

CHURCH NEWS



NEWYDDION EGLWYSIG

Mis Chwefror 2020 - February 2020

50c/50p

Rector to retire



The Revd Noel Carter is to retire in February. Noel came to the Rectorial Benefice of Rhos Cystennin in the Summer of 2014, becoming Area Dean of Llanrhos Deanery in July 2015 and then Mission Area Leader of the newly formed Aberconwy Mission Area at the start of 2017.

The Revd Noel Carter writes:

Taking the decision to retire has not been an easy thing to do. There are always so many things that still need to be done. However, the passage of years cannot be denied. I have entered my sixty seventh year and now seems the right time to step down.

I was ordained in 1983 after training at Lincoln Theological College. I served two curacies in Penrith and Barrow in Furness in Cumbria before going to my first parish as Vicar - Maryport on the Solway Firth. It was in the late Eighties and the town was a very sad place with very high levels of unemployment and real poverty and deprivation. The church was at the heart of a large council estate and my time there was a real education and an insight into the importance of the church being involved in life of the community it serves.

I moved from there to be Rector of Penrith. This was quite a different experience in a clergy team of five, serving four churches in the market town and surrounding villages. It was from there that I went to Jersey to enjoy the unique Channel Island experience. The church in Jersey was full of life and hope and it was there that I found the core values of my faith.

Discovering the Church in Wales at the start of the new Millennium was a new chapter in my life. This led to me becoming Vicar of Brymbo, Southsea and Tanyfron outside Wrexham. Working in communities that had been devastated by the closure of the Brymbo Steel Works was a challenge and a privilege.

It was then that I came to the Rectorial Benefice to oversee a time of huge change in the Church in Wales. The move to Mission Areas has not been easy and the process of change continues. It is only when we move from wondering what the Mission Area can do for us, to wondering what we can do for the Mission Area that the process will be complete. Ministering in the churches here has been an experience that has challenged and enriched me. I am so grateful for the support and friendship that Wendy and I have found here. Sharing our Christian journey together has been a special experience that we will always treasure.

Wendy and I will be moving to Rhos on Sea to begin the next stage of our life.

My last Sunday will be on the 16th February, when I will be taking a service at St Paul's at 9.45 am and at St Hilary's at 3 pm. There will be no service at St Hilary's at 11 am that day.

I hope that you will be able to join me for one of those services.

May God bless you all, Noel

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

www.aberconwy.church

REGULAR SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES - ALL WELCOME
GWASANAETHAU RHEOLAIDD YN EIN HEGLWYSI - CROESO I BAWB

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
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's
 4 pm **Holy Eucharist** Llanrwst Church House
 6.30 pm **Evening Prayer** St Hilary's

St Grwst's Church, Llanrwst:- The church will be temporarily closed until Easter for reordering work to be undertaken. During the closure, services will continue at Church House, Watling Street, Llanrwst.

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** Llanrwst Church House
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints, St David's, Llanrwst Church House and St Hilary's
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's
 4 pm **Building Blocks** 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; **Family Service** St David's
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid's
 4 pm **Holy Eucharist** Llanrwst Church House
 6.30 pm **Cymun Bendigaid** St Hilary's

Please note changes to services on **Sunday 16th February** (see calendar opposite)

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** Llanrwst Church House*
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** St David's, Llanrwst Church House and St Hilary's; **All-age worship** All Saints
 11.15 am **Holy Eucharist** St Ffraid'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 Cystennin's, St Michael's
 9.45 am **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's
 11 am **Holy Eucharist** All Saints; **Morning Service** St Hilary's
 6.30 pm **Holy Eucharist** St Hilary's

5th Sunday
 Joint service for the **valley churches** - see calendar opposite.
 Also 11 am service on a 5th Sunday may vary at **St David's** so please check the calendar opposite

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 - 10.30 am Coffee and Brunch at All Saints after the 10 am service;

10 am Thursday - St Paul's and St Ffraid's Church House; 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: Prayer Group 10 am every Tuesday - St David's (01492 876451 for details); **Prayer Hour** 10-11 am every Thursday at St Michael's; **Praying for Growth** - monthly at a Mission Area church - see calendar for details.

Julian Group - **8.15 pm** every Monday - St Michael's (except Bank Holidays) Contact 01492 585063 for more information

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)

CLERGY: Rev Noel Carter (Mission Area Leader) 01492 339521 (For other contact details and online addresses - please see inside back cover)
 Rev Dr Godfrey Chigumira 01492 543706
 Rev Juliet Fraser 01492 596655
 Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osborn 01492 640032

OFFICE: Penrhyn Beach East, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church
Open 10-12.30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Mis Chwefror 2020 - Y CALENDR/CALENDAR - February 2020

		Gwasanaethau/Services	Digwyddiadau eraill/Other events
Friday	1	HE 10 am St D	Cancer Support Group 10.30 am AS
FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION	2	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also: St Hilary's Church Meeting 12.15 pm ; Holy Baptism 12.45 pm St C	
Monday	3		Dementia Café 10.30-12.30 pm AS; Craft Group 1 pm St P
Tuesday	4		PARISH OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK Bible Briefs 7.30 pm 22 Crescent Court LL30 1AT
Wednesday	5	HE 10 am AS; Storytime Café 10.30 am St P	
Thursday	6	HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	7	HE 10 am St D	MAGAZINE COPY DATE
Saturday	8		
SUNDAY	9	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also Building Blocks Family Service 4 pm St P	
Monday	10		Craft Group 1 pm St P; St Paul's Fellowship 2.30 pm
Tuesday	11		Cuppa, crafts & chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom; All Saints Mothers Union 2.30 pm
Wednesday	12	HE 10 am AS; Storytime Café 10.30 am St P	
Thursday	13	Praying for Growth 10-12 noon St M; HE 10.30 am St P	
Friday	14	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	15		
SUNDAY	16	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also: No 11 am or 6.30 pm services at St H ,or 4 pm at St G; Noel Carter's final services HE 9.45 am St P and 3 pm St H	
Monday	17		Craft Group 1 pm St P
Tuesday	18		St Hilary's Fellowship 2.30 pm Llanrhos Schoolroom
Wednesday	19	HE 10 am AS; Storytime Café 10.30 am St P;	
Thursday	20	HE 10.30 am St P;	
Friday	21	HE 10 am St D;	
Saturday	22		
SUNDAY	23	SEE OPPOSITE PAGE - Also: Holy Baptism 12.45 pm St P; Children's Chill Church 4 pm St M	
Monday	24		Craft Group 1 pm St P; St Paul's Fellowship 2.30 pm
Tuesday	25		Cuppa, crafts & chat 2.30 pm Llanrhos S/room; All Saints Mothers Union 2.30 pm
ASH WEDNESDAY	26	HE: 10 am St C & St Ff, <u>11 am</u> AS, 7 pm St D & St G; Storytime Café 10.30 am St P; Compline 7 pm St P	
Thursday	27	HE 10.30 am St P; Open Table 7 pm St M	
Friday	28	HE 10 am St D	
Saturday	29		
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 M – St Michael's; St Ma - St Martin's; St P – St Paul's			

What is happening in the Mission Area? Be' sy'n digwydd yn yr Ardal Genhadol?

As you will have read on the front page, Mission Area Leader Noel has announced his retirement plans and will be leaving the Mission Area in February. His last services will be on Sunday 16th February - 9.45 am in St Paul's where he will be staying on afterwards for coffee and a chat, and a farewell service at 3 pm at St Hilary's with refreshments afterwards in the Schoolroom. Everyone is very welcome and Noel hopes that you will be able to join him at one of these services. (There will be no 11 am service at St Hilary's or 4 pm service at St Grwst's on that day).

There is a Mission Area Retirement Collection for Noel and anyone wishing to contribute should put their gift in a labelled envelope and give it to their Churchwardens, or drop it into the parish office. (Cheques should be payable to "AMA Admin Account".) Noel will be very much missed but we wish him and Wendy a long and happy retirement.

Praying for Growth Gweddio dros dwf

Come and join us to pray for growth in our Mission Area. This month we meet on **Thursday 13th February** from 10-12 noon in St Michael and All Angels Church, Llandudno Junction. Even if you cannot join us then, please continue to pray for growth and development in the life of our churches, and in particular during the forthcoming vacancy..

Arrangements for Prayer Breakfasts have not been confirmed as we go to press, so please look out for news of this in the Pew News.

Please also remember in your prayers Jacob Daniel Hughes and Arlo Weale, to be welcomed into the church by baptism.

Prayer Hour at St Michael's and All Angels, Llandudno Junction
10-11 am every Thursday Morning

Bible Briefs

Tuesday 4th February, 7.30 pm at 22 Crescent Court, Llandudno LL30 1AT

Bible Briefs is continuing and Don and Ann Milne have kindly agreed to host it. The February meeting will look at possible subjects for study. The meeting will be at 22 Crescent Court, Nevill Crescent (adjacent to the Prom). All welcome.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on 4th, 5th, and 6th February (re-opens Tuesday 11th).

Regular events held in our churches:

COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA

Raising funds for local charities



St David's Church Hall, Penrhyn Bay

Thursday 6th February 2-3.30 pm

£3 per person - pay on the day

Details from Ann Beardmore 07872 933926

The December tea raised £80 which was given to Hope Restored for the Homeless Christmas Lunch served on Christmas Day in the Lighthouse Community Church, Llandudno - a thank you note has been received and is in the Community Afternoon Tea book that is on display at every tea we hold.

DEGANWY DEMENTIA CAFÉ

first Monday of each month

10.30-12.30 pm

in All Saints Church, Deganwy

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

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

1st Friday of every month

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

in All Saints Church, Deganwy

Run with the support of Macmillan Cancer Support it is open to everyone, those living with cancer, family and friends and anybody who feels they would benefit from this group.

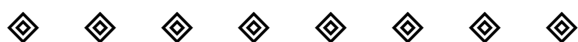
PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

in St Michael's Church, Llandudno Junction

Every Monday afternoon 2-4 pm.

Open to all people affected by Parkinson's in any way, with regular dance, singing and exercise activities and plenty of time for a cup of tea and chat.

Contact Alison or John Underwood for more information on 01492 533 459 or email llandudnopdsq@gmail.com



Night Shelter Project news:

"I was a stranger and you invited me in" Matthew 25.35

A pilot project will take place in February. Please think about whether you can offer to help in some way, small or large. Contact Mike if you would like to know more - *Mike Harrison* 01492 870701, Mob. 07910 141410 Email: mikeonorme@gmail.com



CHILL CHURCH TOTS 'T' TIME

The next meeting of Chill Church at St Michael's Llandudno Junction will be on **Sunday 23rd February** at 4 pm - please pass the word round - all welcome. There will be action songs, a story, activities and of course tea with the teddies.



Wednesday 26th February

Holy Eucharists with Imposition of Ashes

10 am St Cystennin's

10 am St Ffraid's Glan Conwy

11 am All Saints, Deganwy

7 pm St David's Penrhyn Bay

7 pm Church House Llanrwst

Also: Sung Compline at 7 pm at St Paul's Church, Craig-y-Don

Lent Group

This year's Lent group where we join with Holy Trinity will be on the theme of Exploring Ministry. It will be led by the Revd Andrew Sully, Rector of Holy Trinity. The group will run for five weeks from Wednesday 4th March, at 7 pm. Each session will end with Compline. The Group will meet in Holy Trinity Rectory, 37 Church Walks, Llandudno LL30 2UL.

Wednesday 4th March -

Introduction to Ministry

Wednesday 11th March -

Bereavement support

Wednesday 18th March -

Ministry to the sick

Wednesday 25th March -

Baptism

Wednesday 1st April -

Doing something different

More details in the March Magazine.

St Hilary's, Llanrhos

St Hilary's Church Meeting - Sunday 2nd

February in the Schoolroom, at about 12.15 pm (after the 11 am service). Please try to be there, as there are several important issues to discuss.

St Hilary's Fellowship - Tuesday 18th February

at 2.30 pm in the Schoolroom - details to be confirmed.

Theme for 2020: Building hope and confidence

'As we open our arms and welcome 2020, let us join hands in prayer asking for God's guidance and direction in the changes we aspire to make and his blessing as we remain faithful to our identity as a movement.'

Sheran Harper, Worldwide President

With celebrations taking place in 2020 to mark the centenary of the Church in Wales we are reminded that Wales has a population of 3.2 million people and a church population of 210,000. There are 900 parishes and Mothers' Union is represented in 30% of these. Mothers' Union membership in Wales is over 5,500 with 900+ in St Asaph Diocese. Each Archdeaconry will celebrate the centenary during the late summer with a Songs of Praise.

All Saints Deganwy Branch

Pat Chapman writes:

Betty Rigby will be speaking to us on Tuesday 11th February and we will have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Social on the 25th.

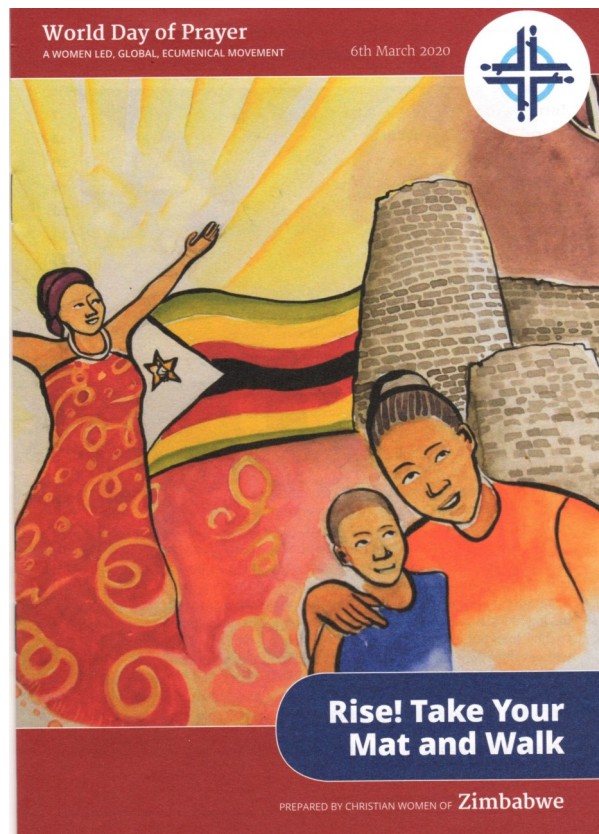
Our meetings are held in Bethel Chapel at 2.30 pm. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.

Our corporate communion will be at 10 am on Wednesday 5th February in All Saints Church..

St Paul's Fellowship

Dorothy Roberts writes:

We now have a programme of meetings organised for the first half of 2020. After our January lunch our opening meeting will be on Monday 10th February, with the Revd. Noel Carter. On 24th February our speaker will be Anna Jane Evans, from Christian Aid. All meetings start at 2.30 pm, and all are welcome to join us.



The World Day of Prayer Service for 2020 'Rise, Take your mat and walk', has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. The service will take place in St John's Methodist Church, Llandudno on **Friday 6th March 2020** at 2.30 pm. If you would like to help plan the service or take part in the service please contact Pat Chapman for further details.

allsaints.deganwy@gmail.com



OPEN TABLE
Come as you are

Open Table will meet on **Thursday 7th February** at **7.00 pm** at St Michael's, Llandudno Junction.

All welcome.

More information from the Revd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn (see inside front cover)

All Saints Church, Deganwy Wednesday 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Brunch

Join us for our mid-week Eucharist, or if you prefer just join us at 10.30 for brunch and a chat. We offer a warm welcome, coffee and pastries to all.

News from the Mission Area

Newyddion o'r Ardal Genhadol

Terry Hemuss

Deborah Haigh-Roberts writes:

Some very sad news to start 2020. Terry Hemuss, organist at St Paul's for nearly 20 years, died at home in Llandudno on Saturday 28th December.

A regular face in the church, he'll be remembered for the way he could express his sense of humour through music. In rehearsals, the choir would be treated to cheeky re-arrangements of the piece they were working on..... a psalm chant might become a jazz lounge ballad, or a communion anthem might acquire a Les Dawson-style ending.

But supporting the dry sense of humour was a razor sharp sense of musicianship: Terry could spot a single wrong note being sung in a complex four part harmony, and gently flag it up so it could be put right without the singer losing any face. To the very end, Terry strove to achieve the highest standards and to encourage others to do the same.

Terry had turned 82 just before Christmas. He had been a music teacher on the staff at Rydal Penrhos, retiring around the turn of the century, and joining St Paul's to assist my predecessor Stuart Robinson. Whether working with Stuart or me, he remained one of the calmest organists under pressure that either of us could think of. He will be sorely missed by many people at St Paul's, and by others locally as he had also played for a number of other musical groups in the area.



Terry Hemuss at the organ of St Paul's, Craig-y-Don



St David's, Penrhyn Bay

Karen Stringer writes:

St David's held a nativity service with the help of St Paul's nativity figures and we thank you. This was an inclusive service with the figures presented by members of the congregation to the nativity scene, the story told by different voices, a wide selection of Christmas music with the organ or guitar, a congregation making a joyful noise together and also listening to a duet. Thank you Sandra, Phil and Barry for putting this together and making it seem effortless also to everyone who took part.

/Continued overleaf

All this singing was just a few days after Alan Price's marathon Carols Around the Tree when it was good to see many visitors - thank you Alan for this annual festival of carol singing - and only a week after an excellent congregation meal and fellowship in St David's church hall, again, put together by Phil and Sandra.

St David's will end the Christmas season on Sunday 2nd February with the festival of Candlemas (candle photograph left from Candlemas 2019)



Pictured left: No! It wasn't Karen's washing on the line. With no little people attending St David's, in a act of faith, the nativity outfits were put out for an airing and a reminder to pray for church growth and be especially welcoming to little people with their grown ups. We pray that next time there will be children inside these costumes.

Storytime Café at St Paul's, Craig-y-Don



Staying with Christmas, these two delightful photos were taken at the Storytime Café Christmas Party.



Storytime Café meets every Wednesday morning at 10.30 am at St Paul's Church, Craig-y-Don, and all are welcome.

St Hilary's, Llanrhos

Christmas Fairy-tale Concert 2019

Doreen Owen writes:

St Hilary's held our fourth concert with Jelena our organist this Christmas when more than a hundred people sat snugly in church to enjoy fabulous music. Once again there was a wide range of ages starting with a 5 year old dressed as an angel (pictured right). We were treated to three voice soloists and the instruments we enjoyed were organ, piano, harp, violin, cello, trumpet and jingle bells!! We are pleased to report that we raised £480 to be shared between St Hilary's & Ty Gobaith. A big thank you once again to all especially Jelena (pictured just below) for all her hard work.



Pictured are the performers at the Christmas Fairy-tale Concert held at St Hilary's



Betty Jam

Margaret Hodgkiss writes:

Please pray for Betty (Mrs Jean Elizabeth Taylor) who spent Christmas and New Year in Glan Clwyd Hospital (the fourth time she has had a spell in hospital in the last year).

Betty is a St. Cystennin's Angel, making her wonderful Cakes, Jams and Chutneys for our Church Funds over the past seven years, in fact ever since she came to live nearby. She also cleans the church brasses every two weeks and polishes all the pews every week.

Sadly, Betty has also recently lost her lovely dog "Mac" last Monday, after he had been poorly for while, "Rest in Peace Mac".

Thank you Betty, we hope to see you back with us soon.

FROM THE EDITORS GAN Y GOLYGYDDION

News and comment welcome from across the Mission Area, with photos if possible. **Welsh language items welcome** - either bilingual or with a brief summary in the other language.

Copy Day is the 7th of the month, PLEASE submit items by then so that we don't have to spend time chasing you. Please send items to jastone@dunelm.org.uk or to the Parish Office. (Items may have to be edited to fit the available space, and late items may be omitted.)

Diolch yn fawr - thank you very much.

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

St Ffraid's Church House
Glan Conwy
Coffee Stop
and Post Office
Every Thursday 10-11.30 am

Don't forget **Cuppa, Crafts and Chat** at Llanrhos Schoolroom at 2.30 pm every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Whether you want to knit, sew, paint, draw or do any other crafty thing, or just sit and have a cup of tea and a chat - you will be very welcome.



Local Matters - Petha' Lleol



Pam Kirkham will soon be retiring from her role in Kingdom Krafts shop in Madoc Street, and Emma will be leaving the area. For the shop to continue it is essential that suitably equipped and experienced management be found.

Please make this staffing need known, and join in prayer that the Lord will provide. While many Christian bookshops have been forced to close, this shop continues to remain viable and is able to support one full time manager or two part time managers, albeit on minimum wage.

Passionate, capable management could develop it further and allow it to pay above minimum wage.

Should you know of anyone who might be interested there is a job description available, and for more information, please contact Steve Russell 07368 214994
email: stephenrussell1@sky.com

The Saturday **REVERB CAFÉ** is moving to **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL** in Llandudno - new venue, new menu, same great atmosphere and team of volunteers.

Reverb Café is run entirely by volunteers for the purpose of raising funds to support the work of Llandudno Youth for Christ.



Conwy Food Bank

Feeding local people in crisis

www.conwyfoodbank.co.uk

21 Ffordd Las

www.sanctuarytrust.org.uk

Llandudno LL30 1ER

conwyfoodbank@gmail.com

01492 471793

facebook.com/conwyfoodbank

between 10 and 4pm

January 2020

Dear Supporters

The beginning of a new decade and Conwy Food Bank continues every effort to meet the needs of so many in our communities who are in crisis. We are so grateful for the huge amounts of donations you made during December. We have seen the highest number of referrals ever. The total number of parcels issued has climbed to 132, 61 to families involving 143 children, 54 to single people and 17 to couples.

Not only donations of food and non perishable goods but generous cash donations have been made, sometimes in very sad circumstances. This enables us to purchase items which are needed urgently, such as nappies and baby food.

It is so heartening for us who volunteer our time and efforts, it makes it so worthwhile.

Best wishes for the New Year from us all.



As mentioned last month, a new initiative is "Experiencing Sacred Wales". They have been holding workshops to introduce the scheme and topics include:

- Creating the Perfect Welcome
- Finding your Stories
- Interpreting your Church
- Promoting your Church and Activities

Living in an area like North Wales there is a huge potential for welcoming visitors to our church buildings, which are many and varied. These are opportunities we should not miss.

Churches are different to other visitor attractions. They are working buildings; they have services and there is a need to be mindful

of congregations' needs. They live and breathe the word of God. Some visitors may only come in needing comfort, we need to have information and leaflets that will help. We need to look at how we interpret our churches – creating an area for prayer and contemplation which can offer that spirituality, as well as promoting them and activities that go on.

Mae pob un ohonom yn penderfynnu os gaiff yr Iesu le. (gweler Luc 2:7)

Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus (see Luke 2.7)

Conwy Churches & Community Night Shelter

To help or donate, contact
Mike Harrison 01492 870701 or 07910 141410
mikeonorme@gmail.com



The Higher Tour comes to North Wales on 3rd-7th February. This initiative of The Message Trust works to equip, encourage and strengthen the local church in reaching young people with the life-transforming, world-shaking gospel of Jesus.

During the week Higher teams will be in local schools, culminating with a gig at Venue Cymru on 7th February at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 - information flyers available from the parish office.

Higher combines schools work with large-scale gospel proclamation events and discipleship resources, believing that the transforming power of Jesus is not just for one action-packed event, but for good – so wanting to see new Christians become rooted in a local church to continue their journey of faith and engage in long-term discipleship.



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE
“THE LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD”



SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2020

**THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF
CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
CANDLEMAS**

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL
CROESO CYNNES I BAWB**

Afterthoughts - Ôl-Dai

A Cautionary Tale?

Dilys Stone writes:

As we spend a lot of our time pre-occupied with the bricks and mortar of our church buildings and sometimes seem stuck in traditional habits, I was struck by this report about a relatively new church. This is not "A Church Near You" - it is far away on another continent - but the story could happen anywhere.

The church has been around for close on a decade. It started as a small non-profit organisation, one family and a few friends, who focussed on organising workshops on areas of social education, e.g. non-violent conflict resolution. Then they started a church, and then they acquired their own rental building, and there some might say, the trouble set in. Where before they were dynamic and went into schools and community settings, now everything happens in The Building. Where before their time and resources went into community projects, now the priority is Running A Church, and in practice there is almost nothing left to do anything else with.

So, of the original congregation, those who joined hoping for a "different" sort of church have largely left disillusioned, and a succession of other fallings-out have thinned the rest down to a dozen or so. As things became difficult, the pastor's response was to "batten down the hatches" and preach increasingly annoyed sermons on obedience which mostly involved haranguing the decreasing number of attendees for not being the multitude he was hoping for. (This also ensured that no visitor ever came twice!)

However, after a tough couple of years, and with some people wondering what they were doing there but sensing that they might be being called to hang on and wait,

in the last few weeks there have been some signs of new hope and openness. Things are still hard; the congregation is tiny, the building is a drain on resources, paying the rent costs more than the collection gathers, but there is a new sense of willingness to be vulnerable in the leadership, an openness to asking questions, building relationships and thinking together about what to do next.

Pray for this small congregation who have a heart to serve God in the city, and who are currently struggling to find a way to be church that is healthy and sustainable for the existing members, as well as reaching and welcoming newcomers.

"The Building" is a trap we can all fall into, and it is good to read that in this story there are now signs of hope for the future. As well as praying for this little congregation, perhaps we need to pray for ourselves too, that we will have the courage and vision that enable us to work for the establishment of God's Kingdom and to bring his love and justice to all people, and not be confined to the boundaries of our own small patch of real estate.

What do you read?

I said to the almond tree, 'Friend, speak to me of God'. And the almond tree blossomed.

How is it that literature and poetry can sometimes blossom and speak to our souls at the deepest level?

Listen to the voice of God in literature of all kinds, noticing how it can inspire us and bring us life.

The evening Koinonia group is looking at Psalms in the period between Christmas and Lent. Psalm 8 reminds us of the wonderful creation that we have a responsibility for. This interpretation is by Jim Cotter (from his book "Through Desert Places - Psalms 1-50").

PSALM 8 - STEWARDS OF CREATION

*Refrain: Creator God, Source of all life,
How gloriously does your name resound,
Echoing to the bounds of the universe!*

The morning stars sing for joy, and the youngest child cries your name.
The weak in the world shame the strong, and silence the proud and the rebellious.

When I look at the heavens, even the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars majestic in their courses -
the eagle riding the air, the dolphin ploughing the sea,
the gazelle leaping the wind, the sheep grazing the fells -
who are we human beings that you keep us in mind,
children, women, and men that you care so much for us?

Yet still you bring us to life, creating us after your image,
stewards of the planet you give as our home.
How awesome a task you entrust to our hands.
How fragile and beautiful is the good earth.

Creator God, amid the immensities of the universe you seek us out and call us to be partners in your work of creating. May we not fail you.

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Halcyon String Quartet
Glen Dempsey



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