

# CHURCH NEWS



# NEWYDDION EGLWYSIG

Mis Ebrill 2020 - April 2020

50c/50p

These are strange and worrying times, and as we write this we have heard the news that church services, public gatherings for worship and other parochial events should no longer take place. Advice is being updated daily and we are trying to keep the most up to date information available on our website - [www.aberconwy.church](http://www.aberconwy.church). More information and current detailed guidance is on pages 4 and 5 of this magazine.

Ben Lines wrote the piece below for this page before the coronavirus situation escalated. Joy may be hard to find in these troubled times, but God is our refuge and our strength and more than ever we need to join together as a community of love and prayer, supporting those who are most in need, taking responsibility for our own and others' safety, and keeping in touch with those who are isolated or alone.

## Joy!

*Ben Lines, our ordinand, writes:*

I have recently returned from a 10 day trip to Uganda. The trip was offered as part of my training for ordained ministry and was a fantastic experience. Alongside visiting various aid projects we had the opportunity to minister within Ugandan churches and engage with their worship and praise. We were also afforded time in the university engaging with ordinands training for ministry. The trip provided so many moments of challenge but the one thing that will stick with me is the joy that exuded from the Ugandan people, particularly the joy they expressed in their worship. To worship with them was the greatest privilege of the trip. What they lacked in material wealth they more than made up for in spiritual wealth. They had very little, by our standards, and yet they have found a deep contentment and joy in Jesus. Christ was and is enough for them.

As our Lenten journey draws to a close and as we turn our gaze toward the glory of Easter we do so with the cloud of Coronavirus hanging over our globe. Stories of panic buying are a



symptom of the fear that many are feeling. We need to be wise in our response, we need to listen to the official advice that is given, we need to protect the vulnerable in our midst, but we need not fear. As we are reminded in 1 John 4:18 '...there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... we love because He first loved us'. As we are presented with the extravagant love of Christ once again shown in His saving work upon the cross, may we allow ourselves to be perfected and captivated by His love.

This Easter the church has a wonderful opportunity to present Christ once again to the world in His resurrection glory. In the midst of uncertainty and adversity may we discover and proclaim the joy and contentment that can only be found in Jesus.

As I left Uganda I really wanted to bottle up their joy and bring it home as if it wasn't and couldn't be present in North Wales. The truth is that their joy was found in Jesus and He is as much present in Aberconwy as He is in Mbale. May we open ourselves up to His presence and be transformed by His light and His love. May Christ show himself not only to us but to all those we know and love. Christ is enough, Hallelujah!

---

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 and All Angels, Llandudno Junction • St Paul's, Craig-y-Don

[www.aberconwy.church](http://www.aberconwy.church)

---

**THIS IS THE REGULAR PATTERN OF SERVICES IN THE MISSION AREA - CURRENTLY  
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 (Bilingual)** St Grwst's  
 6.30 pm       **Evening Prayer** St Hilary's

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Grwst's 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

**Easter Sunday 21st April** - We have no information about Easter services as we go to press but it is very likely that services will still be suspended at that time.

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (Bilingual)** St Grwst's  
 6.30 pm       **Cymun Bendigaid** St Hilary's

**4<sup>th</sup> 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; **Cymun Bendigaid** St Grwst's  
 9.45 am       **Choral Eucharist** St Paul's  
 11 am          **Holy Eucharist** St David's, St Grwst's 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

**5<sup>th</sup> 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** - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Weds, 10.30 am (01492 876451 for details)

**Evening** - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 8 pm (01492 583420 for details)

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

<b>CLERGY:</b>	Mission Area Leader	vacant	(For other contact details and online
	Rev Dr Godfrey Chigumira	01492 543706	addresses - please see inside back
	Rev Juliet Fraser	01492 596655	cover)
	Rev Sarah Hildreth-Osborn	01492 640032	
<b>OFFICE:</b>	Penrhyn Beach East, Llandudno, LL30 3NT - 01492 541615 - office@aberconwy.church		
	<b>Open 10-12.30 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (NO CALLERS IN PERSON PLEASE)</b>		



These two pictures are from Ben Lines' trip to Uganda (see his piece on the front cover). The real joy that he found there is obvious.

Almighty Father  
 who in your great mercy  
 gladdened the disciples  
 with the sight of the risen Lord:  
 give us such knowledge of his  
 presence with us,  
 that we may be strengthened and  
 sustained  
 by his risen life  
 and serve you continually in  
 righteousness and truth;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

Services may not be taking place at the moment, but this does not mean that the Church is closed. There are plans being made to have some of our churches open as places of prayer and contemplation (with appropriate hygiene precautions and social distancing). Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people, and we can offer practical care and support.

There are many spiritual resources that we can use, here are just a few prayers that you may find helpful:

Dear Father,  
 who created us, and redeemed us,  
 and who has promised us your love,  
 be with us in a time of danger and of worry.  
 May those who suffer, or who are ill,  
 know the blessing of your grace,  
 while we who are well be inspired by your Spirit  
 to be wise and to be servants,  
 working for the healing and wholeness of all,  
 each in our own way.  
 Keep us calm and cautious, strong and open to service,  
 so that we take care of those around us, and also ourselves.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
 and guard us while sleeping,  
 that awake we may watch with Christ  
 and asleep may rest in peace.



The Bishop's message to us all can be found on <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/coronavirus/> where he particularly references Psalm 46 - *God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in time of trouble.....*

Come, O Spirit of God,  
 and make within us your dwelling place and home.  
 May our darkness be dispelled by your light,  
 and our troubles calmed by your peace;  
 may all evil be redeemed by your love,  
 all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,  
 and all dying glorified in his risen life. **Amen.**

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The situation is evolving very rapidly and **currently all services and events will not be taking place.** We may be able to have some of church buildings open as places of prayer and contemplation with appropriate hygiene precautions and social distancing, but final decisions have not yet been made. Check the website [www.aberconwy.church](http://www.aberconwy.church) for the latest information.

This magazine will be circulated by email. If you have not received this issue by email but would like to do so in future, please contact [office@aberconwy.church](mailto:office@aberconwy.church).

For those with access to the internet, St Paul's hopes to continue streaming a service on Facebook, and is also offering to light a candle or add a prayer to those already being said if you contact them on their Facebook page *St Paul's Church Choir, Llandudno*. Other spiritual resources are listed on page 6 and there are many more on the internet generally. Our way of life is going to be changed, but we hope to find ways to maintain and indeed to continue to grow our spiritual lives, as well as adjusting to the new circumstances that may constrain our physical meeting up with people. The prayer and service we offer each day is more important than ever.

**THE PARISH OFFICE remains open** at present but requests **no callers** - phone and email queries only and items can be left in the wall mounted postbox outside. (Note the office will be open as usual after Easter 14th-16th April but CLOSED 28th, 29th, 30th April.)

These are trying times, and please keep a watching brief on your friends and neighbours who may be feeling particularly anxious or isolated at this time, and maintain contact with them by whatever means is appropriate. Also do not forget those who rely on our regular donations. Charity income will be hit hard at this time. The Food Bank is likely to be under great pressure, both from a reduction in donations and an increase in demand. It is possible to donate financially - contact them on 01492 471793

or email them on [conwyfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:conwyfoodbank@gmail.com) to get the details.

Also please remember your regular giving to the church - there are still bills to be paid and we want our churches to be there when all this is over! If you would like to set up a Standing Order contact Ann Harty (tel: 01492 546039 or email: [annaharty@talktalk.net](mailto:annaharty@talktalk.net)), or use Gift Direct (the form can be downloaded from <https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/1798-Gift-Direct-English.pdf> and where it says "Parish Church" put the name of your church followed by Aberconwy Mission Area.) A Welsh version is on [https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/1798-Gift-Direct-Welsh\\_wFxN3c9.pdf](https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/1798-Gift-Direct-Welsh_wFxN3c9.pdf).

Pray for all who suffer, including at this time those infected by Covid-19 around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection, and for all who at this time are feeling anxious, especially for those with friends and family in areas and occupations most at risk.

The Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales issued the following Pastoral Declaration, the immediate effect of which is that all church services and gatherings for public worship and study groups and other events should no longer take place. The full text can be found on <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/coronavirus/>

## **PASTORAL DECLARATION OF THE BENCH OF BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH IN WALES COVID-19**

17 March 2020

At such a time as this, and during this holy season of Lent, we are mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for his sheep. We are holding all who are anxious, all who are unwell, and all who are grieving in our prayers, asking that the presence of the risen Christ may be near to us, wherever we may be, throughout the difficult months ahead.

We are issuing this pastoral declaration in light of new governmental advice on Coronavirus (COVID-19). On the evening of Monday 16 March 2020 the Prime Minister advised that all non-essential social contact and all unnecessary travel should cease. During questions in the House of Commons the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care confirmed that the guidance relating to non-essential social contact includes faith groups and religious gatherings.

### **PUBLIC WORSHIP AND GATHERINGS**

All church services and gatherings for public worship should no longer take place. This includes regular Sunday services and weekday services, as well as occasional offices (*see full text for further details*). Study groups and other parochial events that gather people together should also no longer take place. We are awaiting further information from the government, which will help us all to measure and reflect upon the gravity and potential duration of this cessation. However, given the information we have available to us at present, the ceasing of public worship and gathering is the prudent course of action.

Vestry Meetings should not take place for the time being. Detailed guidance will follow as soon as possible.

### **PRAYER**

We are clear that the duty of the Church to speak in the name of God, and to interpret the gospel of salvation continues at all times and in all places. Our obligation to pray without ceasing is paramount at this time, and we have been encouraged by the ways over recent weeks in which church communities have been enabling their members to sustain a life of prayer and devotion when gathering for worship has been difficult or impossible. These efforts should continue and intensify. Our church buildings can be kept open as places of prayer and contemplation – but notices should be in place about the washing of hands and the maintaining of social distance.

### **OUR COMMUNITIES**

As the clergy and people of the Church in Wales, we have special care for all people in our communities, and especially the poor, the outcast and the needy. At this time, we know that there will be a burning desire to labour in God's service and to be alongside those in our communities who will be anxious, in pain and in need. This ministry will take many forms, including staying in touch by phone, by post and online with those who are having to stay at home; helping the most vulnerable with the delivery of food, medicines and essential services and supplies; and helping us all to look after our physical and mental health and wellbeing.

## SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

St Martin's Church in Llay has created a prayer pack for use at home. It includes some forms of Prayer and Reflection for Lent, Holy Week and Easter: [Praying at Home](https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/praying-at-home-4.pdf) on <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/praying-at-home-4.pdf>

The Sunday readings from March to May can also be found on <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Sunday-Readings-March-May.pdf>

For those with no internet access perhaps you might be able to copy some for them - they are the section of the population that may very well feel most isolated.

Here's a list of radio and TV programmes offering services/prayers:



### **Television programmes**

**Songs of Praise:** Sundays at 1.15pm on BBC 1

**Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol** at 7.30 pm (repeat at 1 pm) on S4C



### **Radio programmes**

**Prayer for the Day:** daily at 5.43am on Radio 4

**Sunday Worship:** Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4

**Yr Oedfa:** Sundays at 5.30 am and 11.30 am on Radio Cymru

**Daily Service:** Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4 Long wave and DAB only (see instructions below on how to find this on DAB)

**Lent Talks:** Wednesdays at 8.45pm on Radio 4 during Lent

**Celebration:** (Act of worship) Sundays at 7.30am on BBC Radio Wales

**Choral evensong:** Wednesdays at 3.30pm and the same service is repeated Sundays at 3pm on Radio 3

*(The Daily Service is available on a Radio 4 DAB side channel which is automatically made available about a minute before the programme begins.*

*After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select "Daily Service" (from your display) with the tuning wheel and press the selector button.*

*On some radios the side channel can be stored on a preset button and once it is stored there you simply need to press the preset. We recommend choosing a well established brand of DAB receiver.)*



As well as our own St Paul's (Facebook page St Paul's Church Choir, Llandudno) there will be other streamed services and aids to devotion available on the internet.

And don't forget the value of fresh air and exercise - we are lucky to be in a place where there are places to walk and see the sea. We are currently being encouraged to go out if we can do so safely. Spring is in the air, the trees are beginning to bud, the birds are starting to think about nesting, and the daylight hours are getting longer.



# Prayer time in our churches

**St Michael's and All Angels Llandudno Junction** will be open 10-12 noon **every Thursday** morning, **All Saints Deganwy** 10.30-12 noon every Sunday, and **Praying for Growth** will be at St Michael's on **Thursday 16th April** from 10-12 noon.

These are "drop in" times so you may come along at any time and leave at any time. We request that you wash your hands on arrival, and maintain social distancing, but you will be very welcome.

If you are not able to join us, but would like us to pray for anything specific (particularly on the 16th for any project in your church, or anything you perceive to be a barrier to growth) please let Juliet know (01492 596655). If you can, stop at some point during these times and join in with the prayer that will be being offered.

**St Paul's Craig-y-Don** is also hoping there may be some time during the week when it will be open and it may be that other churches will also be offering this facility to the community. Please check [www.aberconwy.church](http://www.aberconwy.church) or contact churchwardens for up to date information.

## COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA

Sadly the Community Afternoon teas at St David's Penrhyn Bay have been cancelled until further notice. We hope 'normal service' will be resumed before too long - look out for information in the Pew News or the magazine.

On Thursday 5th March the Afternoon Tea enjoyed a visit and talk from the therapy dogs charity and we were able to give them a donation of £75. We have also bought £50 worth of tea coffee sugar & biscuits for Conwy Food Bank. Thanks to everyone who comes along and enjoys these teas and also to all the ladies who bake serve and wash up. *Further information from Ann Beardmore 07872 933926*



## DEGANWY DEMENTIA CAFÉ *and*

### CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Both cancelled until further notice.

We have also heard that closures and cancellations include **Reverb Cafe** and **Llandudno-Keswick Bible Week**.

## Mission Area News

**ELECTORAL ROLL** - Updating of The Mission Area Electoral Roll continues. Please contact either your Churchwardens or Dilys Stone (01492 879997) if you want to check whether your name is on the Roll, and you can now make application to Dilys by telephone. (If you are a regular worshipper in any Mission Area church your name should be on the Roll so that you can play a full part as a member of the church.)

### THE ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY MEETINGS

for individual churches and the Mission Area have been postponed until such gatherings are once again permitted and deemed safe.

Some jobs still go on, and we thank those who are involved in maintenance or gardening and the administration that keeps our church buildings in good repair. We also want to thank and offer our support to the clergy and also Mandy in the Parish office as they work to maintain pastoral care and the circulation of information. Unfortunately interviews for the new Mission Area Leader will be delayed although applications and shortlisting continue.

Please pray for all those involved in the day to day running of the Mission Area and our churches at this most difficult time.

We continue to be the Church, just in a different way.

We continue to be a people of hope.

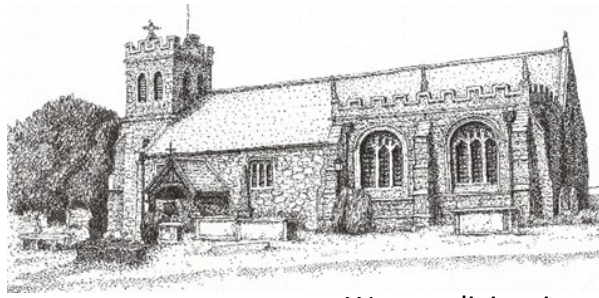
We continue to be a people of prayer.

We continue to be a people of kindness.

We continue to be a people of loving service.

Because we are the Church of God.

*ReTweeted from the Bishop of Norwich*



## Eglwys Sant Grwst St Grwst Church Llanrwst

*The Revd Sarah Hildreth-Osborn wrote on Facebook:*

At St Grwst's, this comes at a time when our beautiful restored and reordered building is about to be handed back to us, only for us not to be able to use it for its intended purpose.

We are living in peculiar times but we are in Lent, running up to the great Feast of Easter. Who knows whether we will get to celebrate that together but let us continue to pray for one another and seek our Lord in Scripture, following him on his journey through suffering, death and on into new life.

Let us keep in touch and walk this path together as best we can.

# News from the Mission Area Newyddion o'r Ardal Genhadol



### All Saints Branch -

#### New leader commissioned

*Pat Chapman writes:*

On Sunday 9th February Pat Chapman was commissioned as Leader of All Saints Branch by Rev Juliet Fraser. Karen Stringer, Diocesan Secretary, attended the service. Pictured below are Mrs Anne Lockwood, branch secretary, Rev Juliet Fraser, Pat Chapman and Karen Stringer.



At our meeting on 11th February Mrs Betty Rigby spoke about her life and the things that have meant so much to her – her family, her faith, her music and her teaching. It was an interesting and inspiring talk.

At our Pancake social we were joined by Mrs Janet Rees, Vice President St Asaph Archdeaconry, Mrs Karen Stringer, Diocesan Secretary, Mrs Anne Jones, Branch leader at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos and Mrs Marjorie Jones branch leader at Glan Conwy, to celebrate the service of Mrs Daphne Laight as a member of Mothers Union and as Leader of the Deganwy Branch. Daphne was presented with a certificate commemorating her 50 years as a member by Janet Rees. A presentation of flowers and gifts was made by Pat Chapman and there was also a special cake baked and decorated by Betty Raggett.

We send love and prayers to all our members at this anxious time - please keep in touch with each other and we look forward to the time when we can all meet together again.





Pictured left: Pat Chapman, Daphne Laight and Janet Rees - with the bouquet of flowers and the certificate marking Daphne's 50 years as a member of the Mothers' Union.

Pictured below: Marjorie Jones (Glan Conwy), Pat Chapman (All Saints), Daphne Laight, Janet Rees (Vice President St Asaph Archdeaconry) and Anne Jones (Llandrillo-yn-Rhos) on the occasion of Daphne Laight's retirement as Branch Leader.



A message from Daphne Laight:

A sincere thank you to all who made my retiring as Leader from Deganwy Mothers' Union an afternoon to remember. It meant a great deal to me to see so many friends there and being able to remember some past times. Thank you to everyone. May God bless you all and guide you in all you do to further the work of the Mothers' Union.

## St Pauls Fellowship

*Dorothy Roberts writes:*

Our meeting on 24th February opened with prayers. We were pleased to see Iris back with us following her stay in hospital also to learn that Sylvia is now back home after her stay in hospital and is making good progress. We look forward to having her back with us before too long.

We welcomed Anna Jane Evans who had come to speak to us about the work of Christian Aid which was set up in 1945.

She reported that the Church in Wales Centenary Appeal was towards the work of Christian Aid in South Sudan and House Crises in Wales. The aim is to raise £100,000 over a period of five years. Christian Aid works in partnership with the Anglican Development Services Eastern and a Committee has been set up to work for the peace effort in South Sudan to help to bring peace, prosperity and hope to the people. She gave an account of the work which has already been done to bring a better future for these poor people.

She was thanked by Anne Clutton and a donation was given towards Christian Aid.

## St Hilary's, Llanrhos Open Church

The original plan was to open St Hilary's from 2-4 pm on Friday and Saturday 8th and 9th May and Saturdays 20th June, 25th July and 29th August. It remains to be seen whether this will now be possible.

There have also been contacts made with various organisations who might bring groups to visit the church as they tour the area, and we hope to build on these when it is possible to do so again. We are still collecting information about the church and churchyard for display, together with aids for prayer and meditation.

## St Hilary's Fellowship

At the February Meeting of St Hilary's Fellowship a representative from Ty Gobaith came to speak, and it was good to learn more about the work of this children's hospice.

A cheque for £240 was presented for Ty Gobaith - half the proceeds raised at the Christmas Concert given by our organist Jelena Stepanova and her pupils. (See picture overleaf)



Pictured left; Some of the ladies from St Hilary's Fellowship at the presentation of the cheque to Ty Gobaith.



**The St David's Day Lunch** on 1st March was much enjoyed by those present. Many thanks to all those who helped to make it a happy time, and for the delicious food. Pictures below.



# Farewell and Thank you

It may seem like an age ago, but it is only just over a month since we said farewell to Noel and Wendy Carter as Noel retired as Mission Area Leader. After his farewell services at St Paul's and St Hilary's there was a happy gathering in Llanrhos Schoolroom for tea (and a special cake) and Noel was presented with a gift from us all in the Mission Area.



Pictured left: The Revd Noel Carter and Wendy at their retirement tea on 16th February.



Pictured right: The splendid cake with clues as to the way Noel may spend some of the time in his retirement.

Below: Some of those present from across the Mission Area at Noel's farewell tea.



Below: Noel's final words to us as he received the presentation from the Mission Area.



We wish Noel and Wendy well in their retirement, which has perhaps begun in rather a different way than they anticipated. We are very grateful to him for all he has done for us, both as individuals and during the process of guiding us through the formation of the Mission Area. We appreciated his gentle ways and caring concern, and also the friendship and support from both him and Wendy. God bless them both.

# St David's, Penrhyn Bay

It is with great pleasure that the Congregation of St David's Church welcome Mr Charles Jones (pictured right) as our permanent Organist. He will be ably assisted by Mr Phil Hampson. These appointments are very welcome after the retirement of Mr Ken Holland.



## FROM THE EDITORS GAN Y GOLYGYDDION

A month between issues is a long time at the moment and it is possible that we may produce interim bulletins as situations change and develop. (If you have not received this issue by email but would like to in the future, please contact [jastone@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:jastone@dunelm.org.uk)).

Please submit any items that you think of interest, perhaps good books you have found, poems or prayers that have resonated at this time, or just news from around the church family or further afield. As always, **Welsh language items welcome** - either bilingual or with a brief summary in the other language.

Please send items to [jastone@dunelm.org.uk](mailto:jastone@dunelm.org.uk) or to the Parish Office

Diolch yn fawr - thank you very much.



**Don't forget Easter and Fair Trade**

The new Traidcraft catalogue is now available with a wide variety of Fair Trade Easter eggs, and Easter cards, as well as a wide selection of fairly traded foods and crafts, and new ranges of household, fashion and beauty items. All these items can be found and ordered on

<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/>

Recently received from one of our readers:

*From James Stewart:*

In response to "I said to the Almond Tree, 'Friend, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed".  
(*Church News, February 2020.*)



It's a lovely quote from Nikos Kazantzakis (1855-1957), born in Heraklion, Crete. The following note refers to literature and poetry, and "listening to the voice of God in literature of all kinds..." I fully agree, but think Nikos is going further, The Almond Tree is "speaking" to us without words! Speaking through the message of sheer God-given beauty.

Annually the Japanese celebrate the flowering of the cherry trees with a holiday and

community picnics, and absorb from the blossom sheer joy! Seems very similar. They have a practice translated as "forest bathing", luxuriating in the spirituality of Nature.

I feel we have lost this in the modern West with our concentration upon describing, categorising, and defining everything. That is the scientific system.

I write my own best poems, which are not all sweetness and light, out by the sea and hills. But in fine art we do not need words, and we have musicians writing songs without words. The Quakers have worship without words. What we call God surrounds us and imbues us. Words limit things for us.

The Almond Tree blossoms and said "Look, this is God!"

# Local Matters - Petha' Lleol

## FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

**DON'T FEED EXPLOITATION.  
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE.**



FAIRTRADE

Conwy Fair Trade Coalition members are celebrating their busiest ever Fair Trade Fortnight, running 9 different events across the County.... starting with pancakes and candyfloss at Ysgol Porth y Felin and

ending with coffee, cake and conversation at Marks and Spencers Cafe in Llandudno. Pictured are Kay Pitt and Viv Franks-Smith giving out information to customers enjoying a cup of M&S Fairtrade coffee.



In between the talented students of Llandrillo College served delicious Fairtrade coffee with a specially decorated cake (pictured below).



Heather invited friends and neighbours in to tell them why Fairtrade is so important to her. Then children and families had fun at Conwy Culture Centre hearing stories about people who grow cocoa and being able to handle a real cocoa pod.



Next stop Ysgol San Sior where Coalition Chair Nia Higginbotham and Cllr Louise Emery led a school assembly, showing how buying Fairtrade footballs keeps children out of factories. Then on to Parc Eirias where Cllr Louise Emery (picture left) handed over Fairtrade footballs she has kindly donated and then it was time for Kingdom Krafts 18th birthday party. Heather Thompson, candyfloss queen, said "we've had a lot of fun and I hope everyone has enjoyed themselves while learning more about the importance of paying a fair wage to producers. We'll benefit too if higher wages will keep young people in cocoa farming rather than leaving the farms for an easier life in the city. But just now I'm going to put my feet up with a nice cup of Fairtrade tea!" If you want to get involved in supporting Fair Trade locally, please email us on [conwyfairtrade@gmail.com](mailto:conwyfairtrade@gmail.com)

# Conwy Churches and Community Night Shelter Project

*Viki Whiteman, Night Shift Volunteer, writes:*

The shelter was organised and managed by Llandudno and Colwyn Bay CYTUNs using a model offered by Housing Justice Cymru to aid surviving homelessness and help rebuild lives and mental well being.

Conwy Council was responsible for selecting and referring guests of both sexes rather than guests just turning up at the door. The pilot scheme used five venues, seven nights a week, for six weeks from 3 February to 15 March.

The project offered collection in a minibus to church halls, a hot dinner, bed and breakfast, requiring three shifts of four volunteers. Each guest had their own bedding, toiletries, mattress and bed bagged with their name, which was loaded on the minibus each day. Guests were then returned to the Access Point after breakfast and picked up early evening.

Feedback so far from Conwy Council acknowledges that the project was making a difference. Three or four guests may be accommodated at the end of the scheme.

There was a tier of named responsible volunteers managing the different venues and an overall coordinator. Ten guests have been part of the project, staying for one or more nights in five different venues, one attended every evening. All have been safe, warm dry and well fed, during a period where there has been a storm every weekend.

*Thanks must go to all who supported the project in any way, and now we look forward to plans for an extended scheme next winter.*

*We pray for all those who are without proper shelter at this time - their situation is all the more precarious as they do not have access to the means to keep themselves safe and healthy.*



## Conwy Food Bank

conwyfoodbank@gmail.com  
facebook.com/conwyfoodbank  
01492 471793 10-4 pm

We have again heard from the Food Bank, thanking for your continued support in providing food for those living in crisis. There is still a huge demand.

In February 52 families including 108 children were issued with food parcels, 56 couples and 16 single people were also issued with parcels, bringing the total to 121 parcels

The volunteers work hard in the store to ensure that parcels are issued as quickly as possible - anyone who can help, even if only for a short time is welcome. Drivers are always needed.

Especially in the current situation stocks of items will run short very quickly. If you cannot donate food items directly, contact them to see how you can donate financially.

---

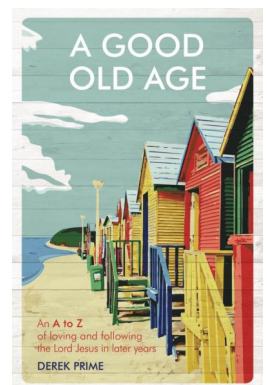
Another contribution from one of our readers:

*The Revd Peter Marshall writes:*

**'A Good Old Age'** is an easy to read refreshing book by a retired preacher Derek Prime. He goes through the alphabet letter by letter, A-acceptance, B-believe, C-contentment and so on, with a simple Bible meditation on each word for the older retired reader.

The sub title is 'An A to Z of loving and following the Lord Jesus in later years.' Guess what Z stands for! Buy, read, lend.

It is produced by 10Publishing. Why not order a copy from Kingdom Krafts in Madoc Street (if possible) or order online from <https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/>, <https://www.10ofthose.com/uk>, or of course Amazon.



**“Gwnewch y pethau bychain - Do the little things”**