

All Saints, Deganwy • St Cystennin's, Mochdre • St David's, Penrhyn Bay
St Doged's, Llanddodged • 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

God of Surprises

Rev Noel Carter writes..... I did not expect to be writing this short article in a cottage in deeply rural South East France, with snow falling past the window. I am here to take my sister in law's funeral tomorrow. Christine died after a hard battle with cancer and my younger brother Graham is bereft. In happier times I took their wedding, but tomorrow will be hard.

Life is full of surprises, both good and bad. When life goes well and things are good, life is easy. When tragedy strikes, well, that's a different matter.

That is where our Christian faith kicks in. As we move through Lent, we finally arrive in Holy Week, with the euphoria of Palm Sunday, the poignancy of the Last Supper and the pain of Good Friday. It is full of surprises.

Lent activities – It's not too late!

Lent Course - The Psalms

This continues on Wednesdays in St David's Hospice Chapel at 7 pm. Sessions begin with the service of Compline, followed by teaching and discussion.

Leading Your Church Into Growth

Meets in Church House, Llanrwst at 7.30 pm on Mondays 5th, 12th and 19th March.

Bible Briefs: The St Mark Passion

Tuesday 6th March 7.30 pm, Llanrhos Schoolroom.

Our God is the God of surprises: he comes and always does new things. He is newness. The Gospel is newness. Revelation is newness. Anyone who has the great hope which faith gives us knows that even in the midst of difficulties and tragedies, God acts and God surprises us.... God always surprises us.... But he asks us to let ourselves be surprised by his love, to accept his surprises. God surprises us. It is precisely in poverty, in weakness, in tragedy and in humility that God reveals himself and grants us his love. This saves us, heals us and gives us strength. He asks us only to obey his word and to trust in him.

Take time to be surprised by God this Holy Week. These surprises can and will reveal the reality of Christ's resurrection.



ABOVE: We have crib sets at Christmas, so why not try making your own Easter Garden for Holy Week and Easter?

Holy Week and Easter Services

Details for all our churches are listed on page 4

“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

ST HILARY'S IN MARCH - There are changes to the service pattern in March (both morning and evening, so please check the Calendar opposite)

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The service pattern from 25th March to 1st April will vary and there will be extra events. Please check the Calendar and the full information on page 4

HOLY EUCHARIST is also celebrated on **Wednesdays at 10 am** at All Saints

Thursdays at 10.30 am at St Paul's

Fridays at 10 am at St David's

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

Join us for 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, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church	
	Open 10-12.30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	

Mis Mawrth 2018 - CALENDAR - March 2018

		Services	Other events
Thursday	1	HE 10.30 am St P	St David's Day tea 2 pm St David's Church Hall
Friday	2	HE 10 am St D Women's World Day of Prayer 10.30 am Gloddaeth URC	
SUNDAY	4	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE Note: HE at St H today, Family Service moved to next week	St David's Day Bring and Share Lunch, 12.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Monday	5		Dementia Café 10.30-12.30 pm AS LYCIG course 7.30 pm St G Church House
Tuesday	6		Bible Briefs 7.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	7	HE 10 am AS	MAGAZINE COPY DATE Lent Course 7 pm Hospice Chapel
Thursday	8	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	9	HE 10 am St D	
MOTHERING SUNDAY	11	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - also: Family Service at St H at 11 am; Family Service 4 pm St P;	
Monday	12		St P Mothers' Union 2.30 pm LYCIG course 7.30 pm St G Church House
Tuesday	13		AS Mothers' Union .2 30 pm Cuppa, crafts and chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos S/room
Wednesday	14	HE 10 am AS	Lent Course 7 pm Hospice Chapel
Thursday	15	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	16	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	17		Church Craft session 10-1 pm St P
SUNDAY	18	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Note: No Cymun Bendigaid at St H (moved to 25th)	
Monday	19		LYCIG course 7.30 pm St G Church House
Tuesday	20	Open Table Service 7 pm St G	St Hilary's Fellowship 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	HE 10 am St D	
PALM SUNDAY	25	See page 4 for details of services today. Also: Holy Baptism 12.30 pm St H; Messy Church 4 pm Llanrhos S/room; Cymun Bendigaid 6.30 pm St H	St D Congregational AGM after the 11 am service
Monday	26	} Please see page 4 for details of services on these days	St P Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
Tuesday	27		Cuppa, crafts and chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos S/room
Wednesday	28		
Maundy Thursday	29		
Good Friday	30		
Holy Saturday	31		
EASTER SUNDAY	1		

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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES FOR THE MISSION AREA

Palm Sunday 25th March

Services as usual, with blessing of palms, in all churches except:

- 11 am Combined All Age service at All Saints for St Michael's and All Saints
- 3.30 pm "The Way of the Cross" St Paul's - A choral meditation on the passion
- 4 pm Messy Church, Llanrhos Schoolroom
- 6.30 pm Cymun Bendigaidd St Hilary's

Monday 26th March

- 7 pm Prayers of Devotion St David's

Tuesday 27th March

- 7 pm Prayers around the Cross St David's

Wednesday 28th March

- 10 am Holy Eucharist at All Saints
- 7 pm Service of Light and Shadows
(*St Tudno's on the Great Orme*)

Maundy Thursday 29th March

- 10.30 am Holy Eucharist and stripping of the Altar at St Paul's
- 11 am *Chrism Mass with renewal of vows (St Asaph Cathedral)*
- 7 pm Holy Eucharist and anointing at St Michael's (combined service for St Michael's and All Saints)
- 7 pm Holy Eucharist, washing of feet and stripping of the altar St David's
- 7 pm Washing of Feet, Mass of the Lord's Supper and Vigil, St Grwst's

Good Friday 30th March

- 10 am Stations of the Cross at St Paul's
- 10 am Good Friday Reflections St Martin's
- 10.30 am Stations of the Cross St Cystennin's
- 12 noon Act of Witness, at Holy Trinity Church Llandudno
- 12 noon Silent Witness, Co-op Penrhyn Bay
- 12 noon Stations of the Cross St Ffraid's
- 2 pm 'At the foot of the Cross' St. Hilary's
- 2 pm Stations of the Cross All Saints
- 2 pm Stations of the Cross St David's
- 2 pm Last Hour of the Cross St Grwst's
- 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross St Katherine's

Holy Saturday 31st March

- 8.30 pm Easter Vigil St David's

Easter Day 1st April

Services of Holy Eucharist:

- 8 am St David's & St Hilary's
 - 9.30 am St Cystennin's & St Michael's
(incl renewal of Baptismal Vows)
 - 9.45 am St Paul's & St Martin's
 - 11 am St Hilary's, St David's, All Saints, St Katherine's
 - 11.15 am St Ffraid's
 - 4 pm St Grwst's
- Also:
- 6.30 pm Evensong at St Hilary's

Please check locally for services at the Conwy Valley churches Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week and Easter Eve

Praying for Growth

Praying for our mission area is really important. In the coming months, we're organising prayer focus days, regular opportunities to pray for spiritual and numerical growth.

- Monday 21st May, 2-4 pm: St Katherine's
- Wednesday 19th September, 2-4 pm: St Grwst's

There'll also be a **Quiet Day** on Tuesday 27th November between 10 am - 4 pm at the Loretto Centre in Llandudno

Also please pray for **Ralph Needham**, to be welcomed into the church by baptism on 25th March at St Hilary's.

Leading Your Church Into 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 5th, 12th and 19th March at Church House in Llanrwst.



Lent Prayer 2018

Gregory Cameron, Bishop of St Asaph writes.....

The Diocesan Youth Forum have written a Lent prayer for us to use each day in Lent that calls us back to the basics of discipleship: to address hard things and failings as an opportunity to fall back on God and his love for us. "Not my will, but thy will be done." "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Let us then use Lent, not to adopt another target to beat ourselves with, but to focus on what it important, and learn to lay other things aside.

"One thing is needful", says the Lord. Let us use the diocesan priority on growth, not to add to our labours, but as a call to centre on the most important aspect of our ministry, and to discover the way in which the talents, the charisms, that God has given us can further the Kingdom.

The diocesan Lent prayer is below

Dear Lord, help us to be led by the Spirit and guided by God in the season of Lent.
Teach us that when hard things happen, Jesus is with us and has faith in us.
Allow us to have courage and strength to overcome temptation,
as we carry on with our lives, Lord;
even when things seem impossible, we will be encouraged by you.
Lead us to trust in you to get us through hunger, pain and vulnerability.
Your unseen presence gives us high points and blessings.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Chrism Eucharist

This takes place at 11 am on **Maundy Thursday, March 29th**, in St Asaph Cathedral with the celebration of the eucharist for the blessing of the holy oils together with renewal of commitment to diaconal, priestly and episcopal service as well as the commitment of all the baptized to mission.

This service has become a genuinely diocesan event, and all licensed and commissioned lay ministers and members of our congregations are welcome in addition to all clergy, serving and retired. Lunch will follow, served in the South Transept. All are welcome to stay for this, but please let Rev Noel Carter know if you will be staying for lunch by Thursday 8th March.



Congratulations to organist John Liddon-Few, (above) who's been appointed as organist of the Marble Church in Bodelwyddan from Easter onwards. The new job means he'll be moving on from Sunday morning services at St Hilary's, St Cystennin's and St Paul's, though he's promised to stay in touch. We will miss him!



Conwy Food Bank

Feeding local people in crisis

www.conwyfoodbank.co.uk

Conwy Food Bank write..... We would again like to express our appreciation to all our supporters who so kindly make donations to the Food Bank. The year total is up again and January was the second highest month total since the beginning, with significantly more singles and couples than in recent months. In December 20 families with 34 children were issued with parcels, 58 to single people and 12 to couples.

The year totals from January 2017 to February 2018 are as follows: 820 parcels - 259 to families (involving 519 children), 481 single parcels and 80 to couples. 36% of all parcels were as a result of the problems surrounding Benefits Issues. The next largest percentage was 10% due to Debts/Bills, 8% to Health Issues, and 7% to Homelessness

Thank you so much for your kindness, from Everyone at Conwy Food Bank.

Future Events in the Mission Area

Look out for further details about events coming up during the year (or contact Rev Noel Carter)

Worship Leader Training (April)

For those who will assist with worship. Please talk to your vicar to see if this is right for you.

Workshops (April, May and September)

On Posters & Flyers, Reading in Church and Leading Intercessions

START Course (October)

An introductory course for new Christians, but also of interest to anyone who want to know more about the Christian faith.

Advent Quiet Day

27th November, Loretto Centre, Llandudno

Fairtrade Fortnight and Hidden Entrepreneurs



Fairtrade Fortnight is 26th February to 11th March and this year focuses on the farmers and workers who grow our food. With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world every day. When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of those who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. Together we have that power. Millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end.

But remember: not all entrepreneurs wear suits! The



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

The current Traidcraft Exchange campaign is the **Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal**. These are the people in some of the world's poorest communities who have the talent and determination to succeed in business, but lack the opportunity. With your investment, these entrepreneurs can learn the skills they need to turn their untapped potential into profit – and use that to feed their families and educate their children. If you donate before 11 April **the UK government will double your donation** to reach twice as many people.

Find out more at traidcraft.org.uk/hidden.



The Traidcraft Spring catalogue

is now out in the churches (or contact Dilys Stone 01492 879997). It is in a smaller format this time so don't miss it! With new products, old favourites and seasonal

items - look out for the **Real Easter Eggs** - out of 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects. Order from Dilys Stone and your church gets a percentage as well.

Mission Area Conference

The Mission Area Conference - the governing body for our group of churches - met on Thursday 25th January in St Ffraid's. The meeting began by discussing finances. Rev Noel Carter reported that it has been a challenging year with treasurers and book-keepers having to learn a new computer system. Overall collections have also declined. Some good news was that we received a refund on our parish share for having paid in full by the end of the year. It was agreed that this will be held in reserves.

The Mission Area events and training programme for 2018 was circulated - reminders of the dates will be included in the pages of this magazine in the months to come.

Members also considered the options for the vacant post at Glan Conwy following the retirement of Rev Ginny Burton. One option is to use the funding for this post to employ a community worker to help us grow the church. No decision has been reached yet though.



ABOVE & RIGHT: David Hay inspects one of the chairs in the side chapel at St Paul's, some of which need repair. They'll be re-glued in the coming weeks.

St Paul's Church, Llandudno

Mothering Sunday Service

Music By John Rutter And Karl Jenkins,
Accompanied By Harp And Organ

Sunday 11th March, 9.45 am

The Way Of The Cross

Words And Music For Holy Week

Sunday 25th March, 3.30 pm



Women's World Day of Prayer

All God's Creation is very good!

Friday 2nd March
10.30 am Gloddaeth United Church

Advance Notice! Mission Area Trip to Port Sunlight

Join us to visit the historic village of Port Sunlight (below) on Saturday 7th July. We leave Llandudno at 9.30 am and will return home by 6 pm. Visit the Lady Lever Art Gallery and the Soap Museum as well as looking around the village and enjoying 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.



Around the Churches

Remember that all are welcome to the events mentioned here
Often there are good opportunities to meet old friends and make new ones across the Mission Area.

Deganwy Dementia Café

All Saints Church Deganwy

Starts Monday 5th March - First Monday of each month 10.30 am-12.30 pm
Entry and refreshments free of charge to all

Open to all and especially those who are living with Dementia, their carers, loved ones and friends.

Support available for those who would like any further information regarding Dementia

**Help us to Create a
Dementia Friendly Deganwy**

For more details contact Cllr Julie Fallon on
01492 592478/07860 232641 or
cllr.julie.fallon@conwy.gov.uk

St Hilary's, Llanrhos

Bring and Share Lunch
for Dydd Gŵyl Dewi at
12.30 pm on Sunday
4th March.



There is no charge, but please contact Doreen on 01492 585127 to let her know you will be coming and to see what food you can bring.

St Hilary's Fellowship meets at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 20th March when Brinley Jones will talk about Linney Cooper. All welcome.

Don't forget our **Cuppa and Chat** sessions, 2.30 pm on Tuesdays 13th and 27th March in the Schoolroom. All welcome, whether you have craft work to bring or not.



St David's, Penrhyn Bay

Thursday 1st March

ST DAVID'S DAY DELICIOUS AFTERNOON TEA

2 pm in St David's Church Hall
£3 - Pay on the door

A very warm welcome to everyone



Annual Spring Fair

Conwy & District Branch Guide Dogs

Saturday 24th March

1.30-3.30 pm

St David's Church Hall

Cakes and Produce - Guide Dogs Merchandise - Raffle

Good as New - Easter Egg Tombola and more

£ 1.50 including tea or coffee and hot cross bun.

Children NO Charge

Guide Dogs in attendance

More info from Sheila Tel 01492 875098

St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy

The season of good will continues

Barry Broadmeadow writes..... At the start of the year the eagerly awaited Dolmanberry production of Cinderella was performed to packed houses. It was "written" by James Berry with much appreciated humour, and ably backed by a determined and hard working crew and other friends in the village.

The cast of 32 members sang and acted beautifully and the young children were a delight and won the hearts of everyone.

It was, definitely, a huge success and was a lovely opportunity to come together as a community in both the church and church house. Tesni Hadwin, unfortunately, was forced to retire as director owing to a fall but they managed to continue the production. The panto raised £2,000 for St Ffraid's which was a great result. There is, without doubt, a strong spirit of good will in Glan Conwy and a great deal of kindness. It shows what can be accomplished and other plans are afoot in the near future. There is no shortage of energy, apparently.

Well done, and thanks for helping to keep our community a thriving and happy place.

St Ffraid's Church House

Glan Conwy

Coffee Stop

Every Thursday 10-11.30 am



ABOVE: Easter is not far away, and there'll be chance to make these cute rabbits at the next St Paul's Church craft session on Saturday 17th March. They're made from old socks - bring some clean socks to have a go yourself.

St Michael's, Llandudno Junction

The Ladies Fellowship met on 15th February to discuss the future of the group and for different members to take charge of organising the various months' programmes. Hopefully, by the next magazine, a programme will have emerged!

Approaching Easter

There is an exciting and interesting array of services as Easter approaches. **Mothering Sunday** will see an all-age Eucharist using material provided by the Mothers' Union with the theme of 'called to be a mother in a broken world'.

Palm Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday of the month, traditionally our 'all-age' Sunday, and we will be joining the congregation at All Saints at 11 am for a combined service which will include a dramatic reading of the passion story with members of both congregations taking part. **Maundy Thursday** will again see a combined service, at 7 pm, (this time at St Michael's) which will be a service of Holy Communion together with anointing with Holy Oil. **Easter Day** at 9.30 am will, of course, be a communion service, also including the renewal of Baptism vows, something that has been done at St Michael's for the last few years.

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 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 Katherine's, Bryn Pydew

Peter and Janet Marshall write..... At the beginning of each month we look forward to receiving the Prayer Letter from the Eastern Congo Group of Wycliffe Bible Translators. In 1995, while on holiday in Glanwydden, friends from the Wirral invited Janet to join a team from their church, St Mary's Upton on the Wirral, who were going to Kenya to look after the missionary children at the Eastern Congo Group staff conference. (It was too dangerous to meet in Congo).

This was a life changing experience for Janet meeting some 70 mission partners working in very challenging circumstances - such commitment, scholarship, and dedication. The simple goal was giving people the Bible in their heart language, something we take for granted.

Leading Child Care teams for Wycliffe took over our lives for the next ten years. We took teams recruited from UK churches to Senegal, Chad, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Kenya, and Cyprus (for those working in Eastern mainly Muslim countries). We went to the Eastern Congo Group conference five times. We organised teams for Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon (thanks to Lynne from St Cystennins, who came to Chad), Mali and Togo/Benin.

Wycliffe continues to fulfill their vision of a Bible translation in every language where it is needed by 2025. This will meet the needs of those still waiting for the Bible in their own language, some one and a half billion people!

The latest Eastern Congo New Testament to be completed is the Tembo language. This only started when Janet first went out. Children we looked after as 'little ones' are now completing uni or college, getting married, and embarking on careers. Laura, whom we first met in Chad in 2000, is now a trained nurse and committed to going back to nurse children in Malawi - Africa is in her blood. Susie is back in Kenya as a mission partner, married with two children. We get letters from a number of Wycliffe

missionaries, still slogging away in remote parts serving God and His church. Never take your Bible for granted.

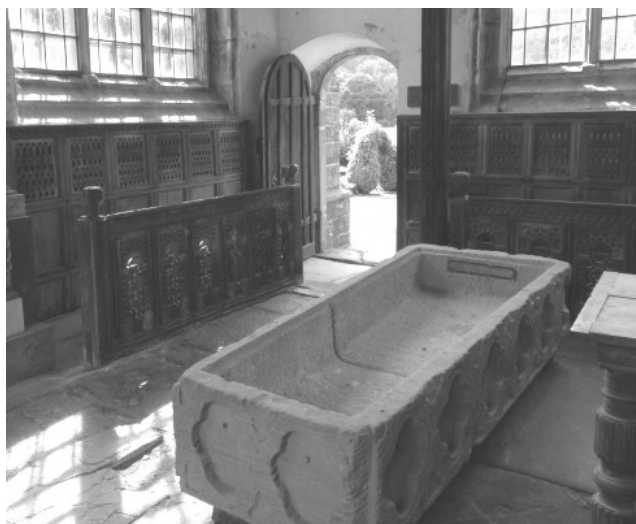
When the Wycliffe chapter was finished in our lives, the Sudan door opened unexpectedly. But that is another ongoing story. All of us, whatever age, need to be open to God's call to do what He wants. Praying for the mission of God's church is something we all can do. Contact us if you would like some ideas, please. 01492 547352 or 07728713175

St Grwst's, Llanrwst

St Grwst's Church is changing. The Heritage Lottery Fund project will transform the church and its role in the local community. It will repair and preserve the medieval church and chapel for future generations, create a vibrant community hub, and share the rich heritage with a wide audience.

An open day at The Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst gave an opportunity to find out more and meet members of the project team.

More information is available from:
info@headlanddesign.co.uk or 01829 271329



ABOVE: The stone coffin - probably that of Llywelyn the Great - is one of several remarkable features of the Gwydir Chapel and the 15th century church of St Grwst in Llanrwst. The church also boasts a remarkable rood screen which probably originated at Maenan Abbey.

Advance Notice

After the success of last year's event St Paul's Church, Craig y Don will be holding another

Arts and Crafts Exhibition with Musical Interludes

On the Weekend of May 5th, 6th & 7th (Bank Holiday Weekend)

We will be looking for people prepared to display their work, some works being for sale, over the three days.

All proceeds from the event will go to St Paul's Church Funds

Forms to enter work will be available during March along with further details.

In the meantime if you'd like to know more contact Barbara or Sandra on 01492 525814

Or email:- barbarawalker@sandraabel.plus.com

Mothers' UNION

Gofal Cristnogol i Deuluoedd

St Paul's Branch, Craig-y-Don

Pat Hay writes..... January was busy. At our first meeting of the New Year the Revd Noel Carter gave a most interesting and informative talk about "The Three Wise Men", who and what they were and where they came from - the history as well as the mythology that surrounds them. We examined the significance and the origins of the gifts they brought to the Christ child.

I was away for the next meeting when the speaker was Mary Steel, talking on "What the Mothers' Union means to me". I've heard Mary speak several times on a variety of topics, and she is always entertaining and such fun, even when dealing with serious issues. Our AGM was in February, with news on some much needed maintenance work on the church hall. The Daffodil Tea followed, and the next big event is the Mothering Sunday service on the 11th March at which we hope to induct several new members. All are welcome to the Sunday service (9.45 am as usual.)

All Saints Branch, Deganwy

Daphne Laight writes..... Rev Peter Walker opened our new session with a Celtic Eucharist and a very interesting talk about frankincense which was appreciated by all. Thank you Peter especially as it was a very stormy afternoon.

The next meeting was the AGM - sadly we had a small turnout but all the usual reports were

given. Mrs Mary Meldrum is treasurer and Mrs Pat Chapman our secretary. Suggestions were made for future programme and ideas for Lent to carry out at home. Members who knit are still making various articles including twiddle muffs (the picture shows a few of these). And these and other items have already gone to needy people.



On March 13th Rev Godfrey will be speaking to us. Our corporate communion is on 7th March. There will be no meeting in Holy Week and the next meeting will be 10th April. All are welcome to come along to our meetings

Palm Sunday Messy Church

Sunday 25th March
4 pm
Llanrhos School Room
All welcome

St Paul's, Llandudno

Chris Dearden and Philip Evans write..... We've had another ten thousand pound month, sadly with the money going the wrong way! A combination of big bills all clearing at once has made a bit of a hole in the bank balance, and there may be more on the way. The boilers continue to play up, and the car park is continuing to be a bit muddier than we'd like.

But there are plenty of things to get excited about. Lots of people have visited the church over the past few weeks to make paper roses in a craft session, or Deborah's biblical soldiers in a Lego church afternoon.

And there's more to come. March is always a busy month: this year's Mothering Sunday service is on 11th March and will see the choir accompanied by a harp as well as the church organ. The Mothers' Union are also planning to enrol several new members at the service, which is a very positive thing to see.

Later on in the month, Palm Sunday starts at 9.45 am with the traditional blessing of palms and procession. That afternoon, there's a service of reflection for Holy Week called The Way Of The Cross at 3.30 pm. It's an hour of words, music and reflection on the story of the crucifixion, with music from both eastern and western Christian traditions. Holy Week is followed by the Easter Sunday service at the usual time of 9.45 am.

We're not sure if the church AGM is exciting, but there may be a small bit of excitement on the agenda. We're always short of money to do improvement projects, so we'll be giving the congregation chance to vote on which one we should do this year. The choice is still being worked out at time of writing, but is likely to include work to the car park, upgrading the sound system and possibly even restoring the church bell - yes St Paul's does have one.

Is it also possible to get excited about reducing the gas bill? One of the reasons it's so high is

because the church is so draughty, but a contractor has come up with a suggestion which may begin to help. We'll report back in more detail once we've got him on site!



ABOVE: Crafts at St Paul's; the last session included a crochet clinic, and making paper roses for Mothering Sunday. Next one is on **Saturday 17th March** at 10am.



The 2019 National Eisteddfod will be held in Llanrwst from 2nd-10th August 2019. This is an opportunity right on our doorstep to experience the culture of this great country that we live in, whether we speak the Welsh language or not. There will be various fund raising activities going on in the area over the next year or so, so look out for them and do support them. Details of two such below:

Celebrate St David's Day Cawl Gŵyl Ddewi

Ysgoldy Peniel Schoolroom, Deganwy
Dydd Iau, Mawrth 1af
Thursday 1st March
12 - 2, £5
01492 583420
patbillchapman@gmail.com

On Friday **9th March** award-winning youthful men's choir **Hogia'r Berfeddwlad** will be performing at Capel Coffa, Broad Street, Llandudno Junction. Tickets £7 from 01492 583420. **(Please note change of venue from the notice in last month's magazine)**

Thoughts and comments

Jesus was not a Christian!

Frank Prescott writes..... Seamus Stewart (Church News, February 2018) asks us to think whether Celtic Spirituality can help us reconcile faith with modern science and humanism and perhaps therefore appeal to the young. He talks of a paradigm shift and changes in world-view which make it difficult for people to accept Christianity and hence the increase in those who say they have no religion. The anonymous poet on page 14 asked in reading the Creed, what is non-negotiable?

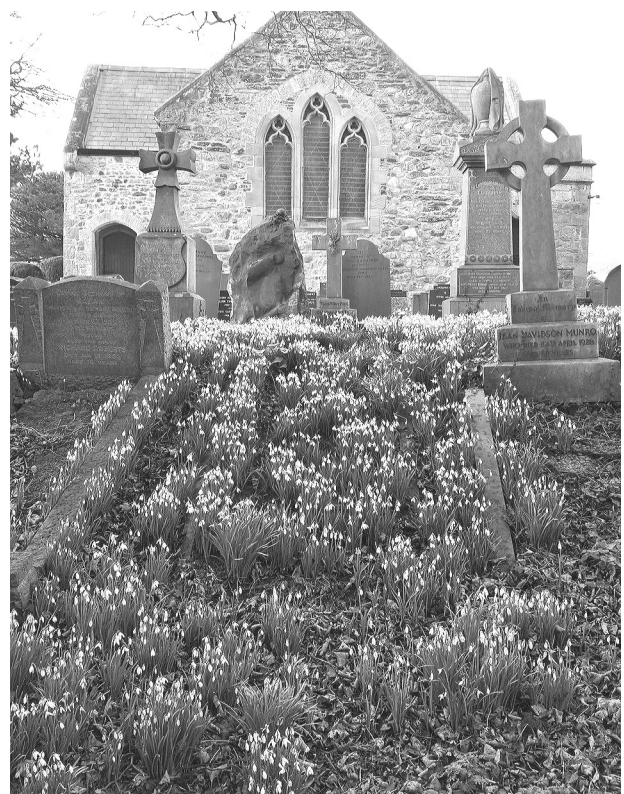
Philosophers and political theorists tell us that we now live in a “post-modern” world. It is recognised that there are multiple paradigms, world-views, perspectives, religions and ideologies all competing for hearts and minds. Not even a scientific world-view is privileged as a barometer for truth. Some are compatible with each other but others are downright opposing making it impossible to accept them as equally leading to some ultimate shared endpoint. Judging between them is often reduced to personal preference or cultural relativity.

Let me take for example Christianity: even during the early days there were many views and creeds but now there are literally thousands of sects with multiple views. Some accept the Trinity, holy days and transubstantiation and Hell but others do not and have abandoned the credal formulas completely. Each chides the others, of course, for not being “true Christians”. The majority (or what may be referred to as “mainstream” Christianity) can no longer claim a privileged authority. Moreover Christianity may have superseded paganism but many see pagan practices in Christianity; it has not been a one way process.

But I have to remind myself that Jesus did not come into the world to teach us about

doctrines, theology and religion in the sense we understand them today. He taught about the Kingdom of God and how to get there. It comes as a surprise to many that He was not even a Christian! Learning about other religions and spiritualities can be interesting but ultimately, for a Christian, it is necessary to have a *saving faith* based on specific beliefs (e.g. John 3:16) evidenced by what one does (e.g. James 2: 14-24; John 6:53): it is not the case that “anything goes” and that all roads will lead you there. Jesus tells us that, “Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life” (Matthew 7:13-14). There is no easy way and beliefs cannot be imposed.

What we are to believe is for each one of us to consider and accept for ourselves through study, prayer and supplication, with the Bible as our guide. We can only hope that in doing so and with God’s grace we are on the narrow road and that eventually we will see the gate!



ABOVE: A carpet of snowdrops at St Hilary’s once again. Thanks to Phyl Evans for the photo - black and white does not really do it justice.

Scary Statistics

Peter Marshall writes..... over the last 50 years the decline in church attendance in every denomination is greater in Wales than any other part of the UK. Why is this?

The following countries in Europe list 'non religious' as the fastest growing life style: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czeck Republic, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland AND UK, including Wales.

The following countries list Islam as the fastest growing religion: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

In the following countries Christianity, while not growing, has the slowest decline: Belarus, Latvia and Romania.

These statistics are from 'Operation World', who have a full time team of researchers monitoring statistics from all over the world.

The UK still has a many 'post Christians', that is

those want to maintain traditional Christian values, but are not churchgoers. This number will decline.

95% of children and youth in the UK have no connection with the church. Is it more in the Llandudno area? In our local churches, how can we take our heads out of the sand and face reality?

This is still God's world and we are part of God's Church, which is growing vigorously in other parts of the world. Do we want to hear what God has to say to us?

Editors' note: this underlines more than ever the importance of growth in our churches. It's very easy to take these statistics as daunting, but remember that simply by going to church on Sunday, you are helping to reverse the trend. That's one reason alone to make an effort to go each weekend.

But what more can we do? The first obvious step is to pray for the growth of the church. Everyone can do this, and your prayers really do make a difference. Write to us with suggestions of how we could grow the church, and let us know what you're doing yourself!

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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; Mrs R Williams 517256

Worship Leaders: 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 nd Warden - Vacancy	
St David's:	Karen Stringer	07973 337650	Phil Williams	546840
St Ffraid's	Mrs M E Jones	580446	Tesni Hadwin	573248
St Grwst's	Bleddyn Hughes	640703	Mrs J Pierce	640443
St Hilary's:	Doreen Owen	585127	Mr E Williams	584446
St Katherine's:	Mr G Clowes	879761	Mary Pritchard	540542
St Martin's	Mr G R Templeton	580272	Mr N Robinson	650906
St Michael's:	Renee Williams	517256	2 nd Warden - Vacancy	
St Paul's:	Philip Evans	877696	Chris Dearden	07941 946525

Mission Area Secretaries : Ann Milne 876996 and Mary Pritchard 540542

Mission Area Treasurer: Ann Harty 546039

Gift Aid Secretary: Ann Harty 546039

Choirs and Organists:

All Saints:	Organist	Mr J Wright	541552
St Cystennin's:	Organist	Ms M Harley	582957
St David's:	Organist	Ken Holland	878826
St Hilary's:	Organist	John Liddon-Few	07930 414287
St Katherine's:	Organist	Angela Hall	581224
St Martin's:	Organist	Roy Kenrick	650529
St Michael's:	Organist	Mrs G Williams	584428
St Paul's:	Director of Music	Deborah Haigh-Roberts	07867 964010
	Deputy Director of Music	Jamie Naylor	07572 107350
	Organists	Terry Hemuss	07775 517823
		Keith Lacey	01248 440843

Ysgol Bodafon Head Teacher: Trystan Lloyd Owen 547996

Ysgol Bodafon Chair of Governors: Rev Mike Harrison 870701/07910 141410

Banner Group/Crafts Cuppa & Chat Doreen Owen 585127

Mothers' Union:

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

St Paul's: (meet at St Paul's Church Hall) Anne 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: Doreen Owen 585127

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