

## “Gwnewch y pethau bychain – Do the little things”

All Saints, Deganwy • St Cystennin’s, Mochdre • St David’s, Penrhyn Bay  
St Doged’s, Llanddoged • St Ffraid’s, Glan Conwy • St Grwst’s, Llanrwst  
St Hilary’s, Llanrhos • St Katherine’s, Bryn Pydew • St Martin’s, Eglwysbach  
St Michael’s, Llandudno Junction • St Paul’s, Craig-y-Don

## A Month to Remember

*Rev Noel Carter writes.....* As the leaves fall from the trees and Autumn gradually turns to Winter, we pause to remember. All Saints Day heralds the start of November, followed by All Souls Day, when we remember those special to us who have died. This is closely followed by Remembrance Sunday, when we remember those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

**All Saints Day on 1st November** is an opportunity for believers to remember all saints and martyrs, known and unknown, throughout Christian history. Pope John Paul II said, “we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints Day, to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us to the path that will lead us to that destination.”

**All Souls on November 2nd** provides a focus for us to remember those special people in our lives who have died. Their memories may not be far from our thoughts at any time, but many find this special day helpful.

Although living memories of the First World War are gone and memories of the second World War are fading, our own time offers a constant reminder of the folly of war. It gives a fresh poignancy to Remembrance Sunday and our prayers for a peaceful world.

The time of All Souls and of Remembrance



LEFT: time to remember - the war memorial inside All Saints in Deganwy, with its lists of the men who died in the First World War.

have got a bit mixed up for me this year. My brother has discovered a lot

about the death of my great uncle in World War 1. Uncle Charles was 25 when he died of wounds received on 30th June 1918. He was in France from May 1915. He was fatally injured by a bomb dropped from a plane.

Taken to the casualty clearing station at Esquelbecq some 20 miles away, he died two days later. From 1915 he fought in the Somme, Arras, Cambrai and St Quentin - it makes his death four months before the war ended even more tragic, especially as it was far behind the front line.

Suddenly, a name on a war memorial has substance and meaning and my remembering becomes more profound. Memory is one of mankind’s most important facets. We are largely defined by what we remember of ourselves and what others remember of us. This makes the opportunities to remember in special ways in this month of November a very special gift.

## REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES - ALL WELCOME

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

8 am **Holy Eucharist** St David's & St Hilary's  
 9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Michael's; **Cymun Bendigaid** St Grwst's; **Morning Worship** St Cystennin's;  
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's; **Holy Eucharist** St Martin's  
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints, St Grwst's & St David's; **Family Service** St Hilary's;  
**Morning Worship** St Katherine's  
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's Church House\*\*  
 6.30 pm **Evening Prayer** St Hilary's

There will be a special joint service at St. Cystennin's on 5th October at 11 am so no service at St Katherine's on that day.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

8 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints & St David's  
 9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Cystennin's, St Michael's; **Boreol Weddi** St Grwst's  
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's; **Holy Eucharist** St Martin's  
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints, St Grwst's, St David's, St Hilary's & St Katherine's  
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's Church House\*\*  
 6.30 pm **Evening Prayer** St Hilary's

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

8 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints & St David's  
 9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Michael's; **Cymun Bendigaid** St Grwst's;  
**Morning Worship** St Cystennin's  
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's; **Morning Prayer** St Martin's  
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints, St Grwst's & St Hilary's; **Morning Worship** St Katherine's;  
**Family Service** St David's  
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's \*\*  
 6.30 pm **Cymun Bendigaid** St Hilary's

**\*\* Services at Glan Conwy will return to St Ffraid's Church from 26th November. There will be no other services at St Ffraid's or St Martin's on that day.**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month\*\*

8 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints & St David's  
 9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Cystennin's; **Boreol Weddi** St Grwst's; **All-age worship** St Michael's  
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's; **Holy Eucharist** St Martin's\*\*  
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** St David's, St Grwst's, St Hilary's & St Katherine's; **All-age worship** All Saints  
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's Church House\*\*  
 6.30 pm **Evening Prayer** St Hilary's

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

8 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints & St David's  
 9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Michael's; **Cymun Bendigaid** St Grwst's  
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's; **Holy Eucharist** St Martin's  
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints & St Grwst's; **Morning Prayer** St Hilary's  
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's  
 6.30 pm **Holy Eucharist** St Hilary's

**St Cystennin's and St Katherine's** hold a joint service on **5th Sunday** mornings alternating between the two churches, and the 11 am service on a 5th Sunday may vary at **St David's** .

**HOLY EUCHARIST** is also celebrated on **Wednesdays at 10 am** at All Saints and St Ffraid's, on **Thursdays at 10.30 am** at St Paul's and **Fridays at 10 am** at St David's

**Messy Church** - see calendar for details

**Prayer Group** - 10 am every Tuesday at St David's (01492 876451 for details)

**Koinonia Groups (Bible study, prayer & discussion):** **Morning** - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Weds, 10.30 am (01492 876451 for details)  
**Evening** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 8 pm (01492 583420 for details)

**St Katherine's Bible Study** - 7.45 pm every Monday (01492 540542 for details)

**Julian Group** - **8.00 pm** every Monday at St Michael's (except Bank Holidays)

**CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) Lunches** - every 1st Wednesday at 12.15 pm in St Katherine's, Bryn Pydew

**Coffee** - 10 am Thursday at St Paul's & St Ffraid's, 10.30 am Friday at St David's

<b>Clergy:</b>	Rev Noel Carter (Mission Area Leader)	01492 339521
	Rev Ginny Burton (Sun, Mon, Wed only)	01492 583140
	Rev Dr Godfrey Chigumira	01492 543706
	Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osborn	01492 640032
	Rev Peter Walker	01492 583579
<b>Office:</b> Penrhyn Beach East, Penrhyn Bay, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church		
<b>OPENING HOURS</b> 10 am to 12.30 pm on <b>Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays</b>		

# Mis Tachwedd 2017 - CALENDAR - November 2017

		Services	Other events
Wednesday	1	HE 10 am AS & St Ff	
Thursday	2	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	3	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	4		Christmas Craft Day, 10am, St P
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Joint Service 11 am St K &amp; St C at St C with the Bishop present to bless the restored stained glass (no service at St K); Holy Baptism 12.30 pm St H; Bible Society Joint Service for the Junction Churches 2.30 pm St M</b>	
Monday	6		'Through a glass darkly' Art Exhibition, St John's Methodist, 10-4 pm until Saturday LYCiG Course 2 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Tuesday	7		<b>MAGAZINE COPY DATE</b> AS Mothers' Union 2.30 pm LYCiG Course 7.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	8	HE 10 am AS & St Ff	Mission Area Conference 7 pm Sue Jones Suite, Mochdre Village Hall
Thursday	9	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	10	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	11		Last day of Art Exhibition at St John's
<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Please Note 11 am services will start at <u>10.55 am</u>; Family Service 4 pm St P</b>	
Monday	13		St P Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
Tuesday	14		Cytun Council 10.30 am St John's Fellowship Room St Ff Mothers' Union 2 pm
Wednesday	15	HE 10 am AS & St Ff	
Thursday	16	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	17	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	18		
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Bishop's Visitation to Mission Area Service 3.30 pm AS</b>	
Monday	20	Open Table Service 7 pm St G	
Tuesday	21		AS Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
Wednesday	22	HE 10 am AS & St Ff	
Thursday	23	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	24	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	25		Christmas Fair 12-2 pm St D Church Hall
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Holy Baptism 12.30 pm St H Re-opening celebration Eucharist at 4 pm at St Ff (no other services at St Ff or St Ma); Darkness to Light Service 4.30 pm St P</b>	
Monday	27		St P Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
Tuesday	28		
Wednesday	29	HE 10 am AS & St Ff	
Thursday	30	HE 10.30 am St P	

**KEY:** HE - Holy Eucharist; AS – All Saints; St C – St Cystennin's; St D - St David's; St Do - St Doged's; St Ff - St Ffraid's (in the Church House until November 26th); St G - St Grwst's; St H - St Hilary's; St K – St Katherine's; St M – St Michael's; St Ma - St Martin's; St P – St Paul's

## Gwnewch y pethau bychain Do the little things - *St David*

The theme of the Diocesan Conference this year was, "Do the little things". This quote from St David is as relevant to us now as it was in the time of the Welsh Patron Saint.

Ordinary life is made up of lots of little things. To do these things well and with love makes all the difference in the world.. At the Conference we heard a story of Trevor Huddleston when he was a priest in Sophia Town in South Africa. As he was walking down a street in the town, he passed a woman with her son, standing at the side of the road. As was the custom of many men in the 1940's he raised his hat as a mark of respect to the lady at the side of the road.

This was unusual in South Africa in that time of apartheid – a white man raising his hat to a black woman. This simple action made a deep impression on the woman's son and young Desmond, looking at the parish priest, decided that he would like to become part of the church. Desmond turned to his mother, Mrs Tutu, and smiled.



That small action of Trevor Huddleston in raising his hat started Desmond Tutu on his journey to change the world. Doing the little things is so important.

If individuals and churches take this simple injunction seriously, then the Kingdom of God is really close at hand.

They might not need me - yet they might  
I'll let my Heart be just in sight -  
A smile so small as mine might be  
Precisely their necessity.

*Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)*

## Thank you

The Revd Noel Carter would like to thank everyone for their support during his recent sabbatical. He is particularly grateful to all the clergy and readers who have taken services in his absence and involved themselves in pastoral work in the parish. (See page 13 to find out something of what he has been doing!)

## Christmas Angels



**Aim:** To share God's love and to bless the community in public places with a Christmas message.

**Idea:** Knit angels, attach tag, leave them for others to find.

**How:** You can find the pattern at the website [www.christmasangel.net](http://www.christmasangel.net) or contact the office at St John's Methodist Church 01492 860439. The office can also provide tags ready for attaching.

Please take me, I'm free.  
Have a happy Christmas.  
[www.christmasangel.net](http://www.christmasangel.net)  
#xmasangels

**When:** Angels are commissioned at morning worship on 10th December then you can take them out.

Last year 45,930 angels were distributed altogether. How many can we get out to the people of Llandudno this Christmas? For more information contact the St John's office or Rev Bev on 01492 877799.

## Praying for the Church Family

As the Leading Your Church Into Growth course comes to a close in November, **please pray that the discussions will have been fruitful**, and that new energy and vision will spread throughout our churches and beyond.

The baptism of its new members is an occasion of great joy for the church. By water and the Spirit, we are reborn as God's children, and are made followers of Christ, members of his body, the church, and inheritors of the kingdom of heaven.

**Please pray for Jenson Mitchell**, to be welcomed into the church by baptism on 5th November at St Hilary's.

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## Advent Calendars

The Real Advent Calendar is available in our churches. Cost £3.99.

The Real Advent Calendar is a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. The calendar comes with a 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. This year, the book is illustrated by award winning artist, Alida Massari. The Real Advent Calendar is designed to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.



## Christmas Craft Making Day At St Paul's

On Saturday 4th November from 10am-1pm, we'll be making Christmas cards and festive decorations (below) using old sheet music to add a vintage theme. From bunting to paper angels, come and try your hand at something a bit different.

Cost £5 for the session including all materials and refreshments, and you get to take some of your work home



## Through a Glass Darkly

St John's Methodist Church are holding an exhibition of art (and audio) on the theme of one person's journey through grief.

It will run from Monday 6th to Saturday 11th November 10 am - 4 pm each day. Stewards are needed to host the event. If you are interested in helping please sign up on the rota sheet in St John's or call Lyn at the St John's office on 01492 860439 to offer a two hour slot.

Thank you for your help with this special event which we will hope will be a support and encouragement to those who are grieving.

**A member of one of our churches is desperately seeking a cleaner to help with household work.**  
For further information please ring: Ann (01492) 876996.

# Around the Churches

## We will remember them

There will be Acts of Remembrance at 11 am in most of our churches on Sunday 12th November - services that normally start at 11 am will begin at 10.55 am.



## St Hilary's, Llanrhos

### Come & have a "cuppa"

St Hilary's Schoolroom  
2nd & 4th Tuesday in each month  
2.30-4 pm

The Banner Group is re-inventing itself - bring your knitting, sewing or other craft activities with you, share your Arts & Crafts ideas, or just come for a chat. **Starting January 9th**

### Autumn in St Hilary's churchyard

St Hilary's churchyard is a fantastic haven for wild life and Autumn brings new things to see. This shaggy ink cap or lawyer's wig is one of many different fungi that have appeared this year.



### Autumn/Christmas Fair

Plans have not been finalised as we go to print - Watch this space!!

## Cymun Bendigaid

Do you enjoy your Holy Eucharist in your mother tongue?

Come and join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening at 6.30 pm  
at St Hilary's Church  
Celebrated by Rev David Jenkins

## St Grwst's, Llanrwst

### Christmas Tree Festival 2017

Following the success of this summer's Flower Festival, St Grwst's Church is delighted to announce the first Christmas Tree Festival.

The event will launch on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** with Criw Grwst Advent event (art, craft

storytelling and worship for children of all ages) and a soup lunch. We would welcome businesses, clubs, societies, community organisations and individuals to join this event exhibiting a Christmas tree display.

There is no charge for exhibiting but donations to the restoration of Gwydir Chapel and reordering of St Grwst's Church will be gratefully received.

For further information and to book a place please contact Janet Pierce on 01492 640443 or e-mail [janandbarry62@yahoo.com](mailto:janandbarry62@yahoo.com)



**Please will those responsible check** that information about regular services (page 2) and contacts (inside back cover) is kept up to date. We welcome news and comment from all the churches in the Mission Area, with photos if possible. Please send items in by **Copy Date (7th of the month)** to [jastone@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:jastone@dunelm.org.uk) or to the parish office. Contributions may be edited to fit available space, and late items may be omitted.

**Editor** Rev Noel Carter; **Production Editor** Dilys Stone; **Production Assistant** Chris Dearden

# St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy

*Barry Broadmeadow writes.....* Unfortunately a delay in getting the church building ready in time for cleaning means that the **re-opening celebration Eucharist will now be on Sunday 26 November at 4 pm**, to which everyone is warmly invited. The preacher will be the Dean of St Asaph, the Very Reverend Nigel Williams. There is no doubt that all those involved in St Ffraid's have proved that their spirit is more than willing to keep the Christian witness alive and thriving despite setbacks. Please join us for this special occasion. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

There are always occasions and events to announce and report at Church House in Glan Conwy. At the Harvest Supper all tickets sold and members from Eglwysbach also enjoyed the evening as well friends from the village. A "Cabaret Night" in October raised funds to help pay for the upkeep of the cemetery. There is no shortage of ideas to attract people of all ages to come and participate in this hall. It is in constant use and as I write rehearsals for the pantomime are swinging into action.

**St Ffraid's Church House**  
Glan Conwy  
**Coffee Stop**

Every Thursday 10-11.30 am

In July an Awards Ceremony for people of all ages who contribute to village life was held, and was well received. I mention it only to point out that the members of St Ffraid's have a reputation for ensuring a happy welcome to everyone. I think that they are keeping the traditional heart of this village alive. Families and others in the community who attend clearly appreciate the warmth and kindness of all those who help to run these events. This means, that there is an opportunity to reduce isolation and bring people together who may not otherwise meet.

## Indoor Car Boot Sale

**Saturday 11th November**

9 am to 1 pm

Church House, Watling Street, Llanrwst  
£5 per stall. Traders including craft and produce welcome. Proceeds to Restoration of Gwydir Chapel and Reordering of St Grwst's Church. Advance stall booking or to make a donation contact Olwen John on 07551 327509 or Janet Piece on 01492 640443.

## St David's, Penrhyn Bay



**CHRISTMAS  
FAIR**

**Saturday 25th  
November  
12-2 pm**

**SOUP, CAKES, STALLS, PICKLES,  
JAMS, RAFFLES AND MORE!**

### St David's Ladies Fellowship

*Ann Rowland writes:*

In September we paused to remember fondly Maura Gregory who died recently, and also welcomed two new members. Mrs Jill Roberts, Regional Communications Officer for Dwr Cymru, spoke about "Welsh Water - Dwr Cymru - not for profit". There is a £120 million investment to improve and expand all twelve water treatment works to continue to meet regulations and ensure that over 400,000 customers continue to receive high quality drinking water. There is a current TV promotion "Let's stop the Block", aimed at those who dispose of unsuitable things down the toilet which can cause blockages in the water system. It was a very interesting and informative talk.

# St Cystennin's, Mochdre

The Medieval Stained Glass Panels are now returned to St Cystennin's Church following restoration.



## Church Open Day

What a wonderful day on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Lots of people came through the doors – we had the stained glass panels, records from 1600's onwards on display for searching. Betty (Jam) had made wonderful cakes, jams and chutneys. Michael had his plants for sale in the churchyard for fundraising. Around £600 for church funds was raised on the day (not including plant sales).

**A great big thank you to everyone who supported the event and worked so hard to make it happen!**

We were so excited to see the glass panels, restored through a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund, arriving back in church ready for Open Day displayed in a beautiful wooden case after many years of being stored in Llandudno Museum. There were articles on BBC Wales TV and radio with Lee Bilson from Recclesia Ltd expressing the historical importance of the panels and Margaret Hodgkiss, Treasurer, also featured. Mr Robin Lewis who has much local knowledge of the church, played the organ.



Above - Visitors to St Cystennin's looking at the newly restored stained glass panels.

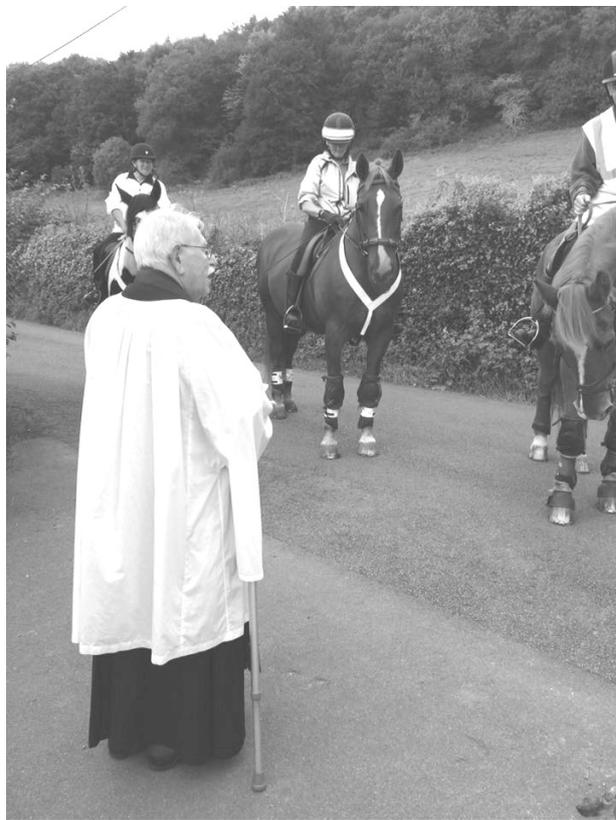


Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

**Cyllid a godwyd gan  
Y Loteri Genedlaethol**  
ac a ddyfarnwyd gan Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri

## Blessing of the Medieval Glass

There will be a special service on **Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 11 am** when The Rt. Rev. Bishop Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph, will preside at Holy Eucharist and lead a blessing of the Glass Panels. All are invited to join us for this special service and receive a booklet with photos and information.



ABOVE: The September pet service was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Alan Price for leading us - here he is giving a blessing to horses at the church gate.

The next major fundraising event for St Cystennin's will be a **Christmas Carol Evening** with Cantamus Chamber Choir, and recorder consort - **Wednesday December 13th** at 7 p.m. with bubbles and mince pies after.

The church is usually open Saturday mornings 10-12ish for coffee – please do come and visit or join us for a Sunday morning service.

## St Paul's, Craig y Don

Warning: don't leave your church doors open: you never know what might happen.

In October, a few of us were working in St Paul's tidying up, and thought we'd leave the door unlocked and open in case anyone came by. And a few people did. Most were intrigued by the scale of the place, some asked questions about the history of the building. But one couple had something else to ask: could you bless our marriage?

Wei and Hayley were on holiday from China, where they'd recently got married. They explained that the Chinese wedding ceremony was a simple legal contract, and they thought that British church weddings conveyed a greater sense of the importance of lifelong commitment.

Patrick Rohde was on hand at the back of the church and put the couple in touch with the parish office, and two days later, Rev Noel Carter met with them to bless their marriage, an emotional experience for them both.



Scenes from the recent family service at St Paul's. The theme was the lost sheep, and activities included making a sheep collage with wool (ABOVE). There was also a guest appearance from Milly the Sheep, giving out leaflets in the church (BELOW).



The chance experience has left us wondering whether we should try opening the church more often - watch this space. On the subject



LEFT: the west rose window at St Paul's was blown out in a storm in November 2015, and it took almost two years before it was returned to the church. Here the contractors prepare to remove the temporary board over the hole

of openings, then one hole in the church has now been filled up. The rose window at the west(ish) end of St Paul's was damaged by bad weather in November 2015, and repaired fairly quickly. But it's taken some months to get all the contractors together to actually put the window back in place. The window has now been reinstalled, ready for the next bout of winter storms.

Storm Ophelia paid Llandudno a visit during the last few weeks, and ripped off a few more slates and a ridge tile on the roof. Visits by contractors have slowed down slightly since our manic month of September, though the need to be on the ball when looking after a historic building remains in minds.

The autumn congregation meeting was well attended, and agreed a few changes to the way we do recycling in order to reduce the amount of rubbish we generate. We've also set up a small group to look at the future of the church hall, which is now showing its age.

Thanks are due to everyone who made the church look impressive for this year's harvest festival, and who's worked hard to organise the autumn afternoon tea in late October. Date for your diary: Christmas Fayre is on the morning of Saturday 2nd December.

*Chris Dearden and Philip Evans*



ABOVE: Some of the impressive floral decorations in place at St Paul's for harvest festival. Look closely and, yes, there are peppers and tangerines among the flowers. A black and white picture doesn't do it justice! BELOW LEFT: Sam the dog ponders auditioning for the choir. His favourite hymn is "The Lord Is My Shepherd". Sam is an occasional visitor to St Paul's while his owner arranges flowers.

## St Paul's Choir

Autumn is already proving to be busy and there's still a while to go until Christmas! We had a nicely balanced and very full choir for harvest festival, including the anthem "Thou Visitest The Earth" by Maurice Greene, with a fine tenor solo from Jonny Matson.

Just a few weeks later, the Hiraeth arts festival provided us with chance to get out Karl Jenkins' "Armed Man" Mass at a Sunday communion service. A favourite with the congregation, it will also be sung for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November.

One of the highlights of the year, the candlelit advent service "Darkness To Light" is scheduled for Sunday 26th November at 4.30pm; do join us if you can.

*Deborah Haigh-Roberts*



# St Michael's, Llandudno Junction

**Macmillan Coffee Morning:** As far as attendance went, it was rather disappointing to see so few people turn up at the Rectory for this event. However, many of those who made their apologies also made a donation, and so we were able to send £203 to support Macmillan which was, as good or better than previous years! It was good to see Councillor Bill Chapman, Mayor of Conwy, there.



ABOVE: the church warden of All Saints and her consort! (Or perhaps that should be the Mayor of Conwy and his?) Bill and Pat Chapman enjoy coffee and cake at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

**Harvest:** We had a very successful joint Harvest Service held at All Saints, Deganwy. Everyone was extremely generous with gifts for the Food Bank and Aberconwy Women's Aid, and this year there was a decision to send our money donations to 'Send a Cow'. This charity changes the lives of the poorest by helping provide seeds, tools and training – not just cows! It has already helped more than a

million people in Africa beat poverty for good. Both congregations made a sterling effort, and we were able to support the charity to the tune of some £274! Well, done, everyone!

**Scouts:** The now annual Scout Commissioning Service is to take place again in St Michael's on 10<sup>th</sup> December. It is good to see the young people receive their certificates as we welcome local, district and national scout leaders to be part of the service.

**Christmas:** This year, St Michael's reverts to its traditional format as there will be a Midnight Mass beginning at 11:30 p.m. The usual Crib Service for the very young will also be held on Christmas Eve, and this begins at 4:30 p.m., which still leaves plenty of time to see Santa arrive in Conwy!

**Mothers' UNION**  
Gofal Cristnogol i Deuluoedd

## St Ffraid's Branch, Glan Conwy

At the meeting on November 14th The speaker is to be Ali Ussery of Transform International and his topic will be "Modern Slavery in North Wales and Beyond".

For the December 12th meeting we will be having a Festive Meal. Further details will be announced later.

## Autumn Council

**Thursday 16th November** at St Margaret's Church Hall Wrexham 10 am. This meeting will inform members of the new area groups following the change from Deaneries to Mission Areas.

## St Paul's Branch, Craig-y-Don

In October we were treated to some of member Josie Stanton's poems. She was encouraged by Pam Ayres and her poetry had some of the same insight into everyday things, with touching evocation of places and people. On 13th November Phyl Oliver will be talking to us, and on the 27th we will have reflections on the coming season of 'Advent.

### All Saints Branch, Deganwy

At our opening service in September, the Revd Peter Walker reminded us about how the Mothers' Union began, and spoke about the work that has been done and is still being done all over the world, and how some things have changed. A big thank you to all who made the afternoon a lovely start to our 90th birthday celebrations, especially Nigel for his hard work in the kitchen!

On 7th November we celebrate our birthday - members and friends are invited to bring any item or story illustrating life in this period. On 21st November Carol Richards will be speaking about 'Fire Safety'. A warm welcome is extended to all to join us at our meetings, held at 2.30 pm in Capel Bethel Schoolroom..

### More Church Information Online

**Mission Area** website: [www.aberconwy.church](http://www.aberconwy.church)  
Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/aberconwymissionarea/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/aberconwymissionarea/)

**All Saints** Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Deganwy-943977308961577/](https://www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Deganwy-943977308961577/)  
website: [www.allsaintsdeganwy.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsdeganwy.co.uk)

**St Cystennin's** Facebook page:  
[www.facebook.com/StCystenninsChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StCystenninsChurch)

**St David's** Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/St-Davids-Church-Penrhyn-Bay-1425862127480834/](https://www.facebook.com/St-Davids-Church-Penrhyn-Bay-1425862127480834/)

**St Katherine's** website: [ww.stkatherinesbp.com](http://ww.stkatherinesbp.com)

**St Paul's** website: [www.stpaulsllandudno.co.uk](http://www.stpaulsllandudno.co.uk)  
Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/choirofstpauls](https://www.facebook.com/choirofstpauls)

## Thoughts and comments

### Facts or feelings?

*A response from Barry Ainge to the article 'Zen and the Art of Christianity' by Rev Peter Walker in last month's magazine:*

In his article, Peter observes that many today are seeking spiritual experiences through 'New Age' spirituality or eastern mysticism and he seems to say that these approaches to 'God' are paralleled in Christian meditation – that facts are not as important as the attempt to discover God within ourselves.

Our historic Christian tradition is, however, rooted firmly and inescapably in facts. In our creeds we recite regularly the key facts of Jesus' life – the fact of His Incarnation, the fact of His perfect life on earth, the fact of His Crucifixion, the fact of His Resurrection, the fact of His Ascension, the fact of His Second Coming. If these facts are removed our faith falls apart. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, if He did not live a perfect life, if He did not die on the cross, if He was not raised to life on the third day, then we are still dead in our sins and we have no hope of eternal life.

It is the facts of Christianity that make it different from every other religion. No other God takes human form and dies for His creation. No other religion offers salvation because its God is a God of love. All other religions require their adherents to pay for their own sins.

Yes, let us meditate on these facts – 'the Word became flesh', 'God is love', 'the Servant King', 'Christ has died, Christ is risen' – let us share them with those around us who are seeking for truth, but let us be aware that they are not religious connotation words without any content, for it is the facts that promise salvation, not the meditation on them. We will not find a God of love within our human consciousness without considering the actions our God has taken for our salvation. Within ourselves we find only darkness and emptiness. From within we cannot find enlightenment. Rather, we need the Light of the World to shine into our hearts to dispel the darkness and fill us with joy. Then, as the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we will reflect the light of the Son. We must meet face to face with the living God, who has

revealed Himself in the facts we recite in our creeds, but, as C S Lewis has said, how can we meet God 'Till we have faces'? That is to say, we must realise our sinfulness and powerlessness before we can approach the God who is there. We cannot live a God-centred life until we have been born again by God's Spirit and have been filled with Him. It is only in His power that we can live a life that is focussed on God and our neighbour.

The facts will lead us to Jesus, our Saviour, and, once we have received Him into our hearts, we will then be able to meditate on the truths of the gospel until we come to know God more fully. Then, our hearts will yearn for His Presence and our desire will be for Him. This is our journey of faith, its beginning and end being in God Himself.

## **Rev Noel Carter – Sabbatical thoughts**

I was very fortunate to be granted a sabbatical during the summer of 2017. It was my first sabbatical in 34 years of ministry and it was a truly enriching experience. During my time away from the Mission Area, I wanted to write a short book about how the church deals with change. Since the Church in Wales Review in 2012 there has been a lot of change going on. Sometimes we have dealt well with the changes, but often we have not. I hope the book is a positive reflection on how we manage change in churches and will be particular useful to those in leadership in our changing church.

A brief excerpt from 'Changing Church' by Noel Carter about the need for change and the significance of changing names:

*Churches are facing the many challenge that being the Body of Christ in the 21st Century brings. One of the greatest of these is its ability, to cope with change itself. Some churches are exploring Fresh Expressions, others are facing reorganisation and encouragement to embrace new forms of*

*ministry. Whatever the change, people often feel unsettled.*

*It's strange that the church finds change so difficult. Its history is full of often radical change. Scripture and Church history make their biggest impact when change takes place. This change is at its most obvious, when individuals have changed. It is often the change in one person that brings about change for many. John Wesley had his heart strangely warmed and Martin Luther King had a dream.*

*In the Old Testament, change of name often heralds new ways of faithfully responding to God's call. Abram, "Exalted Father", become Abraham, "Father of Many". Jacob, after wrestling with God, becomes Israel. In the Gospels, Simon becomes the "Rock" on which the church will be built. These God-given changes show a real change in direction. Paul changes his name after his conversion, adopting a name that makes sense to someone bringing the Good News to the Gentile World.*

*Any parent will remember the challenge of choosing a name for their child. Can it name be shortened? Are there family traditions to be considered? What initials will the child have? However, once chosen, the child very rapidly becomes his or her name and they carry it with them for the rest of their life.*

*Usually, names only change at significant times, such as marriage or other circumstances that make it necessary. Some decide their name just isn't right. Reg Dwight becomes Elton John or Maurice Micklewhite becomes Michael Caine.*

*Names are important in Church life too. Churches are dedicated to saints, chapels are named after places in the Bible. Names are important because they indicate aspirations, purpose and identity. Changing names can be a tricky business. Get the wrong name or change names too often and they lose their power. In the past ten years I have experienced four name changes of the Deaneries in which I have worked. Confusion*

*and loss of identity are the result. Changing names is all very well, but to be effective, you have to change hearts and minds too.*

*Today, name changes often herald a new intent or vision. Millions of pounds are spent on new logos and corporate images. Who would have thought that a company called "Backrub" would become an ever present feature of life as 'Google'*

*In 2012 the Church in Wales published a review of its current situation. A picture emerged of terminal decline in a church on the margins of a rapidly changing society. Action was needed and the report outlined many possibilities. Amongst changes to diocesan structures suggested, was the abolition of Deaneries and the formation of newly named Ministry Areas. According to a booklet produced by the Diocese of Monmouth:*

*'Ministry Areas are incarnational, in that they are rooted in local communities with local leadership. They are apostolic in having leaders with responsibility for teaching, fostering vocations and empowering others for ministry. They are missional in seeking new opportunities for ministry*

*and evangelism. They are prophetic in that they recognise the signs of the times and plan for the future. They are visionary in that they require a new way of responding to God's call to extend his Kingdom.'*

*Ministry Areas have been adopted by all six Dioceses in the Church in Wales, though the Diocese of St Asaph has changed the name to Mission Areas. This is a small, but significant difference. Since the Review the Diocese has embarked upon the process of eliminating Deaneries and creating twenty one Mission Areas. Each Mission Area has a new name. There are those who regarded this process as rebranding. Many hope that these changes will go away. Despite information about the changes being widely available, ignorance about Mission Areas in local churches is profound. However, there are a growing number of people who have caught the vision and slowly a critical mass is being built up. It's these people who will move the church forward.*

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## CHURCH OFFICERS AND ORGANISATIONS

(all telephone numbers 01492 unless otherwise stated)

**Lay Readers:** Mr M Clutton 876292; Mr K Livesey 548492; Mr A Price 543138

**Pastoral Assistants:** Mrs P Chapman 583420; Miss M Cooke 876414;  
Mrs R Williams 517256

**Worship Leaders:** Miss M Cooke 876414; Mrs A Huckle 580822; Mr M Wise 581545

### Church Wardens:

Mission Area	Barry Ainge	582752	Tesni Hadwin	573248
All Saints:	Pat Chapman	583420	Frank Prescott	584788
St Cystennin's:	Peter Jones	07745 357290	2 <sup>nd</sup> Warden - Vacancy	
St David's:	Karen Stringer	07973 337650	Phil Williams	546840
St Doged's	Mrs M Jones	640161	Mrs B Evans	642161
St Ffraid's	Mrs M E Jones	580446	Mrs T Hadwin	573248
St Grwst's	Mr B Hughes	640703	Mrs J Pierce	640443
St Hilary's:	Mrs D Owen	585127	Mr E Williams	584446
St Katherine's:	Mr G Clowes	879761	Mrs M Pritchard	540542
St Martin's	Mr G R Templeton	580272	Mr N Robinson	650906
St Michael's:	Renee Williams	517256	2 <sup>nd</sup> Warden - Vacancy	
St Paul's:	Philip Evans	877696	Chris Dearden	07941 946525

**Mission Area Secretaries :** Mrs A Milne 876996 Mrs M Pritchard 540542

**Mission Area Treasurer:** Mrs A Harty 546039

**Gift Aid Secretary:** Mrs A Harty 546039

### Choirs and Organists:

All Saints:	Organist	Mr J Wright	541552	
St Cystennin's:	Organist	Ms M Harley	582957	
St David's:	Organist	Mr K Holland	878826	
St Hilary's:	Organist	Mr J Liddon-Few	07930 414287	
St Katherine's:	Organist	Mrs Angela Hall	581224	
St Martin's:	Organist	Mr Roy Kenrick	650529	
St Michael's:	Organist	Mrs G Williams	584428	
St Paul's:	Director of Music	Miss D Haigh-Roberts	07867 964010	
	Organists	Mr T Hemuss	07775 517823	Mr K Lacey 01248 440843
		Mr J Liddon-Few	07930 414287	

**Ysgol Bodafon Head Teacher:** Mr T Lloyd Owen 547996

**Ysgol Bodafon Chair of Governors:** Rev M Harrison 01492 870701/07910 141410

**Parish Education Service Treasurer:** Mrs A Clutton 876292

**Banner Group:** Mrs D Owen 585127

**Magazine Honorary Treasurer:** Parish Office 541615

**Honorary Secretary CMS** Parish Office 541615

### Mothers' Union:

All Saints: (meet at Bethel Chapel Schoolroom) Mrs D Laight 584247

St Paul's: (meet at St Paul's Church Hall) Mrs A Clutton 876292

St Ffraid's (meet at St Ffraid's Church House) Mrs. M Jones 580446.

**Ladies' Fellowships:** St David's: Mrs N Reid 549853

St Michael's: Mrs A Huckle 580822

**St Hilary's Fellowship:** Mrs D Owen 585127

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