

Newydd

60p

The Parish Magazine of The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon
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www.parishofaberavon.org

St. Paul's Centenary Year

October 2011



Sunday 9th October 3.00pm to 5.00pm at The St Mary's Parish Centre

Dyfrig R Jones of Cwmafan Funeral Directors



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From the Team Vicar

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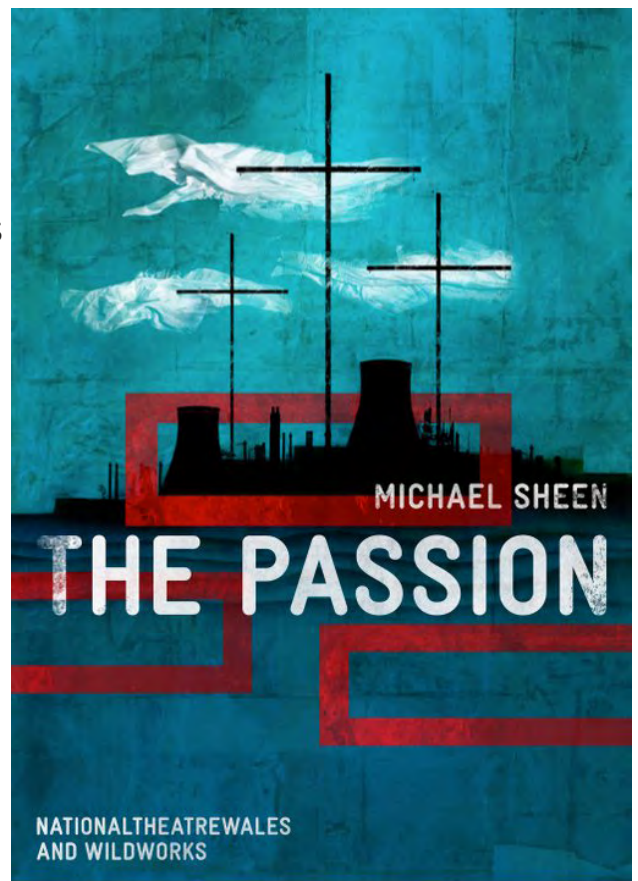
I don't know about you but I felt that September was a frantic month in the Benefice, and I for one am left processing everything that's happened.

The journey began with the Arts and Crafts weekend at St Mary's which saw a steady stream of visitors and finished with a service that focused on remembering our experience of the Passion staged over the Easter weekend.

Several members of the congregation took the opportunity to share their own memories; it was clear that the production had left a lasting impact on the people who had witnessed it.

One of the lasting effects of the Passion was the way in which the community has been stirred and brought together. Certainly one of my personal memories was standing on Princess Margaret Way and being aware of the thousands of people who surrounded me, knowing that so many of them were from the community that I am a part of - it was a profound and moving experience, well worth remembering.

That sense of community pervaded the entire week as a series of 'conversations' were held with the clergy team about how the church could better engage with the community. As part of the Benefice's involvement in Sacred Spaces, we were interested to know what opportunities parishioners could identify for church to support community projects.



What began to emerge was a series of God-inspired ideas for reaching out and supporting others. There were ideas about supporting the elderly in maintaining their independence, about resourcing people who met together to pray, of supporting therapy groups, providing volunteers for the youth club held at St Mary's and offering a Christmas lunch on Christmas day for those without family or friends. Throughout these conversations you could see God at work in his people as hearts and minds

began to look outwards towards the community in which we live, work and worship.

Already there has been progress. After looking into the idea of holding a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day itself, we have discovered a team who already do this and will seek to help them.

On the 12th September the Benefice welcomed Lucy Moore from Messy Church (a ministry of the Bible Reading Fellowship) who helped us explore what running a Messy Church was all about. We were joined on that day by parishioners from Cwmavon, Baglan and Neath. It was a wonderful day, and again, as I sat at the back of the room and watched those taking part, I became aware that I was actually watching God at work, ideas were flowing, passion was being stirred, plans were being made.

The following week a group of us met to plan the first ever Messy Church in the Benefice for the 9th October at 3pm in the Parish Centre. There was a real sense of enthusiasm and excitement around the table which I'm sure will be evident at the first

Messy Church. Our deacon, Jane, has written in more detail about the essence of Messy Church later in this issue of the magazine.

It is important to realise that this is not just a project building on the great work of the Baptism Team but an expression of Church that the whole Benefice can and needs to be involved with. You might not be someone who has the skill to work with crafts for children, but you may be a dab hand at making pasta. If administration and making sure everyone has a badge isn't your gift, then perhaps you could help with setting up and clearing up

before and after each Messy Church. Here's a really important one, we need men! Look around you the next time in church and count how many men you see, then compare it to the number of women. There is a need for boys and young men to have good male role models - so we really need men to come on board with Messy Church.

Over the last month the congregation at St Paul's have been discussing plans for a new hall. Central to our vision is a place where church and community can interact, where Christians can serve the community with the love of Christ. The Coffee Break cafe which opens every Saturday morning is already opening up St Agnes' Church to the public. Buildings are not ends in themselves but they are a means of building the

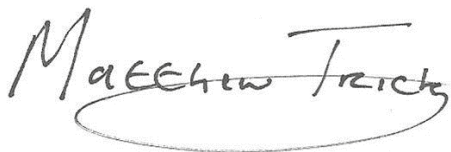


Kingdom of God and serving the community.

The month ended with the ordination of Ben Rabjohns to the Diaconate and the beginning of his ministry in the Benefice. Here again we see God at work as Ben's journey through life leads him to ordination and we warmly welcome him to the Benefice.

This last month has been a frantic month but it has been a wonderful month combining business and blessing, and we have seen God at work, inspiring new ways of seeing our mission with Sacred Spaces, giving us new opportunities to reach families with Messy Church and giving us new people to help us continue our work. This is a space to watch.

With prayers and good wishes



Fr Matthew

Thank You

Beryl and Don Wood celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on 22nd September and Don celebrated his 80th Birthday in August. Thank you to everyone for their cards and best wishes received on his birthday.
Beryl and Don Wood.

Holy Trinity 200 Club

The winner for August is Doug Gange.

St Mary's 200 Club

The winner for September is Tina John.

Congratulations

We offer our good wishes to Barbara Townsend who celebrates her 75th birthday this month.



PCC Meeting

The next Parochial Church Council meeting will take place on Monday 17th October at 6.30pm at St Agnes'.

Harvest Communion and Tea Party for the housebound

If you are able to help in any way with this annual event, taking place on Wednesday 5th October at St Mary's Parish Centre, please phone Denise as soon as possible. It starts at 3.00pm and ends about 4.30pm.

Help will be needed from 1.30pm onwards in the preparation of food etc.

Quiz with Buffet

There is a quiz in the evening of 5th October at 7pm in St Agnes' Church which will raise funds for the Benefice. Buffet included in the ticket price: bring your own drinks.

Bath Shopping Trip

The Friends of St Mary's are running a pre Christmas shopping trip to the historic town of Bath. It's £10 per person return fare. There are lists at the back of each church - if you would like to go please add your name as soon as possible, or contact Monica Selway on 883984 or Linda Perry on 882776.

Clueless?

is a murder mystery based loosely on the game "Cludeo" and is being organised by the Friends of St Agnes' for Wednesday 19th October at 7pm. Tickets are £5 and include fagots and peas or a vegetarian option.



Away on a course

Just days after starting his new ministry our new curate has to go on a course with Fr Nigel so that they learn how to get on together! On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10th to 12th October they will be locked away at Gregynnog Hall in Newton, Powys.

News of the clergy

The Rev'd Matthew Gibbon, following the grouping of Llanfabon with Treharris, Trelewis & Bedlinog, is to be the Priest in Charge of the new grouping which will be known as Treharris, Trelewis & Bedlinog with Llanfabon.

The Rev'd Julie Barrell is to be Associate Priest (half-time) in the new grouping of Treharris, Trelewis & Bedlinog with Llanfabon with effect from 1st September 2011.

The Rev'd Michael Gable, following the grouping of Glyntaff with Rhydyfelin and Graig St. John is to be Vicar of the new grouping of Glyntaff, Rhydyfelin and the Graig. He will continue as Area Dean of Pontypridd. The Rev'd Wayne David is to continue as NSM Curate in the new grouping of Glyntaff, Rhydyfelin and the Graig.

The Rev'd Canon Richard Lowndes, at present Senior Manager, Spiritual Care, Bereavement Care and Voluntary Services at Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust has been appointed Coaching and Lay Training Officer for the Llandaff Diocese.

The Rev'd Liz Leigh Griffiths has been appointed Diocesan Director of Ordinands with effect from 1st January, 2012. She will continue as Vicar of the City Parish of St. John the Baptist, Cardiff.

Benefice Mass Sunday 23rd October

Please note that there will be only one service in the Benefice on the morning of 23rd October, and it will be at 10.30am at Holy Trinity. We urge you to make every effort to attend together, and to remember that lifts are available if you ask your subwardens. Lack of transport is not an excuse as there are so many people willing to help out with lifts in their car. You have been asked!

St Mary's Friends' Comedy Evening

All are welcome at an evening of comedy and fun on Wednesday 12th October at 7pm at Dylan's Bar, Cwmavon. Tickets £6 (including buffet) available from your subwardens.

The Faithful Departed

The following have received a Christian Funeral:

Kevin James O'Brien

Alice Mary Williams

Pamela Gordon

David Alan Rowe

Please pray for them, and for their families and friends who mourn their loss.



Baptisms

Please pray for

Samuel Charles Braisher

Sophie Leigh Warner

Olivia Mair Warner

Remember also, in your prayers, all parents and godparents.



Communicant figures for August 2011

7th	140
14th	83
21st	142
28th	121

Weddings

We offer our congratulations to



Sean Corrigan and Theresa Jones

and

Kieren O'Connor and Helena Piper

who were recently married. We wish them every blessing in this new phase of their lives together and pray for their families and friends.

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and cards, during my recent stay in hospital.

Edna Williams

Barbara and Duncan Roberts would like to thank their family and many friends who have helped them over the past months. Without your continued support the house move would never have been completed so smoothly which came at quite a difficult time.

We are most grateful to you all.

A misunderstanding

There seems to be a genuine misunderstanding about Fr Matthew's role as Team Vicar.

It appears that when I said that Fr Matthew was responsible for everything to do with St Paul's and Holy Trinity some of you thought that he was actually in charge of everything to do with the day to day running of St Paul's and Holy Trinity, and the pastoral work of caring for all the people who would normally attend those churches and the oversight of pastoral work in the nursing homes in those areas.

What I meant, of course, was that Fr Matthew is actually in charge of everything to do with the day to day running of St Paul's and Holy Trinity, and the pastoral work of caring for all the people who would normally attend those churches and the oversight of pastoral work in the nursing homes in those areas.

Confused?

Well no more than Matthew and I, because quite a few of you actually seem not to realise that I did mean what I said. Whatever problems arise, whatever pastoral needs occur, whatever decisions need to be made, whatever practical issues that need to be addressed must in the first instance be referred to Fr Matthew, unless of course he is on holiday or away on a training course. The same applies to things at St Agnes' and St Mary's where in the first instance they should be referred to me unless I am similarly away. All that happens when you phone me is that I pass the matter on to Fr Matthew to deal with. To all intents and purposes he is the Vicar in these areas, and our written working agreement gives him the responsibility for these things.

It is actually much quicker to deal with Fr Matthew directly than to get me to pass on messages. It is a new way of working, and one you may not be familiar with - but I am sure you will soon get the hang of it.

Best wishes

Fr Nigel

Items for the magazine

Please note the deadlines for news for the magazine. It is really important that you ensure your news and articles are sent in so that we all know what's going on.

Magazine deadline for items to be handed to Denise that need to be typed

For November 2011

11th October

and for items sent by email directly to the Rector:

For November 2011

19th October

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Parent and Toddler Group



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from 1.15pm to 2.45pm

Every Thursday
from 9.30am to 11.30am

All are welcome

Regular visits from:

Language and Play
Health care advice

In the garden

by Avril Williams

'The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth.
One is nearer to God's heart in a garden,
Than anywhere else on earth.'

Dorothy Gurney (1858-1932)

Whether you have a large garden, a tiny garden or just a pot or window box there is nothing more rewarding than nurturing and tending plants. Spending an hour or two weeding or planting gives such great satisfaction.

The garden in October can be a splendid place, full of brilliant



colours with
Crocsmias, Dahlias
and Michaelmas
Daisies resembling an
artists' palette.

During this month we can think about planting for Spring. There is wealth of flowers to choose from. Wallflowers and Forget Me Not, Daffodils, Narcissus and Tulips, Crocus and Cyclamen which will give brightness in the depths of winter and early Spring.

Herbaceous perennials that die back to ground level, can be cut back then mulched and fertilized to promote strong growth for next year. They can also be divided up at this time. More tender perennials such as Penstemons, should be left until April or May and covered with straw to protect them from the frost. Evergreens only need to be tidied up. Prune your rambling Roses to take out

any dead wood and take Pansy, Fuchsia and Viola cuttings to be over wintered in small pots. Dig up any remaining potatoes to prevent the slugs from eating them. Watch out for vine weevils which attack roots and foliage this time of the year. Treat the plants with chemical vine weevil killer or if you prefer biological control, use nematodes.

Other jobs to be done this month include cleaning green houses and cold frames; collecting, washing and storing pots, canes and plant supports and netting the pond before the leaves fall. Peas, Beans, Japanese Onions and Spring Cabbage can be planted now.

In the wildlife garden, clean out birdbaths and refill them. Keep replenishing bird feeders as the breeding season has not yet ended. Leave seed heads for food and ensure there are heaps of dead leaves, old pruning and slabs to create habitats for valuable shelter for wildlife.

If you are lucky you may see Hedgehogs, Goldfinches, Grey Wagtails, mating Bumblebees, Hummingbird Moths and Soldier Beetles in your garden now. Spiders webs are beautiful this time of the year even if you don't care for the creature that makes them.

Happy gardening!!

Avril intends to write a regular gardening column for the magazine, and we hope you find it helpful.

Wales Air Ambulance

Dear Mr. Howe,

On behalf of Wales Air Ambulance, I would like to thank you very much for the kind donation of £157.10 generously raised by weekly coffee mornings during June 2011.

Throughout 2011 this lifesaving charity is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. The charity started its mission on St David's Day 2001, growing from a one-helicopter service based in Swansea to operating three air ambulances that can reach any part of Wales within 20 minutes. Having carried out nearly 15,000 mission to date, the service has proved to be a vital operation, providing emergency air cover across the country and helping to save thousands of lives.

The cost of sustaining our three air bases in Swansea, Caernarfon and Welshpool currently stands at over £5 million per year and with your help we can continue to save even more lives across Wales for another ten years!

If you would like to find out more on the work of Wales Air Ambulance please either visit www.walesairambulance.com or please contact your nearest fundraising office on 0844 8584 999.

Thank you again for supporting Wales Air Ambulance.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Roberts,
Community Development
Manager.



WaterAid

Thank you so much for your generous donation of £600 and for supporting our work through The Glastonbury Pilgrimage Association. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that The Pilgrimage has raised over £29,700 for our work, which is a fantastic achievement. Please extend our thanks to all those who made this gift possible. Please do get in touch if you would like any more information about our work, I would be delighted to hear from you.

With very best wishes,
Charlotte Flew,
Community Team, WaterAid



We send our good wishes to

Duncan Roberts, a patient at Singleton:

Lilly Garvey who has had a fall and was admitted to hospital:

Myra Williams who is still in hospital:

Jessica Davies awaiting hospital treatment:

Haydn John who was again recently admitted to hospital having suffered another heart attack, but who is now home:

All the many of you who are unable to get to church, but who receive Holy Communion at home, and although not mentioned by name here (there are over 40 of you!) are not forgotten, and are remembered in our prayers:

Fr Ben as he begins his new ministry amongst us as a deacon.

***We will pray for you and hold you before
the Lord at the altar.***



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The woman from the council ruled that he was preparing and serving food

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Sun 16th October
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5.30pm Supper in Prebendal House

Contact Bishop David on asstbishop@churchinwales.org.uk

Mothers Union

meets on the 4th October at 2.30pm at the St Mary's Parish Centre, when the speaker is Peter Collier, who works for the local Health Board, will speak on forensics.

The Men's Fellowship

is meeting on the 10th October at Bar Galois at 7.00pm

The Mayor's Civic Service

is taking place at St Agnes' Church on Sunday 16th October at 3.00pm and anyone who wishes to attend is warmly invited to do so.

Unavailable

Fr Nigel will be away from the 21st to the 29th October.

All Saints Day, 1st November

will be celebrated with a mass at St Paul's at 10am and a Sung Mass at St Agnes' at 7.00pm

Letter from Australia

Dear Glenys and Mothers' Union members,

Thank you so much for the lovely card we received for our Anniversary. Scott's baby Jykala was baptised that day in St Margaret's Church at the same time as we had been married so we were given a Blessing too. A very happy occasion. We all hope everyone is healthy.

How is your weather? We have had some frosts but this last week lots of rain and this weekend has been the Jazz Festival as well as the huge market day so lots of the jazz outdoor items had to be cancelled. We had a very happy joyful Church Service with the jazzed up hymns, it was a real shame the lady singer from Melbourne took ill and couldn't come to the service but her pianist played for our service.

We have another great granddaughter Zahlia, born on 29th June, they live at Southport on the Gold Coast, Queensland, have I already told you this? Ciarah sent some photos.

Maurice and I hope that Haydn has continued to improve in his health. Maurice gets very much out of breath after about 30 metres walking. We certainly can't do without our local hospitals and the wonderful nurses. The last few nights and days have begun to warm up and the November Lillies are coming out, that hasn't happened any year before. Our son Matthew came down and started pruning the roses yesterday, he's the Dairy farmer at Megan.

Last Sunday after Church we drove up to see how the new dairy is coming along. It was cloudy and a bit stormy looking as we drove into Dorrigo, about 2 kilometres from the town I noticed the hill on a farm looked a bit white, I said to Maurice the farmer has put some lime on hoping for a shower, but at the next bend everywhere was white like this page. I have never driven on a road with inches of hail, it was all through the town too. Then a couple of kilometres on not even rain but then the next 12 kilometres was completely white everywhere, it was all over the farm several inches deep but luckily it was only small stones so it didn't break any windows or roofs.

We have a few rows of Peas coming up, not as many Mandarins on the tree this year and the Parrots and other birds are having a real feed off them.

Doreen has had a couple of eye operations lately but it's a lot better this week. I pick her up every Wednesday for Morning Prayer. It's coming up in October for her 90th party.

Lots of love and God's Blessing on you Haydn and Ann and all Mothers' Union members at Port Talbot, Heather and Maurice.

What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is a once-monthly time when families can come together to enjoy being together, making things together, eating together and celebrating God together. It is different from a children's activity time because it is an event for children and their carers, parents or grandparents together.



The idea of Messy Church is about being a worshipping community of all ages, centred on Christ, showing Christian hospitality - giving people a chance to express their creativity, to sit down together to eat a meal and have fun within a church context.

The principles of Messy Church are:-

- to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together;
- to help people of all ages to feel that they belong in church and to each other;
- to help people have fun together;
- to give people a chance to express their God-given creativity;
- to invite people into an experience of Christian community;
- to introduce people to Jesus through hospitality, friendship, stories and worship;

The Benefice Baptism group have embraced the idea of Messy Church which will take place at the Parish Centre at 3.00pm on the second Sunday of each month.

The sessions will follow a theme and include a time of welcome and registration followed by various craft activities, worship and food. If you are interested in helping in any way please get in touch with Fr. Matthew or Jane.

The first Messy Church will be on Sunday 9th October, all are welcome but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult family member.

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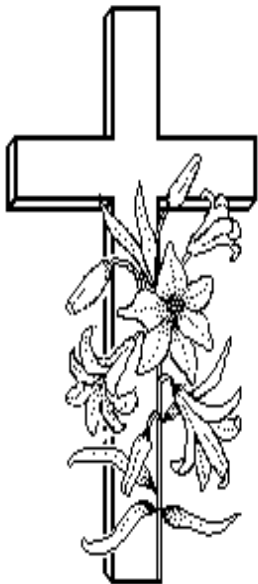
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Daily Scripture Readings

3rd October	Jonah 1: 1 – 2: 1. 11	Luke 10: 25-37
4th October	Jonah 3: 1-10	Luke 10: 38-42
5th October	Jonah 4: 1-11	Luke 11: 1-4
6th October	Malachi 3: 13-20	Luke 11: 5-13
7th October	Joel 1: 13-15; 2: 1-2	Luke 11: 15-26
8th October	Jonah 1: 1 – 2: 1. 11	Luke 10: 25-37
10th October	Romans 1: 1-7	Luke 11: 29-32
11th October	Romans 1: 16-25	Luke 11: 37-41
12th October	Romans 2: 1-11	Luke 11: 42-46
13th October	Romans 3: 21-30	Luke 11: 47-54
14th October	Romans 4: 1-8	Luke 12: 1-7
15th October	Romans 4: 13. 16-18	Luke 12: 9-12
17th October	Romans 4: 20-25	Luke 12: 13-21
18th October	2 Timothy 4: 10-17	Luke 10: 1-9
19th October	Romans 6: 12-18	Luke 12: 39-48
20th October	Romans 6: 19-23	Luke 12: 49-53
21st October	Romans 7: 18-25	Luke 12: 54-59
22nd October	Romans 8: 1-11	Luke 13: 1-9
24th October	Romans 8: 12-17	Luke 13: 10-17
25th October	Romans 8: 18-25	Luke 13: 18-21
26th October	Romans 8: 26-30	Luke 13: 22-30
27th October	Romans 8: 31-39	Luke 13: 31-35
28th October	Ephesians 2: 19-22	Luke 6: 12-19
29th October	Romans 11: 1-2. 11-12. 25-29	Luke 14: 1. 7-11
31st October	Romans 11: 19-36	Luke 14: 12-14
1st November	Apocalypse 7: 2-4. 9-14	Matthew 5: 1-12
2nd November	Isaiah 25: 6-9	Matthew 11: 25-30
3rd November	Romans 14: 7-12	Luke 15: 1-10
4th November	Romans 15: 14-21	Luke 16: 1-8
5th November	Romans 16: 3-9. 16. 22-27	Luke 16: 9-15

Organ donation, S4C and education

The Welsh Government's plans to introduce presumed consent for organ donation could turn "volunteers into conscripts", the Archbishop of Wales warned in his Presidential Speech to the Governing Body last month.

Dr Barry Morgan said that people's organs should be donated as a free gift to others and not be treated as an asset of the State. Presumed consent, he said, compromised individual rights and he questioned whether it was a legitimate power for any State. He also warned that the policy would undermine people's trust in doctors and nurses by making them almost "servants of the State".

He called instead for more effort to be made to raise the profile of organ donation and to explore ways of ensuring people made the choice about whether they wanted to donate or not.

During the address, he also raised concerns about the future of S4C and the use of the Welsh language in national life and he praised the contribution of Church schools to education.

Dr Morgan said, "There is, in presumed consent, a subtle or perhaps not so subtle change of emphasis in the relationship between the individual and the State. That is, that unless we have opted out, our organs belong to the State and the State has the right to do with them as it wills. The implication, by default, is that the State can decide on our behalf. I think that compromises individual rights and freedoms and poses the moral question as to whether the State can make such decisions. Is this a legitimate power, in other words, for any State? True, the State will argue that such power will only be taken after consultation with relatives but there is a presumption in favour of the State and almost the belief that our bodies are State assets and therefore at the State's disposal.



"Organ donation surely ought to be a matter of gift and not of duty. If one takes organs without consent, on the assumption that by not opting out, a person is tacitly assenting, then this is no longer a free gift to others. An organ donation ought to be precisely that, a gift, an act of love and generosity. Giving organs is the most generous act of self giving imaginable but it has to be a choice that is freely embraced, not something that the State assumes. Put more crudely, it can turn volunteers into conscripts."

The Archbishop raised concerns about the future of the Welsh language broadcaster, S4C, saying it was a "national institution which needs to remain independent and



financially viable”.

Criticising the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport’s failure to consult over cuts to S4C’s budget he said, “Last week, the Government said it had formalised an agreement with the BBC

regarding S4C which would allow the BBC to determine the funding levels of S4C from 2015 – 16. S4C does not appear to have been consulted at all. Moreover, the Government told the House of Commons that guaranteeing S4C’s operational independence would compromise the BBC’s accountability for licence fee money. Yet operational independence was the basis on which S4C was founded. The Coalition Government does not appear to have grasped the importance of an independent S4C. It is one of our national institutions and needs to be both independent and adequately funded. Both the Welsh Affairs Committee and the Culture Committee at Westminster have criticised the total lack of consultation involved.”

The Archbishop said the issue raised the question about the place of the Welsh language in all our institutions, including the Church in Wales. He said a working party was looking at how the Church could encourage more bilingual services and ministry. He said, “This is, in reality, an issue about our mission to the people and nation of Wales and also an issue of justice...Wherever I go, I use the Welsh language for part of the service and I am amazed at the number of people who speak to me in Welsh afterwards and the number of people who do not speak Welsh, who nevertheless value the use of the language. I look forward to receiving the report we have commissioned to see how we can address this issue.”

Turning to education, the Archbishop praised the work of Church schools and thanked the Welsh Government for acknowledging their contribution to education in its Faith in Education document (see below), published in June. Church schools, he said, helped teach children about moral responsibility.

He said, “It is a seminal document because it acknowledges that church schools in Wales are now a feature of the educational landscape. It acknowledges the very positive contribution church schools make to the publicly funded system of education in Wales. Archbishop Rowan, commenting on the recent riots, stressed the importance of schools teaching the value of virtue, character and citizenship – things which our church schools try to do. It is their emphasis on moral responsibility as well as academic achievement that can directly counter what the Prime Minister identified after the riots as the ‘slow motion moral collapse’ of society.”

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Michael Condon M.B.I.E.

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Other news from the Governing Body

The main theme of the September 2011 meeting of the Church in Wales' Governing Body (GB) was equal opportunities, as the 143 members discussed ways in which to improve the gender balance on Church committees and in senior clergy roles, and to improve ministry to people with disabilities and additional needs. Ann Beynon OBE, the Wales Commissioner for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, addressed the meeting, setting the context in which the discussions took place.

Members were asked to approve a motion

That the Governing Body:

i. affirm the place and ministry of both women and men in the life of the Church on the basis of equal dignity and respect, and celebrate the gifts and talents that God pours out in equal measure on both male and female according to his good purpose;

ii. welcome the significant progress towards implementation of the recommendations in the 2008 Report of the Working Group on Representation of Women in the Church in Wales;

iii. thank all those in the Province, dioceses, deaneries and parishes who

work hard towards the goal of representation and participation of women in the life of the Church in Wales;

iv. request the dioceses and the Provincial Vocations Strategy Group to look again at ways of encouraging more applications from women for ordination to the ministry;

v. request the Standing Committee to continue to monitor progress towards implementing the recommendations contained in the Report and to report again to the Governing Body in 2014.

The motion was approved.

On the same theme of inclusion the Governing Body announced its determination to develop an ethos in which people who have additional needs are supported with dignity and respect and which ensures that they, their families and carers are welcomed, are enabled to grow in discipleship and are fully included in our church community. Through this commitment the Governing Body of the Church in Wales encourages dioceses and parishes to promote awareness of the additional needs of disabled people and their families and carers and to promote a culture of inclusivity.

Other news items from the Governing Body on the next page

Bishops and senior clergy turn down pay rise

Bishops and senior clergy will forego their annual pay rise next year as the recession takes its toll on the collection plate. They have chosen to turn down a 1.6% rise as a gesture of support for those facing financial uncertainty in parishes across Wales.

Archbishop Barry said, "We recognise that this is a difficult time for many of our parishioners as the recession bites and many are losing their jobs or having their salaries frozen or even reduced. Turning down our pay rises will save the Church some money and will, I hope, be a symbolic gesture to show we understand what the communities we serve are going through at the moment and we want to support them."

About 30 people will forego the pay rise. They include all the Bishops, Deans and Archdeacons as well as most of the senior staff of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales and some diocesan secretaries.

An enterprising church

An initiative sponsored by the Representative Body, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and Churches Tourism Network Wales, designed to help parishes think about how they can develop their role in their communities and their outreach to visitors, was launched at the GB. Parishes will notified shortly.

Church in Wales review

The Church in Wales Review Team, led by Lord Richard Harries, the former Bishop of Oxford, has started work, with the following terms of reference:

'to examine the structure and organisation of the Church in Wales with a view to increasing the effectiveness of its ministry and its witness to the people of Wales.'

The Review Team will meet with the senior staff of each diocese, and also hold an open meeting in each, to which everyone is invited to make comments and observations.

People may also write to Lord Harries, The House of Lords, London.

The Review Group will be attending the next meeting of the GB and will report its progress, and will visit our Diocese on 10th January when there will be an open meeting at St Michael's College, Llandaff, at 7.30pm for anyone who wants to go along and have their say about what they think of the state of the Church in Wales.

October Devotions to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham



St Thomas' Church, Clydach Vale is the venue for this year's October devotions. Clydach Vale is in the Rhondda Valley, and Fr Nigel was vicar there for ten years.

**Saturday October 8th, 12 noon Sung Mass.
Sprinkling, Procession and Benediction at 2.30pm**

A packed lunch will be required.

Names for the bus to Linda Lewis as soon as possible, please.

telephone 01639 892661

email lindalewishowells@hotmail.co.uk

Governing Body

The attendance figures for the Province were presented to the Governing Body and as usual it was noted that there was a continual decline in regular worshippers. Appeals were made not to ignore the trend and to do some work to combat the falling numbers now.

It was stressed that we need to do five things:

- 1 We must demonstrate our relevance to the Welsh nation;
2. Provide effective local leadership for all our congregations using ordained and lay people as appropriate;
3. An organisational review to ensure proper management of this local leadership;
4. A concerted effort to lessen the emphasis on church buildings;
5. Closer co-operation between those understanding financial matters and those setting new strategies and seeing new visions.

At the Diocesan Conference at the end of September the Archbishop made it clear that some church buildings must close. We cannot afford to be sentimental. We have too many buildings for too few people and we are wasting resources trying to shore them up when we could easily combine our efforts for a better evangelisation of the local people.

Parish Directory

Rector

The Reverend Canon Nigel Cahill
The Rectory,
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rector@parishofaberavon.org

Team Vicar

The Reverend Matthew Trick
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Port Talbot
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teamvicar@parishofaberavon.org

Assistant Curates

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The Reverend Ben Rabjohns
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The Benefice Wardens

Mrs Paula Durnell
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Mrs Elizabeth Jones
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The Parish Reader

Mr Len Jones
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ljones@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Treasurer

Mr Michael Howe
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treasurer@parishofaberavon.org

The Parish Secretary

Mrs Denise Tamlyn
The Parish Office 01639 886740
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St Mary's Subwardens

Mrs Mary McCarthy 01639 891818
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Mrs Lorna Beckett 01639 774774
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St Paul's Subwardens

Mrs Ann Rees 01639 898537
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Mrs Margaret Williams 01639 776503

St Agnes' Subwardens

Mrs Edna Williams 01639 886649
ewilliams@parishofaberavon.org

Mr Jeff John 01639 887030

Holy Trinity Subwardens

Mr Walter Wheeler 01639 773208

Mrs Gill Davison 01639 870528
gdavison@parishofaberavon.org

The Mothers Union

Mrs Joan Oxley 01639 774366

Sunday Worship

9.15am Holy Eucharist
St Agnes' Church
Forge Road

9.15am Holy Eucharist
St Paul's Church
Pendarvis Terrace

11.00am Holy Eucharist
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Place

11.00am Holy Eucharist
Holy Trinity Church
Fairway

6.00pm Evening Prayer
St Paul's Church
Pendarvis Terrace

Weekday Worship

Monday

6.30pm Holy Eucharist
St Agnes' Church
Forge Road

(10am on Bank Holidays)

Tuesday

10.00am Holy Eucharist
St Paul's Church
Pendarvis Terrace

Wednesday

9.30am Holy Eucharist
Holy Trinity Church
Fairway

11.00am Holy Eucharist
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Place

Thursday

10.00am Holy Eucharist
St Agnes' Church
Forge Road

For times of services on Holy Days please
consult the parish website

www.parishofaberavon.org

Baptisms & Weddings

Please contact the Parish Office

Monday 12pm to 3pm

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Thursday 12pm to 3pm

01639 886740

office@parishofaberavon.org

The office is closed on Bank Holidays and
during Christmas week.

**Post cannot be received at the churches
or the church halls. Please use the
registered office address below**

The Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon : a registered charity no 1130785

Registered Office

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