

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

Lent 2018

What will you do?

There are a number of different opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment during Lent, leading up to our observance of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. What will you do this Lent? Here is one suggestion:

Lent Course - The Psalms

As in previous years there will be a Lent Course on Wednesdays at St David's Hospice Chapel. There will be five meetings, starting on 21st February at 7.00 pm. Each session will begin with the service of Compline, followed by teaching and discussion.

The ancient poems we call Psalms are over 2000 years old. They were written in very different times from our own when humans could travel at the speed of a camel – not at the speed of sound.

But these songs have stood the test of time for they address many of the problems we still face: violence, injustice, anger – and bewilderment. Why do the wicked prosper?

Where is God when we suffer? In this five-session course, we will reflect on the psalms in general. The course will focus on five of the psalms in particular:

1. Know that the Lord is God (Psalm 100)
2. Out of the depths have I cried (Psalm 130)
3. How long, O Lord? (Psalm 13)
4. You spread a table before me (Psalm 23)
5. Unless the Lord builds a house (Psalm 127)



LEFT: Another thing that you can do during Lent is to pray for growth in all our churches. Your prayers really do help!

One sign of growth is the Thursday "Lego Club" sessions at St Pauls, which recently featured the baptism of Jesus.

Here, two of the children show of the Lego models they've made of the River Jordan. Lego figures were also "baptised" in the church font, to the amusement of all!

"Gwnewch y pethau bychain - Do the little things"

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES - ALL WELCOME

1st Sunday of the month

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

2nd Sunday of the month

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

3rd Sunday of the month

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

4th Sunday of the month

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

5th Sunday of the month

8 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints and St David's
9.30 am **Holy Eucharist** St Michael's and St Martin's
9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's
11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints; **Morning Prayer** St Hilary's
11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's
4 pm **Holy Eucharist** St Grwst'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, on **Thursdays at 10.30 am** at St Paul's and **Fridays at 10 am** at St David's

Messy Church - see calendar. **Prayer Group** - 10 am every Tuesday at St David's (01492 876451 for details)

Koinonia Groups (Bible study, prayer & discussion): **Morning** - 2nd and 4th Weds, 10.30 am (01492 876451 for details)
Evening - 1st and 3rd 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 and St Ffraid's, 10.30 am Friday at St David's

CLERGY: Rev Noel Carter (Mission Area Leader) 01492 339521

Rev Dr Godfrey Chigumira 01492 543706 Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osborn 01492 640032

Rev Peter Walker 01492 583579

OFFICE: Penrhyn Beach East, Penrhyn Bay, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church

Open 10-12.30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Mis Chwefror 2018 - CALENDAR - February 2018

		Services	Other events
Thursday	1	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	2	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	3		
SUNDAY	4	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE	
Monday	5		
Tuesday	6		Bible Briefs 7.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	7	HE 10 am AS	MAGAZINE COPY DATE
Thursday	8	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	9	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	10		
POVERTY SUNDAY	11	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Family Service 4 pm St P; Cytun Poverty Sunday service 6 pm St David's Methodist Church, Craig-y-Don	
Monday	12		St P Mothers' Union AGM 2.30 pm
Tuesday	13		Pancake Quiz 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom AS Mothers' Union .2 30 pm
ASH WEDNESDAY	14	HE 10 am AS; 11 am St Ff; 7 pm St D, St G & St H	
Thursday	15	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	16	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	17		Open Church: prayer & coffee 10 am - noon St P
SUNDAY	18	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Holy Baptism 12.30 pm St H	
Monday	19		LYCIG course 7.30 pm St G Church House
Tuesday	20	Open Table Service 7 pm St G	Cytun meeting 10.30 am St John's Methodist Cuppa, crafts and chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos S/room
Wednesday	21	HE 10 am AS	Lent Course 7 pm Hospice Chapel
Thursday	22	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	23		
Saturday	24		
SUNDAY	25	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE	
Monday	26		Daffodil Tea 2.30 pm St P Hall LYCIG course 7.30 pm St G Church House
Tuesday	27		AS Mothers' Union .2 30 pm Cuppa, crafts and chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos S/room
Wednesday	28	HE 10 am AS	Lent Course 7 pm Hospice Chapel
<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 ; 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</p>			

Ash Wednesday – 14th February 2018

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. It is one of the principal holy days for the Church. Ash Wednesday falls on the seventh Wednesday before Easter and begins a season of Lent, a time of fasting and repentance in preparation for the Easter celebration.

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians come to a service of Holy Communion, to receive the sign of the cross, marked in ashes on their foreheads. We are encouraged to fast, pray, and seek repentance for our sins and to reflect upon the direction of our lives

This ceremony originated around the eighth century and extends back to the custom during biblical times of people humbling themselves with sackcloth and ashes. The prophet Daniel speaks of seeking the Lord for the release of his people from Babylonian exile with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes (Daniel 9:3). Jonah 3:6 states: "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

In an old Ash Wednesday tradition, penitents who had committed grave sins would come wearing shifts made from rough cloth or animal hair. The priest would bless them and sprinkle ashes over them while they recited the Seven Penitential Psalms. The penitents would leave the church and for the next forty days strive for repentance and absolution. They would then return on Maundy Thursday and receive Communion from the priest.

For many Christians, the origins of Ash Wednesday are an annual reminder of where our hearts should be in relation to God, and of the reason Jesus died on the cross for us all.

Services of Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes

10.00 am at All Saints Deganwy; 11 am at St Ffraid's Glan Conwy;
7.00 pm at St David's Penrhyn Bay, St Grwst's Llanrwst, and St Hilary's Llanrhos

Leading Your Church In to Growth

This is a course for anyone who wants to get church growth principles and practice into the bloodstream of our church communities.

Dates: 7.30 pm on Mondays 19th and 26th February, and 5th, 12th and 19th March at Church House in Llanrwst.

This course helps churches:

- Learn key biblical teachings on growth
- Discuss, question and apply these teachings to our situations
- Become inspired and motivated
- Make decisions, implement plans and develop new ways of working
- Resolve to stick with these plans, reviewing and adapting them as we go along

Praying for Growth



Praying for our Mission Area is really Important. There will be regular opportunities to come to our churches to spend time praying for spiritual and numerical growth.

This month **St Paul's, Craig y Don** will be open between 10 am and noon on **Saturday 17th February**. Come in any time during the two hours and stay as long as you like. Church growth must be founded In prayer. Your prayers are Important!

Also please pray for Alyssa Marie Byrne, to be welcomed into the church by baptism on 18th February at St Hilary's.

Bible Briefs

**Tuesday 6th February
and Tuesday 6th March**

Llanrhos School Room at 7.30 pm

We explore the Passion Narrative In Mark's



Conwy Food Bank

Feeding local people in crisis

www.conwyfoodbank.co.uk

Conwy Food Bank writes:

The coldest winter months are upon us and this can be a difficult time for people struggling to meet their household bills. It seems more people than ever are needing help in the UK. (In November we issued a total of 86 parcels - the highest November total and second highest of all months.)

It also seems that not everyone realises they can access our help. Sometimes there is embarrassment or a sense of shame, but such are the times we live in that it doesn't take much to suddenly find oneself in financial difficulty, whether through ill-health, redundancy, breakdown in relationships or problems with benefits.

We are so grateful here at the Food Bank for all our wonderful supporters who are so generous every month. We are always happy to hear from anyone who could spare a few hours each week to help in the store or collect donations.



Pictured left:
A reminder of the winter weather - the view from the Glan Conwy house of one church member.



**Church Action
on Poverty
Sunday**

Sunday 11th February

Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope.

Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. Church Action on Poverty works with church and community groups across the UK to make tackling poverty a priority.

Poverty Sunday Service

Sunday 11th February

6 pm at St David's Methodist, Craig-y-Don



Advance Notice!

Mission Area Trip to

Port Sunlight

Saturday 7th July

The trip will leave Llandudno at 9.30 am and return home by 6 pm. Visit the Lady Lever Art Gallery and the Soap Museum as well as looking around the village and enjoying a pleasant lunch.

Tickets are £14, which covers coach travel and admission to the Soap Museum. Bookings can be made now by phoning Mandy in the parish office. Tickets will be available in the churches after Easter. Put the date in your diary now. More information next month.



Around the Churches



Pancake Quiz

Tuesday 13th February

2.30 pm

Llanrhos School Room

Tickets £3 from St Hilary's
or Parish Office



ABOVE: Beryl makes a good job of a gleaming lectern at St Hilary's. BELOW: The stable fills up at the crib service.



St Hilary's, Llanrhos

By the end of our Advent Adventure the church was full of angels, there was a Jesse tree, the kings were travelling towards the crib, and we had heard the story of the naughty donkey. The church looked lovely after the hard work of the cleaners and flower

arrangers, ready to welcome people to the Crib Service, the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, and the Carol Service on 31st December.



LEFT: The Wise Men just arriving at the Christmas tree at St Hilary's



Don't forget our Cuppa and Chat sessions, 2.30 pm on Tuesdays 20th and 27th February in the Schoolroom. All welcome, whether you have craft work to bring or not.

St David's, Penrhyn Bay

Christmas at St David's

Karen Stringer writes..... Belated and sincere thanks to everyone who made Christmas special for everyone else, and 2017 saw many people in church, some for the first time.

We began with the Parish lunch which was well supported and well organised by the Williams family before many members of the congregation disappeared to join their families in various parts of the country.

Ysgol Glanwydden held their Christmas concerts, and Alan Price prepared Carols around the Tree which is now welcoming more visitors (and not just because of the mulled wine!). The shared time together after this service was very encouraging. Both toddler groups who meet in the hall throughout the year came into church for their own brief Nativity service. Our carol service on Christmas Eve followed the Jesse tree pattern with everyone placing an ornament on the Christmas tree and we were delighted to see some people who attend activities in the hall at this service.

All of these events take time and planning at an already busy time of the year. Thank you.

Bright Ideas for 2018

Following on from the article in the January magazine, please give the wardens your comments on the noticeboards at St David's both inside and out. Do they tell you the things you need to know?

If you have experience of leading intercessions and would like to take part during our services speak to Godfrey or the worship team.

Car Parking At St David's

When you're visiting St David's Church or coming to a service, please don't park in front of the neighbouring properties on Glan y Mor Road.



ABOVE: A splendid Wise Man in St David's church, on his way to see Jesus.

THE SINGLE USE HOT DRINK CUP DEBATE

There is an alternative to plastic disposable cups and the cup for hot drinks does not need a plastic holder.
<https://www.vegware.com>

St Katherine's, Bryn Pydew

Rev Peter Marshall writes..... Last month I wrote about the refugee children of Bishop Samuel from South Sudan. The amazing opportunity has now arisen for Daniel, 13, to come as a boarder to St. David's College, Llandudno, for his education. They have the expertise to support such a child.

The school governors are offering a generous bursary, but there will still be a big financial challenge to be met. A special charity, Link International will sponsor him, when they have the promises of £12k a year from friends.

There will be two airfares a year, uniform, pocket money, school trips, and all the usual things to find.

It was Daniel who was rescued from a terrible accident in June 2005 when he was 14 months. His father, Bishop Samuel, would be thrilled if Daniel had a UK education. Clergy, including Bishops, are unpaid in South Sudan. They just have a patch of land to grow their own food. Bishop Samuel depends on a network of friends in UK and elsewhere for support.

A teacher from St. David's College met Daniel in Uganda before Christmas and assessed him. If you would like to know more and be interested in the possibility of helping financially, please be in touch - Creuddyn Barn, Glanwydden, LL31 9JL, 01492 547352, or revmarsh35@gmail.com. The first promise of £2.5k has already been made. Please pray anyway for all refugee children. Thank you.



Peter and Janet Marshall (above) joined 400 worshippers of all ages at St Mary's Islington recently on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the first children's meeting of what was to become Scripture Union and Children's Special Service Mission. The Queen was guest of honour. Look out for the service on the Songs of Praise TV programme.



St Michael's, Llandudno Junction

Scouts

The now annual Commissioning Service took place in St Michael's on 10th December. Photos below show the youngsters with their certificates at the presentation with the Mayor of Conwy, Councillor Bill Chapman, and also the arrival of some of the group in the snow at St Michael's, led by the piper.



Parkinson's Support Group

This group meets at St Michael's most weeks to offer support and activities for anyone suffering from Parkinson's Disease, and also welcomes families too.

Their Christmas Party was held on December 11th and, as well as a buffet, there was a quiz and a raffle and carol singing with the choir singing a selection of carols and Christmas songs.

Wynarth Nursery

Wynarth Nursery held their nativity service at St Michael's on 14th December, and proud parents and carers joined the tots who performed the Nativity story (pictured right). The photo below shows the arrival of Santa.



ABOVE and ABOVE RIGHT: Wynarth Nursery nativity service.
BELOW RIGHT: Bert and Pat Oade play pass the parcel at the Parkinson's Support Group Christmas Party at St Michael's.



Mothers' UNION
Gofal Cristnogol i Deuluoedd

All Saints Branch, Deganwy

Daphne Laight writes..... Our meetings in this month are on the 13th when Bill Chapman, Mayor of Conwy, will speak to us about "music in our lives", and on the 27th when members will discuss Bible Children. Please come along with a favourite of your own to tell us about. Our meetings are held in Bethel Chapel school hall at 2.30 pm and all are welcome to come along and join us. The Corporate Communion will be held at 10 am on 7th February.

At the time of writing Hilda Hamer is in a nursing home in Kinmel Bay and we send our love and prayers.

St Paul's Branch, Craig-y-Don

Pat Hay writes..... We had a Christmas afternoon tea on what was the coldest day of the year so we went into the small room, much cosier. We had two quizzes, one easy and one a little more challenging, songs from Phyllis and a very entertaining monologue from Alice

on "The Messiah", a very different interpretation. In January we had our opening meeting with Rev Noel Carter, and then Mary Steele, who is always very amusing and informative.

DAFFODIL TEA
Monday 26th February
2.30 pm
St Paul's Church Hall
£3.50

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US &
ENJOY A LOVELY AFTERNOON

All Saints, Deganwy

Members of All Saints Church enjoyed a meal together after the carol service. Hot pot and lentil dahl was followed by mince pies and coffee. (See picture right - and note that the vicar is smiling!) Good food and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to Betty Raggett and Ruth Parker for cooking.



Nodyn ar gyfer eich dyddiadur

Ar 9fed Mawrth 2018, bydd côr dynion ieuencid Hogia'r Berfeddwlad, sy wedi ennill nifer o wobrau, yn perfformio yn Eglwys yr Holl Saint yn Neganwy. Bydd yr elw yn mynd i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Conwy 2019. Mae'r eglwys wedi cynnal nifer o gyngherddau côr yn llwyddiannus dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae tocynnau am £7 ar gael o 01492 583420.

Note for your diary

On 9th March 2018 award-winning youthful men's choir Hogia'r Berfeddwlad will be performing at All Saints Church in Deganwy. Profits will go to the National Eisteddfod to take place in Llanrwst in 2019. All Saints has hosted several choir concerts in recent years, and all have been well received. Tickets are £7 each from 01492 583420.

St Paul's, Llandudno

The dark days of January and February usually mean two things at St Paul's: planning for the months ahead, and trying to keep the church warm while spending as little on gas and electricity as possible! Heating a large building like ours costs £2.50 an hour, which may not sound like much until you consider that the radiators take an hour just to get up to temperature, and the heating has to go on early Saturday evening to make sure that the building is warm enough for a Sunday service. By the time the congregation arrive, we'll have burned £30-£40 of gas. Add it all together and you can see why it costs around £1,000 per month to keep St Paul's warm during December, January and February.



ABOVE & LEFT: someone once disparagingly said that the congregation at St Paul's was two people and a dog. They were right in one respect - there is a dog.

Sam belongs to Helen Jones who is part of the flower arranging team, and often accompanies her to supervise, and amuse anyone who happens to be passing!

But January and February also give us a brief breathing space to start making our next plans. We're continuing to work with Ysgol Bodafon (see pictures, right), and we are currently looking at ways to develop that partnership further with some exciting educational projects after Easter. We've also managed to fix the dates for the Summer Fete (save the date - it's 28th July) and even the Christmas Fayre (1st December 2018!)

We've also been looking at things that we can do to try and grow the church at St Paul's, in a similar way to others in the mission area. How can we make ourselves more welcoming to new people? Is there anything that we need to do to improve and adapt the building to the needs of the community?

And alongside all that, the usual worries over money and the state of the building continue to occupy our attention. The hole in the roof was repaired a matter of hours before the Christmas carol service, but the bill is now here. The vestry roof still needs attention, the gutters need clearing out (remember they're 30 feet up) and the car park is becoming muddier by the day. Plenty to do!

Chris Dearden and Philip Evans

John Southall: A Tribute

It's with sadness that we heard that our former choir colleague John Southall has died.

John had sung counter-tenor at St Paul's for many years after over 70 years of involvement in church music. From early days as a boy chorister, he spent most of his adult working life in the choirs of major cathedrals in the UK, most notably in Worcester, where he shared the choir stalls with Henry Sandon, the antiques expert.

While he actually worked in banking, sympathetic bosses facilitated his working patterns to allow him to sing evensong, and also negotiated a transfer of position to enable him to move cathedrals on one occasion.

On retiring to Llandudno, John continued his singing career at St Paul's, where his polished



ABOVE and BELOW: St Paul's continues to work with our church school, Ysgol Bodafon. In January, staff from the church visited the school to help with the children's day learning about the Epiphany. The children in Dosbarth Pedwar made their own board games about the wise men's journey to Bethlehem.



musicianship and cheerful enthusiasm helped form a strong foundation for the alto section. He was also one of the most regular faces on Sunday mornings; when choir numbers dropped as low as three or four, you could guarantee that John would be there.

John claimed that his high notes actually improved as he got older, and it was the lack of lower range that eventually persuaded him to hang up his cassock in December 2014.

Away from singing, he was also known for his substantial model railway collection, and for his skills on the snooker table, which remained in play until just a few days before his passing.

May he rest in peace.

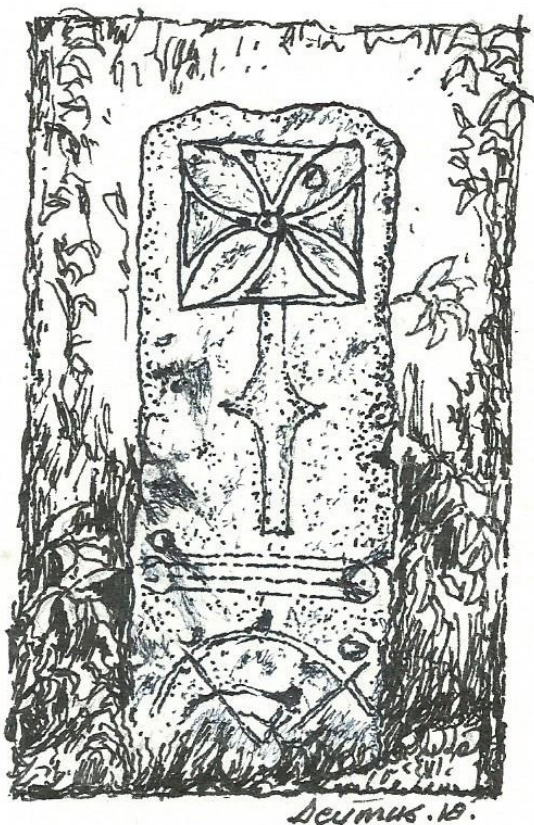
Chris Dearden

Thoughts and comments

THOUGHTS ON CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

Seumus Stewart

I am looking at a standing stone on the island of Raasay, east of Skye. On its head is a sixth century Pictish Christian cross. The old head, now its base, has a pagan Pictish rod and crescent symbol. It was turned upside down, illustrating adapting and converting an old religion. The old is not destroyed, but inverted or converted, seen in a new way, yet retaining significance for the people.



Sixth Century Pictish Stone: Raasay, Hebrides

Celtic missionaries retained old pagan sites but gave them a new dedication. Christian cells, chapels, and simple monasteries were often built within them. The Roman occupation brought Christianity to southern Britain and British Bishops attended synods in Rome, but it was almost wiped out by Anglo-Saxon paganism after the fifth century. It survived in mountain and coastal Wales, which became the beacon of faith in the West. People had

travelled the coastline from Spain to Brittany, Scotland and Ireland since Neolithic times. The sea routes became missionary highways.

Missionaries took the faith to Ireland and Scotland, then from Iona to Lindisfarne. There was a rural tribal world under chiefs and princes. Roman Christianity developed in cities in an ordered Empire. Pagan Celtic spirituality had been animistic. Celtic Christian Spirituality retained this attitude to Creation in 'pantheism,' God in everything and all around us. Greco-Roman traditions had a super-human pantheon of Gods, in a world above us, symbolised in Olympus. Celtic heaven, to quote a Hebridean woman, was "Just a couple of feet above my head." Celtic culture attaches strong value to "place." The sense of home was rooted in particular landscapes, often going back through many generations. There is almost a spiritual attachment. Right to land depended on membership of family or clan. Genealogy was important: not "Where are you from?" but "Who are your people?"

Celtic missionaries evangelised the Rhineland, and the Irish St. Disibod went over the Alps to Bobbio in Italy. They took their spirituality with them. It appears in the nature and creation mystics of medieval Europe, like Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart, and St Francis of Assisi. Many places settled by the saints are still pilgrimage centres, like Bardsey, Croagh Patrick, Lindisfarne, Iona, and St. Disibod's foundation at Bingen which produced Hildegard.

The British Celtic church drew its practices from the Desert Fathers, via St. Martin of Tours. Its saints lived rigorous ascetic lives in extreme simplicity, often as solitaries or in small groups. They practiced "White Martyrdom," leaving home for ever to follow their mission. Tribe and family were left behind. Their church had no dioceses nor parishes; daughter churches spread out from the mission centres, following the cult of the

founding saint. It had a married priesthood. Women had high status in Celtic society, and bishops, abbots and abbesses presided over the small monastic settlements, with sometimes mixed sex communities. But centuries of change lay ahead.

Changes in England followed the synod of Whitby in AD 664, presided over by St. Hilda. The English church accepted Roman customs. The Irish monks on Lindisfarne refused and returned to Ireland. In 1066 the Normans brought French bishops, clergy, abbeys, cathedrals, castles, and towns, as means of colonisation. Compulsory celibacy was imposed; dioceses and parishes established. Then the Protestant Reformations in the sixteenth century broke with Rome. Later fragmentation of non-conformist sects followed, among the social changes of the industrial revolution. But the essence of Celtic spirituality survived, often underground, mostly in Ireland and north-west Scotland.

Interest returned in the twentieth century. Andrew Carmichael's nineteenth century collections of Hebridean prayers and poems preserved material. Modern writers like Esther de Waal took up the Celtic vision

David Adam of Lindisfarne took it up in his literature and poems. Other writers followed. At the same time there was decline in formal religious attendance in Britain. The last census showed forty percent of respondents saying they had no religion. The new scientific paradigm gave us a different understanding of our universe. Ecology revealed a symbiotic and interdependent natural world to which we all belong, and on which we depend. These changes in world-view suggested a new approach to spirituality or retreat into atheism. Interest arose in oriental faiths, especially Buddhism. The Celtic tradition offered a way forward for many. It was Christian, and belonged to these Islands. It certainly appealed to my students struggling to reconcile faith with modern science and humanism. Maybe worth a few thoughts?

More Church Information Online

Mission Area website: www.aberconwy.church
 Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/aberconwymissionarea/
All Saints Facebook page: www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Deganwy-943977308961577/
 website: www.allsaintsdeganwy.co.uk
St Cystennin's Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/StCystenninsChurch
St David's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/St-Davids-Church-Penrhyn-Bay-1425862127480834/
St Katherine's website: www.stkatherinesbp.com
St Paul's website: www.stpaulsllandudno.co.uk
 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/choirofstpauls



LEFT: Two of the three wise men at St Paul's after the January family service. The third colleague hadn't yet had his head made out of plasticine.....

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 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

Reading the Creed

what is non-negotiable?

despite the fervour & the clamour
& the ache for certainty
the quest for orthodoxy & the damning of the
contrary
the claims of those who claim authority
who read & know & tell me what I should
believe
there is only an ocean of love that bears
mercy
should I be brave enough to cast off these
ragged rules

Dilys Stone writes:

On reading this poem which was submitted for the magazine, I thought about the ways in which we approach and experience God. Sometimes we need to dig deep, past the routines and practices of our everyday worship. Just before Christmas was the ideal time to escape "the fervour and the clamour" and find a quiet place to experience that "ocean of love". At the far end of Pen Llŷn we sat quietly in the church, walked along the

beach, watched the sea and the birds wheeling on the wind (not another human being in sight!) - it was a real tonic, both physically and spiritually.



The church at Aberdaron (and also the little one up the road in Llanfaelrhys) is a member of the Small Pilgrim Places Network. These Places (there are several in North Wales) provide opportunities to 'step aside' by making space, keeping silence, encouraging solitude and providing simple focus points. Have a look at the website - www.smallpilgrimplaces.org.

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