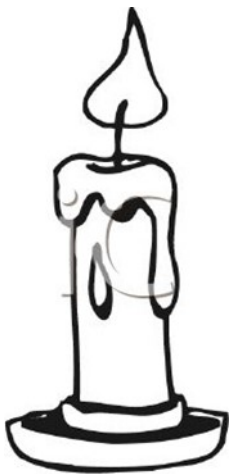


All Saints, Deganwy • St Cystennin's, Mochdre • St David's, Penrhyn Bay
St Doged's, Llanddoged • St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy • St Grwst's, Llanrwst
St Hilary's, Llanrhos • St Katherine's, Bryn Pydew • St Martin's, Eglwysbach
St Michael's, Llandudno Junction • St Paul's, Craig-y-Don

"Gwnewch y pethau bychain - Do the little things"

Praying through Advent

"I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10



In a quiet place, where you feel comfortable, light a candle and put it in a safe place, where you can see it. In the stillness and the silence, let the flame focus your thoughts and attention. Let your heart and mind become still. Rest in God's presence.

Divide your prayer time into three sections.

Preparing

Turn your thoughts towards Mary. A young Palestinian girl, not yet married. Recall the visit of the angel who told her she was to be the mother of God's son, Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. Reflect on her unreserved response to God and her trust and faith in him. Bring to God, in faith and trust, the problems and challenges that you face in your life.



Journeying



Reflect on the long and difficult journey that Mary and Joseph had to make to Bethlehem and then to find that there was no accommodation.

Bring to God all those who have nowhere, those who feel rejected by society. Notice that eventually someone was prepared to help and the stable was offered to the weary couple. Give thanks to God for those who do care; who are aware of others' needs and take appropriate action.

Arriving

And now reflect on the joy and wonder on the faces of Mary and Joseph as they gaze on their baby. Give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.



"O come, O come Emmanuel, and teach me to appreciate the special friends you have given me. Thank you for the times we spend together, for the news we share, for the ways we laugh and the tears we cry."

Pray well! Take the Advent Prayer Challenge!

Noel Carter, Mission Area Leader

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 - **Advent Reflection** in December
 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

Please see the Calendar opposite and page 4 for Christmas services in the Mission Area. Also please note changed pattern of services for Sunday 30th December

HOLY EUCHARIST also on **Wednesdays 10 am** - All Saints, **Thursdays 10.30 am** - St Paul's, **Fridays 10 am** - St David's

Join us for coffee - 10 am Thursday - St Paul's and St Ffraid's; 10.30 am Friday - St David's

Storytime Café - for pre-school children and their carers, 10.30 am every Wednesday - St Paul's

Prayer Group - 10 am every Tuesday - 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 - St Michael's (except Bank Holidays) Contact 01492 585063 for more information

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

CLERGY:	Rev Noel Carter (Mission Area Leader) 01492 339521 Rev Dr Godfrey Chigumira 01492 543706 Rev Juliet Fraser 01492 596655 Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osborn 01492 640032 Rev Peter Walker 01492 583579	(For other contact details and online addresses - please see inside back cover)
OFFICE:	Penrhyn Beach East, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church	

Mis Rhagfyr 2018 - CALENDAR - December 2018

		Services	Other events
Saturday	1		St Paul's Church Fair 10 -12.30 pm (PARISH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL 11TH)
SUNDAY	2	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also: Holy Baptism in 11 am Service St K and 12.30 pm St H; 4 pm Advent Reflection at St G	
Monday	3		Dementia Café, 10.30-12.30 pm AS
Tuesday	4		AS Mothers' Union 2.30 pm St H Church Meeting 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom Bible Briefs 7.30 pm 8 Llys Helig
Wednesday	5	HE 10 am AS; Ysgol Bodafon Christmas Service 6.30 pm St P	Storytime Café - 10.30 am St P
Thursday	6	HE 10.30 am St P	Afternoon Tea 2-3.30 pm St D
Friday	7	HE 10 am St D	MAGAZINE COPY DATE St Grwst's Christmas Tree Festival begins
Saturday	8	Holy Matrimony 11 am St H	Christmas with Holywell Band 7.30 pm St P
SUNDAY	9	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also: Community Carol Service 7 pm AS	
Monday	10		St P Mothers' Union 2.30 pm
Tuesday	11		PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENS Cuppa, crafts & chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	12	HE 10 am AS 7 pm Christmas Celebration St C	Storytime Café - 10.30 am St P
Thursday	13	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	14	HE 10 am St D; St David's College Christmas Service 12 noon St P	
SUNDAY	16	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE Also: Holy Baptism 12.30 pm St H; Scout Christmas and Commissioning Service 2 pm St M	
Monday	17	Carol Services 6.30 pm St K , 7 pm at St Ff	
Tuesday	18	Open Table Service 7 pm St G Ysgol Craig y Don Christmas concert - St P	Carols & Mince Pies 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	19	HE 10 am AS Ysgol Craig y Don Christmas concerts St P	
Thursday	20	HE 10.30 am St P Carols round the Tree 7 pm St D Carol Service 7 pm St Ma	PARISH OFFICE CLOSSES 12 NOON RE-OPENS WEDNESDAY 2ND JANUARY
Friday	21	HE 10 am St D	Christmas Concert St H 7 pm
SUNDAY	23	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - All Age Carol Services 9.30 am St M and 11 am AS; Nativity Family Service 11 am St D; Also: Nine Lessons & Carols 3.30 pm St P	
CHRISTMAS EVE	24	Please see next page for details of services on CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY	
CHRISTMAS DAY	25		
Thursday	27	HE 10.30 am St P	
SUNDAY	30	Only two services in the Mission Area - HE 8 am AS; HE 11 am St Ff	

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

Special Services and Events in December

Wednesday 5th December

6.30 pm Ysgol Bodafon Christmas Service - St Paul's

Sunday 9th December

4 pm St Pauls Family Service

7 pm Deganwy Community Carol Service - All Saints

Wednesday 12th December

7 pm St Cystennin's Christmas Celebration with Cantamus Choir

Friday 14th December

12 Noon St David's College Carol Service - St Paul's

Sunday 16th December

2 pm Scout Christmas and Commissioning service - St Michael's

Monday 17th December

6.30 pm Carol Service - St Katherine's, Bryn Pydew

7 pm Carol Service - St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy

Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th December

Ysgol Craig y Don concerts - St Paul's - tickets in advance from the school

Thursday 20th December

7 pm Carols around the tree - St David's

7 pm Carol Service - St Martin's, Eglwysbach

Friday 21st December

7 pm "We wish you a Merry Christmas" Concert - St Hilary's

Sunday 23rd December

9.30 am All Age Carol Service - St Michael's

11 am All Age Carol Service - All Saints

3.30 pm Nine Lessons and Carols - St Paul's

Monday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

3 pm Crib Service - All Saints, Deganwy

5 pm Crib Service - St Hilary's, Llanrhos

8.30 pm First Mass of Christmas - St Grwst's, Llanrwst

10.30 pm Midnight Eucharist - St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy

11.30 pm Midnight Eucharists - St David's, Penrhyn Bay, St Hilary's, Llanrhos,
St Michael's, Llandudno Junction

Tuesday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

8 am Holy Eucharist - St Hilary's, Llanrhos

9.30 am Holy Eucharist - St Cystennin's, Mochdre

9.45 am Holy Eucharist - St Paul's, Craig Y Don

10 am Holy Eucharist - All Saints, Deganwy and St Martin's, Eglwysbach

11 am Holy Eucharist - St Hilary's, Llanrhos, St David's, Penrhyn Bay, St Katherine's Bryn Pydew

Sunday 30th December: Holy Eucharist - 8 am All Saints, Deganwy and 11 am St Ffraid's, Glan Conwy



What is going on in the Mission Area?

There are lots of things happening during the Christmas season in the Mission Area - see page 4 opposite and further details in the following pages. We hope there will be something for everyone and that we will see you all at some of the Christmas events.

Other things are happening too!

Bible Briefs

We continue our exploration of Paul's letter to the Romans. Come along to 8 Llys Helyg, Deganwy on Tuesday 4th December at 7.30 pm. Bring your Bible.

Prayer Breakfast

There is no Prayer Breakfast in December - look out for dates in the New Year.

Praying for Growth

We continue to pray for the growth of the church in the Aberconwy Mission Area, for our clergy, leaders, and all our congregations, that they may be strengthened and encouraged.

Also please pray for Jack Brookes Fazakerley, Alexander Scott, Noah John Williams, Henry Ifor Williams and Henry Radley-Hughes, to be welcomed into the church by baptism during December, and Peter Griffiths and Sian Selly who will be married here this month.



Left: The table of memorabilia celebrating 90 years of St Paul's Mothers' Union is still at the back of church, well worth a visit.



St Paul's Church, Craig-y-Don **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Saturday 1st December
10 am - 12.30 pm

*Raffles, Refreshments
and lots of Stalls!*



DEGANWY DEMENTIA CAFÉ

All Saints Church, Deganwy, 10.30 - 12.30 pm on the first Monday of each month. **Open to all** and especially those who are living with Dementia, their carers, loved ones and friends. Entry and refreshments are free of charge to all.

AFTERNOON TEA

St David's Church Hall, Penrhyn Bay
First Thursday of the month, 2-3.30 pm.

£3 per person - pay on the day

Details from Ann Beardmore 07872 933926

Cancer Support Group

Meeting in All Saints, Deganwy, on the 1st Friday of every month 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Run with the support of Macmillan Cancer Support it is open to everyone, from those who are living with cancer, to family and friends and anybody who feels they would benefit from this group. The first group will be on **Friday December 7th.**

LLANDUDNO AND DISTRICT PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Alison and John Underwood write:

Within our Mission Area, St Michael and All Angels Church hosts the weekly meeting of this group - part of the wider charity Parkinson's UK. We are a small group providing information, support, therapeutic and social activities for our members. We are aware that we do not reach all local people affected by Parkinson's and as part of our awareness and fundraising activity we are currently one of the charities in the Asda (Llandudno) green token scheme.

Please consider supporting us each time you shop in Asda and if you know of anyone affected by Parkinson's we meet most Monday afternoons at St Michael's. For more information phone Alison or John Underwood on 01492 533459.

Don't forget all the Carol Services and Christmas events which are taking place in the churches across the Mission Area - some details on these pages but also please see page 4 for dates, times and places.



Christmas with Holywell Band

**Carols, Festive Favourites and
Chance To Sing Along**

St Paul's Church, Craig-y-Don

**Saturday 8th December
7.30 pm**

**Raising Money to support Young Musicians
in the Church and the Band**



Above: St Paul's will be lit with hand decorated lanterns for the annual Christmas celebration. Nine Lessons & Carols at St Paul's is on Sunday 23rd December at 3.30 pm, raising money for Llandudno lifeboat. Here are some of the lanterns being tested.

St Grwst's Church Llanrwst Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 7th December to Sunday January 6th



**Criw Grwst Advent event (art, craft storytelling
and worship for children of all ages) on
Saturday 8th December.**

Businesses, community organisations and individuals have all been invited to exhibit Christmas trees. Donations to the restoration of Gwydir Chapel and reordering of St Grwst's Church will be gratefully received.

For further information please contact Janet
Pierce on 01492 640443 or e-mail
janandbarry62@yahoo.com

Christmas Lunch



Llanrhos Schoolroom

Sunday 9th December

12.30 pm

Glass of wine

*Turkey (veggie option) with all the trimmings
Tea/Coffee & Mince Pies*

£12.00

Details from Doreen 585127

*Tickets must be purchased in advance
(Sorry - non-refundable)*



Carols for Christmas with Cantamus Chamber Choir

Wednesday 12th December
7 p.m.

St Cystennin's Church

*Come and join in singing Christmas Carols,
Seasonal readings and music, Produce stall,
Christmas raffle, Mince Pies and Bubbly*



An afternoon of Carols and Mince Pies

St Hilary's Fellowship invite you to join them
on Tuesday 18th December at 2.30 pm in
Llanrhos Schoolroom



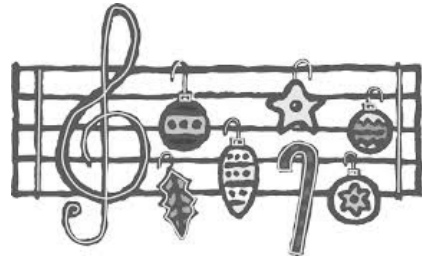
Come and sing your favourite carols CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

Thursday 20th December
at 7 pm

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH

followed by

MULLED WINE and MINCE PIES



St Hilary's Church

"We wish you a Merry Christmas" Concert

Friday 21st December
7 pm

Start off your Christmas weekend in a jolly
and festive way with our organist Jelena and
her pupils

Get your tickets early!

Tickets £5.00

*(includes a glass of wine & some nibbles)
available from Doreen 585127*

Carols at St Paul's

*In aid of Llandudno
Lifeboat*

**Sunday 23rd
December
3.30 pm**

**Mulled Wine and
Seasonal Refreshments Served
Afterwards**





The Revd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn writes:

Open Table seeks to provide a safe, sacred space for LGBT+ people and friends to share in worship and fellowship together. It is a place where together we encounter Jesus and encourage one another on our journeys of faith.

Open Table services (open to all those who identify as LGBT+ or are friends and allies) are currently held at 7 pm at St Grwst's Church, Llanwrst, and the December service will be on Tuesday 18th.

Open Table enters its second year on January 15th 2019 and to celebrate we are off for a curry after the Eucharist at St Grwst's.

News from Ysgol Bodafon

Sian Jenkinson writes:

The first school term has been lively and eventful at Bodafon; one of our themes is looking at how we look after ourselves and the world – brought together wonderfully in the Harvest Festival Celebration hosted in St David's, Penrhyn Bay, where we were all reminded by the children that we should be good stewards of the world we live in. Songs and readings from all ages provoked us to think about how much plastic we use, the food we eat (or waste!) and how we look after ourselves in general. Plenty of food for thought!

The Revd Mike Harrison (pictured opposite), Mr Lloyd-Owen and Mrs Sheldon conducted their first official meeting with some of the pupils, to start to consider "the pupil's voice" in their formal education. With a completely revamped curriculum being introduced across the entire education system "the pupil's voice" is high on the agenda for future learning. It is early days, and whilst the changes are exciting, it is a huge change for everyone, so please continue to pray.

Now our attention turns to the Advent Season and of course, Christmas. This means Christmas activities, such as the school Christmas service place on **Wednesday 5th December at 6.30 pm** in St Paul's Church. There's also trips to the pantomime, a Christmas Fair and plenty of other seasonal events which consume the time of the staff, on top of all the normal curriculum.

We all know that Christmas is a busy season, but one where the children will be encouraged to



think beyond the presents that they want on Christmas Day and consider the Christ in Christmas too – thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves, and being a light. As the song goes "This little light of mine – I'm gonna let it shine"!

Other plans include our first Christingle Service which will be hosted in January, again in St Paul's Church – watch out for news of that in the next newsletter.



Our Advent Prayer Points:

Please pray for all the staff at school: there are so many extra-curricular activities to plan, please pray for strength, joy and that everybody works together – may everyone keep focussed on the meaning of Christmas, and not get distracted by the stress!

Please pray for the children and their families – that they are blessed this season with Joy

And please pray that in the busyness of the season – in school, at home, wherever we go – that every one of us takes time to breathe, reflect and remember the reason for the season! **Ysgol Bodafon wish everyone a very blessed and peaceful Christmas – Nadolig Llawn iawn i pawb!**



THE MOTHERS' UNION

St Paul's Branch, Craig-y-Don

Pat Hay writes:

December will be busy, starting with the Christmas Fair on Saturday 1st. We hope that as well as the ever popular cake and produce stalls we will also have craft stall from the Monday Craft Afternoon ladies. A reflective afternoon on 10th December is followed by our Christmas Celebration with food and carols on the 17th. Corporate Communion is at 10.30 am every first Thursday in St Paul's church. Happy Christmas from St Paul's Mother's Union.

St Ffraid's Branch, Glan Conwy

Kath Jones writes:

In October Karen Mossiman spoke about her experience of fostering as a child in a family whose parents were also foster carers. Obviously one big happy family with all the children being treated in the same way, there were amusing stories about happenings at home

and on trips out. Certainly in the pictures there were no glum faces! It was interesting to hear about this very worthwhile work from a child in the family and a sister to the many children in the care of a special couple.

Five of our members enjoyed the service of thanksgiving in Bodelwyddan. The St. Ffraid's fundraising team have been working hard, to the delight of the Church treasurer, and raising much needed funds - thanks to all the team and to all who support the events.

We meet in December at Y Bedol for our Christmas meal, joined by husbands and friends. January plans are on hold as we have to fit around the pantomime!

All Saints Deganwy Branch

Daphne Laight writes:

Recent meetings included Tim Moxley with an informative and thought provoking talk about 'Rhinos in peril', with interesting illustrations of the time he spent out in Africa helping workers out there. Sharon Williams spoke about sign language, bringing our attention to the needs of the deaf - we all joined in trying to learn some useful signs and the alphabet. Fiona Clarke talked about her work with the Aberconwy Domestic Abuse Service, which is helping to change lives for the better for so many local families. (See also the picture on this page.) We thank all of these speakers for the time and knowledge they shared with us.

On 4th December we meet (in Bethel Chapel Hall) for thoughts about Advent and Christmas, with ideas from members. Our corporate communion will be on Wednesday 5th December in Church at 10 a.m. with a warm welcome to all.

As always please remember all our members and friends and if possible visit or send a note to those who are housebound. Wishing everyone a blessed and happy Christmas!



Left: Since March All Saints Deganwy have kept coffee money raised every 4th Sunday for Aberconwy Domestic Abuse Service, and decided the Harvest cash collection should also go to them. In late October Fiona Clark (right in the picture)) from Aberconwy Domestic Abuse Service joined the congregation in church and was presented with a cheque for £300 by Betty Raggett.

Remembrance 2018



Above - the congregation of St Cystennin's paying respects and saying prayers at war graves in the churchyard.

This year Remembrance Sunday took on a special significance, as it marked the centenary of the Armistice which brought an end to the First World War after 4 years and 3 months of fighting. Special services took place in the Mission Area in the week leading up to 11th November, and there were Acts of Remembrance at all our churches on the Sunday.



About 80 people gathered in All Saints Church Deganwy on 7th November for an emotional and moving Commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice. Readings included poetry – ‘Trench Idyll’ by Richard Aldington, ‘Attack’ by Siegfried Sassoon and ‘Soupir’ written by the Revd Peter Walker in memory of 9186 L/ Cpl F.T. Walker 2nd Battalion, South Staffs Regiment, died of wounds 3rd October 1914. Prose written by Vera Brittain on the death of her fiancé was also read.

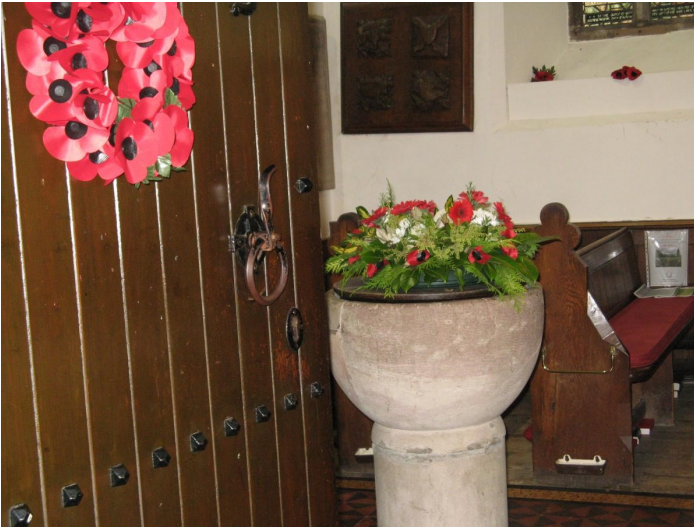
The names of the 105 local men who are named on the War Memorial in All Saints Church were read out as a candle was lit for each one (pictured left).

The strings section of Conwy Town Orchestra played "The Banks of Green Willow" by George Butterworth - composed in 1913 but sadly Butterworth was killed in action on 5 August 1916. Two pieces by Karl Jenkins were also played.

After the Last Post and Reveille the commemoration concluded with the laying of a wreath by Cllr Sam Cotton, Mayor of Conwy.

Right: Cllr Mike Priestley reading at the service at All Saints

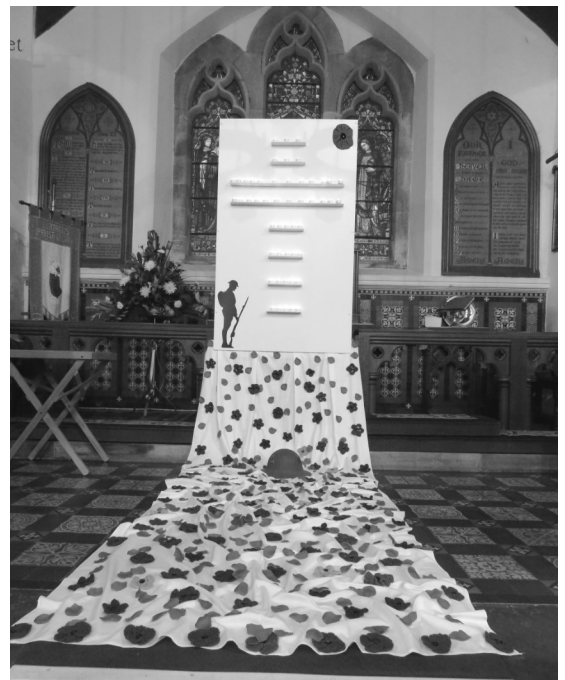




An "Open Day" and Remembrance Service at St Hilary's Llanrhos was held on Saturday 3rd November, with a rolling presentation throughout the day with pictures of the fallen men who served our country, background music and the reading of war poems. Situated in some pews were "There but Not There" silhouettes which enhanced the ambience of the day, and on the wood panelling surrounding the inside of the church were details about the local men who are buried and remembered in the churchyard, with their stories and their Commonwealth War Grave records for everyone to read. It was an amazing

experience to see how quiet the church was as visitors read in depth all about these men, some were visibly and emotionally moved, and it all made us feel very humble and grateful for their sacrifice.

In front of the high altar was a display which incorporated a cross, (pictured right) which in the service later was filled with candles as each name of the fallen was read out. Falling from below the display was a river of poppies and petals and an original "Chaplin's tin hat" with Priest painted on the front, which made it even more poignant. The Remembrance service was a tribute to those who had served their country without hesitation or fear. **We Will Remember Them.**



Pictured left - one of the "There but not there" silhouettes which were present in church pews during the Remembrance season.

Below - former serviceman Ken Hind lays the wreath at the war memorial at St Paul's, and one of the many flower displays (this one from St Paul's) prepared for the occasion.



Remembrance 2018 (continued)



Pictured left and below - Poppies and silhouettes were used to great effect in St. David's Penrhyn Bay to mark the centenary of the signing of the Armistice.



The Commemoration was marked with solemnity and respect. It also reminded us of the futility and tragedy of war, and let us not forget either that it was not 'the war to end all wars', and countless numbers since have lost their lives, their health, their sanity, as a result of the many conflicts that have taken place and are still happening.

Pictured below left - flowers at St Hilary's.
Pictured below right - Remembrance banners were to be seen in the churches - this one is at St David's.



As our thoughts turn towards Christmas, one of the things that many of us do is get out the Christmas card list. Some people prefer not to send cards, donating the money they would have spent to charity, but for some of us there is still a special significance in thinking about those friends that we may not see very often - if at all - but with whom we still have a special connection. One of our church members found this poem which she would like to share.

Christmas Greetings

I have a list of folks I know all written in a book
and every year at Christmas time, I go and take a look.
And that is when I realise that these names are all a part,
not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime
and in that meeting they've become the 'rhythm of the rhyme'.
And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link,
just meeting you has shaped my life more than you can think.
For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase,
the memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,
It's because you are on the list of folks I am indebted to.

For we are but a total of many folks we've met,
and you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.
And whether I have known you for many years or few
in some way you had a part in shaping things I do.

And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew,
the biggest gift that life can give is meeting folks like you.
And may the Spirit of Christmas that forever and ever endures,
Leave its riches blessings in the heart of You and Yours.

Other preparations for Christmas - craft work has always formed a nice opportunity for people to socialise in our churches, with groups at St Hilary's and St Paul's. The St Paul's group recently held an extra session in preparation for Christmas, making lanterns for Christmas services, and is pictured right in full swing with glitter and glue in abundance.

THE PARISH OFFICE

Christmas Parish Office holidays
will be from 12 noon on

**Thursday 20th December to
10 am Wednesday 2nd Jan 2019.**

Have a good rest Mandy, and
many thanks for all your hard
work!



News from the Mission Area

All Saints, Deganwy

After being on top of the tower at All Saints Church for over a hundred years the weathervane cockerel had to be removed in May as it had rusted and was in a dangerous condition. Thanks to the skill of David Chapman, a reconstructural archaeologist, the cockerel is back in all Saints. David has repaired the cockerel and mounted it on a piece of wood.

The Autumn Fair was well attended and brought many new faces into the church thanks to leaflets that were delivered by Frank Prescott and Andrew James. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. The fair raised £740.

Pictured right: The All Saints cockerel with David Chapman



St Cystennin's, Mochdre

A very special person at St. Cystennin's has had a big birthday at the end of November.

Happy 90th Birthday Betty!

Betty Taylor is known as "Betty Jam" due to the wonderful chutneys and jams she makes to sell in church for fundraising as well as delicious cakes for events, raffles and for coffee after services. Thanks for all you do Betty, you are a real treasure. Love from all at St Cystennin's and beyond xx



Pictured above: Betty Taylor with the Revd Godfrey

Pictures below; St Cystennin's Harvest Festival. The food was donated to the Conwy food bank and the children's clothes to Llandudno women's aid.



St Paul's, Craig-y-Don



Pictured above: St Paul's had a bit of a makeover recently when the stone mason arrived on site with a cherry picker and spent a week repointing the stonework. The work has meant a considerable reduction in draughts in the church as the cold winter weather arrives.

Chris Dearden and Philip Evans write:

There comes a point in December when we only do one thing: prepare for Carols at St Paul's. Heating, bills, church politics, even the day job get put aside so that our biggest service of the year (in congregation terms) happens without a hitch. The service forms such a regular part of the discussion that it gets abbreviated to CASP for short.

Music takes up a fair amount of the preparations - as well as rehearsals, there's music itself to sort, singers rotas to fill, solos to organise and allocate, congregation order of service booklets to print and even a "plan B" to sort - there's an emergency sheet if we run out of booklets for the congregation! In between all that, everything needs proof reading to check that the order of service that the choir matches what the congregation also have. It didn't last year, and wasn't spotted until ten minutes before the service.....

Music-wise, there are some real treats in store this year. We'll open the service with a sparkling arrangement of "The Sussex Carol" and the wonderfully melodic "Jesus Christ The Apple Tree", one of those pieces of music you

go home singing. "The Holly and The Ivy" gets included in the service for the first time in years, and Handel's "And The Glory Of The Lord" from Messiah will bring echoes of a classic Christmas to the church. Another highlight has to be a new piece by Will Todd called "My Lord Has Come" - an amazingly simple and effective work, only composed in the last eight years.

Away from the music, we end up buying case upon case of mulled wine, which flows freely at St Paul's during December. The kitchen needs staffing, and that's not the only rota to sort. We've experimented with having readers of the nine lessons who come from different parts of the community with whom St Paul's works, and people need contacting and giving copies of the readings in advance. Then we need to liaise with Llandudno lifeboat, for whom the service will be raising money, to ensure they have a presence in the church.

And in between all that, then hundreds of invitation cards also get distributed - through as many doors as we can manage in Craig y Don, and anywhere else in Llandudno that we can get to. It means plenty of exercise while we do the deliveries.

So plenty of work to get through. If you'd like to see if it all comes together, Carols at St Paul's is on **Sunday 23rd December at 3.30 pm**. Join us if you can.



Pictured above: One of the most obscure corners of St Paul's is the garden vestry, the base for the various flower arranging which goes on in the church. A large scale clear out has been taking place, including chucking out stuff that had been dumped there for around half a century or more (we guessed).



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Good news from Traidcraft!

A new pioneering plan for ethical trade.

After the news that Traidcraft plc might have to cease trading at the end of the year, a plan for a continuing future has emerged.

CEO Robin Roth said: **“We want our members to be co-conspirators in changing how trade is understood and practised.** We want to tell consumers who gets what from the Traidcraft products they buy. We want to annoy and irritate those who profit unduly through the non-transparency of their trading activities. We will cause good trouble, just as those pioneers who started Traidcraft back in 1979.”

Traidcraft will continue trading in a streamlined structure, initially focussing on its established partners and advocates, who are predominantly active in Christian churches. This will involve a simpler range of products.

The new Traidcraft will:

- establish core grocery lines
- carry fewer craft lines
- encourage communities to buy cooperatively and in bulk, saving on packaging and benefitting the planet
- deliver discounts through a membership model for supporters.



This restructuring process will also have an effect on the producers, and Traidcraft is working with its sister charity, Traidcraft Exchange, to identify the producers most at risk and provide the support they need. Traidcraft Exchange will be launching an appeal this Christmas to raise funds for this work.

Part of the problems that Traidcraft has been experiencing seem to come from a reduced take-up of their goods in churches. **It is really important that we keep focussed on the need to purchase and promote Fair Trade goods.** It is not just tea and coffee, there is a wide range of foods, household goods, cleaning materials etc. The old Benefice was formally committed to using Fair Trade products whenever possible - **has this been carried over to the Mission Area?**

Meanwhile, **keep purchasing from Traidcraft - both as individuals and as churches - to invest in this bright future and make a difference.** Catalogues are in the churches or contact Dilys Stone, 01492 879997.

Local Matters



Conwy Food Bank

Feeding local people in crisis
www.conwyfoodbank.co.uk

Dear Supporters

Once again we would like to thank you for your generosity in donating to the Food Bank. In October the total number of parcels issued has gone over 100 for the first time ever and the average is rising sharply. What is perhaps more worrying is that there were over 100 children involved this month. 41 parcels were issued to families, 52 to single people and 9 to couples.

Without the response of the community we would not be able to continue to help people who are in desperate circumstances and the referral agencies are very grateful for help at sometimes very short notice

Thank you so much for your kindness
From Everyone at Conwy Food Bank

Don't forget the food bank in the run up to Christmas - there are boxes in all our churches for your contributions.

Conwy Peace Group, Llandudno Mosque,
and Bangor People's Assembly

A meeting on the subject of Palestine

Sunday 8th Dec ember

12 - 4 pm

Craig-y-Don Community Centre
Queen's Road
Llandudno LL30 1TE

There will be a variety of speakers and this will be a chance to hear some of the background to the issues that exist in the Holy Land today

Palestinian food will be served

For further details contact:
conwypeace@gmail.com

Rhyl Music Club

Welsh Chamber Orchestra

Ynyr Pritchard viola Jeremy Huw Williams baritone



7.30pm **Wednesday 12 December**

Rhyl Town Hall. Tickets on-line or at the door £12, accompanied under 16s free

Details on rhylmusic.com



Reg charity no. 501671

FROM THE EDITORS

Please will those responsible check that the information about regular services and events and contact details are kept up to date and if there are any other groups, meetings etc. that should be included please do let us know.

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, Penrhyn Beach East, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - office@aberconwy.church.

(Contributions may have to be edited to fit available space, and late items may have to be omitted.)

Editor Rev Noel Carter

Production Editor Dilys Stone

Production Assistant Chris Dearden