attain the trappings their resulting wealth will bring. Values of generosity, justice and fairness become sacrificed to greed and selfishness, which in turn erode trust and a sense of community in society as a whole. In our busyness and self-absorption we have simply lost sight of the big picture."

Values of  
generosity, justice  
and fairness  
become sacrificed  
to greed and  
selfishness

## Christian Aid

This is what *Christian Aid* says about itself:

For more than 60 years, Christian Aid has fought poverty, strengthened the poor, and turned hope into action.

### 1940s

In the aftermath of World War II, British and Irish church leaders met, determined to do everything possible to help European refugees who had lost everything.

The name they gave themselves was Christian Reconstruction in Europe. Their purpose was not to evangelise, but to alleviate suffering for ordinary people, no matter what their faith.

Christian Reconstruction in Europe became a department of the British Council of Churches, and was eventually renamed the Department of Interchurch Aid and Refugee Service. In a decade, it raised £29,000.

### 1950s

Janet Lacey became president in 1952. Her appointment stamped a mark of courage, honesty and determination on the organisation that

has remained ever since. Some clerics thought her views too radical, but Lacey was not going to allow faint-hearts to get in the way of her aim to 'combat poverty' across the world.

We began to look beyond Europe and expanded our remit to support development work in newly independent nations in Africa and Asia, and respond to emergencies worldwide. We were involved in the creation of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) – an organisation dedicated to sending skilled volunteers to work in the developing world – and providing grants for Palestinian, Chinese and Korean refugees.

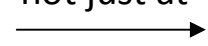
We made sure that the public was aware of continuing problems in the world by organising the first Christian Aid Week in 1957, and by famously building a replica of a refugee camp in the church of St Martin in the Fields in London. Since that

first Christian Aid Week five decades ago, our little red envelope has dropped through literally tens of millions of letterboxes.

### 1960s

In 1964, on the back of the success of Christian Aid Week, we changed our name to Christian Aid. The change of image worked, and our annual income reached £2.5 million by the end of the decade.

As world food shortages increased, Christian Aid began to look more deeply into the causes of poverty – not just at



dealing with its symptoms. We began campaigning in earnest when we challenged the British government on its aid and trade policies in 1969.

### **1970s**

Severe famines in Pakistan, Sudan and Ethiopia in the 1970s prompted a huge rise in public support for aid. However, it was becoming obvious that emergency relief wasn't enough. What starving people needed was a genuine solution, not hand-outs.

We saw that it was not just an act of nature that made people poor, but political and economic decisions.

Alongside traditional relief and development, we started to consider how to work for people's rights.

We worked in the world's hotspots: in Vietnam and Laos, destroyed by war; in Uganda after the overthrow of Idi Amin; in Nicaragua after the toppling of the dictator Somoza; and in Kampuchea (present-day Cambodia) after the fall of Pol Pot.

By now we were working in 40 countries, funding more than 100 long-term development projects.

### **1980s**

The 1980s saw a huge change in the way aid agencies operated. Large-scale fundraising events like Live Aid brought the troubles of the world to the public's attention as never before. More people were giving, and for the first time

government funding was made available to Christian Aid.

By the end of the decade, Christian Aid's annual income had increased from £5.5 million in 1979 to £28 million in 1989.

That same year, Christian Aid Week raised more than £6 million.

But this extra funding was needed more than ever. The global economic recession was gathering pace. We provided support in many countries, including Lebanon, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Our director, the Rev Michael Taylor, articulated our purpose in line with the times. Drawing on liberation and other theology, he wrote that our aim was to 'strengthen the poor'. He drove the creation of the Southern Africa Coalition, which brought together trade unions, church groups and others to press the British government to help end apartheid. This political stand seems mild today. But back then, it was a controversial and courageous act.

### **1990s**

In the 1990s Christian Aid became one of the first aid agencies to highlight 'unsexy' and complex global economic issues.

Our celebrated *Banking on the Poor* campaign alerted people to the need to cancel Third World debt, while the culpability of the World Trade Organisation and International Monetary Fund was exposed in our *Who Runs the World?* campaign.

## *Christian Aid: a history continued*

We were not afraid to confront governments and challenge the rules of the day that said charities should be apolitical. This resolve helped change government trade policy and establish the Fairtrade Foundation - our campaigning works. Christian Aid was also quick to respond to humanitarian crises in Rwanda, the Middle East and, at the end of the decade, working across ethnic and religious divides in Serbia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

We also ran an enormously successful supermarket campaign, when hundreds of thousands of supporters handed in their till receipts to demand that their supermarkets use decent labour standards.

As we neared the new millennium, we were able to announce that world leaders had promised to deliver \$100 billion in debt relief after our intense campaigning as part of the Jubilee 2000 coalition.



## **2000s**

The 21st century has brought new challenges to Christian Aid. The so-called war on terror, climate change and the increasing number of natural disasters, and the fact that almost half the world's population live on less than US\$2 a day, mean our work is needed more than ever.

In 2007 our annual income was £86.5 million and we now work with more than 650 overseas partners in around 50 countries. We are putting into practice our aim of turning hope into action. But 60 years on from our founding, the fact that we're still here isn't a victory. The world isn't getting any fairer. Children in Gaza are going to schools pockmarked with bullet holes. Parents are selling their daughters in marriage to earn the money so the family can survive a drought in Afghanistan. Life expectancy for women in Zimbabwe is now 34 years old – it was 65 just a decade ago. The income of some multinational companies exceeds that of entire countries.

So we won't stop now. We'll carry on tackling the causes of poverty. We'll continue to support local organisations to deliver real, practical change. We'll work so that everyone can fulfill their right to a decent life.

*Will we support them?*

28 Newydd - May 2009

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## 2009

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## ***Thanks***

### ***from Anne Griffiths***

I would like to thank everyone at St Agnes for their support during my long road to recovery after my second eye operation. Special thanks must go to Father Nigel for his support and patience and also to Matthew Lewis for all his help. I will be returning to work on 14<sup>th</sup> April and will really miss coming to church on Thursday mornings.

### ***from Barbara & Duncan Roberts***

We would like to give our grateful thanks to our dear family and so many friends and colleagues for the vast number of cards, good wishes, gifts and donations which were received by us on the occasion of our Golden Wedding. The donations received have been given to St. Agnes' Restoration Fund and to the Port Talbot R.N.L.I.

### ***from Irene Landeg***

Thank you to everyone from St Paul's for their kind thoughts, prayers and generosity during my illness.

## ***St Mary's 200 Club***

The winner for April is number 53, Mrs. Ann Absolum.

## ***Invitation***

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May the Ladies Section of the Methodist Church in Western Avenue have invited members from Holy Trinity to a Social Evening.

## ***Town Festival***

As usual during the weekend of the Spring Bank Holiday there will be a festival which will bring stalls to the area outside the Aberafan Shopping Centre.

Our churches are having stalls there so please pop along and support them and enjoy the week-end festivities

## ***New Mayor & Chaplain***

This year's incoming Mayor is Cllr Pam Thomas who has connections with Holy Trinity Church, and Fr Anthony has been invited to be the Mayor's Chaplain for the coming twelve months. We wish them both well, and hope they enjoy their year.

## *From the Registers*

### **Communicant figures for March**

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
1st	39	59	24	36	
8th	34	60	25	31	
15th	42	61	27	35	
22nd	49	56	31	46	
29th	38	58	31	39	

### **Monthly Income for March**

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,415.16	£10,617.74	£2,083.93	£1,595.58	

### **Monthly Payments for March**

	St Mary's	St. Agnes'	St. Paul's	Holy Trinity	
	£3,333.13	£4,037.90	£1,998.48	£1,538.62	

### **The Benefice Account for March**

<b>Paid in</b> £8,016.72	<b>Paid out</b> £7,029.09
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# *Parish Worship*

## **Parish Eucharist on Sundays at**

8.00am St Agnes'

9.15am St Agnes'

9.15am St Paul's

11am St Mary's

11am Holy Trinity

Evensong  
6pm St Paul's

## ***Weekday Eucharistic celebrations***

### **Monday**

6.30pm St Agnes'  
(10am on Bank holidays)

### **Tuesday**

10.00am St Paul's

### **Wednesday**

9.30am Holy Trinity

11.00am St Mary's

### **Thursday**

10.00am St Agnes'

### **Friday**

10.00am St Paul's

### **Saturday**

10.30am The Hospital Chapel

***Visit the parish website***

[www.pariahofaberavon.org](http://www.pariahofaberavon.org)

***and keep up to date with what's going on.***

***Send in your email address to the office or to Fr Nigel and help maintain an easy system of communication.***

A priest can be available to hear your confession at any time.  
Please telephone for an appointment.