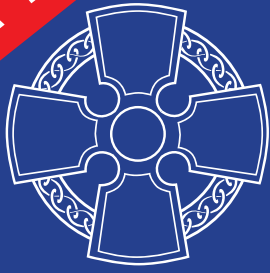


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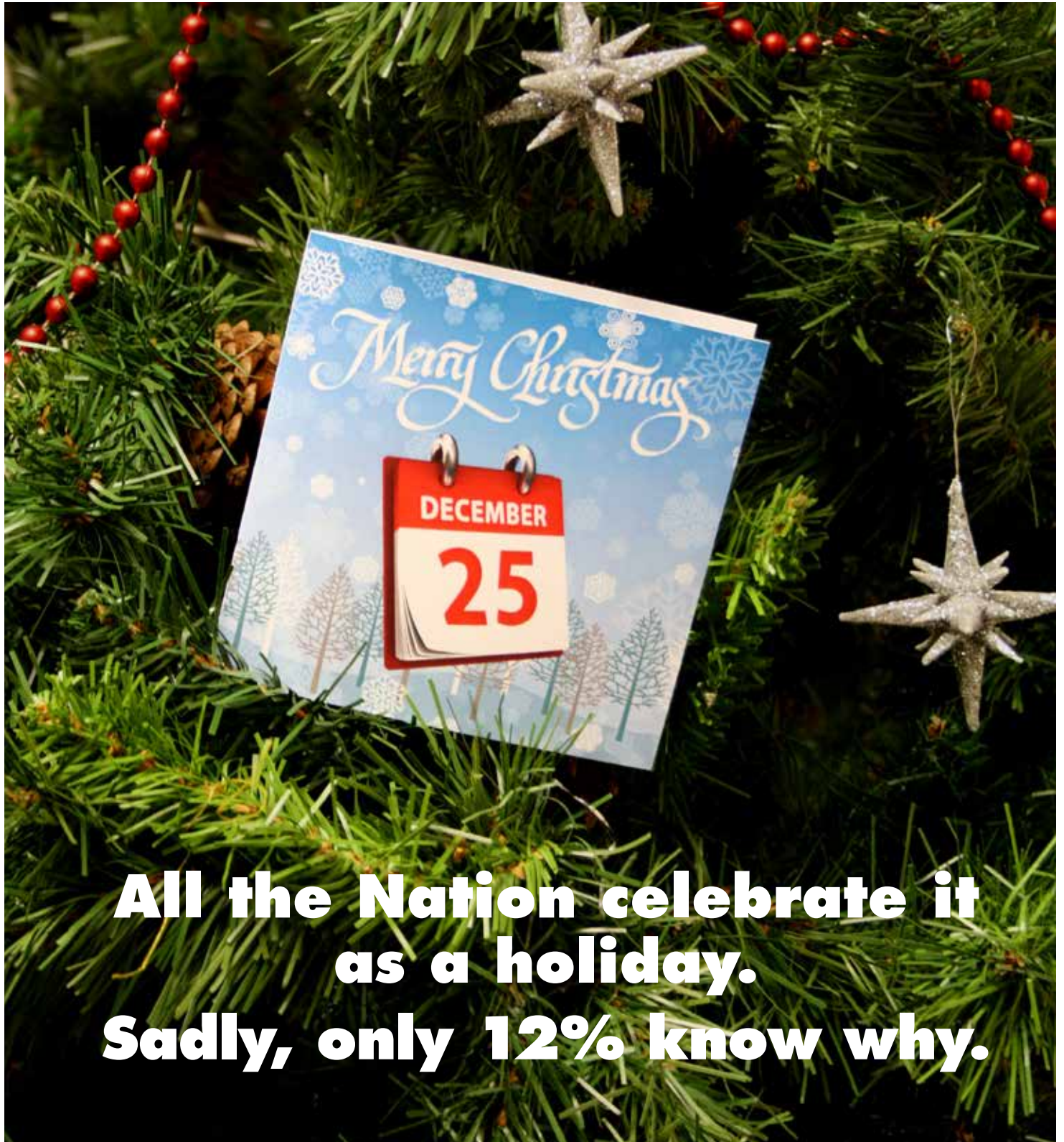
TEULU ASAPH

Esgobaeth Llanelwy

Diocese of St Asaph

Rhagfyr/Ionawr

December 2014/January 2015



**All the Nation celebrate it
as a holiday.
Sadly, only 12% know why.**

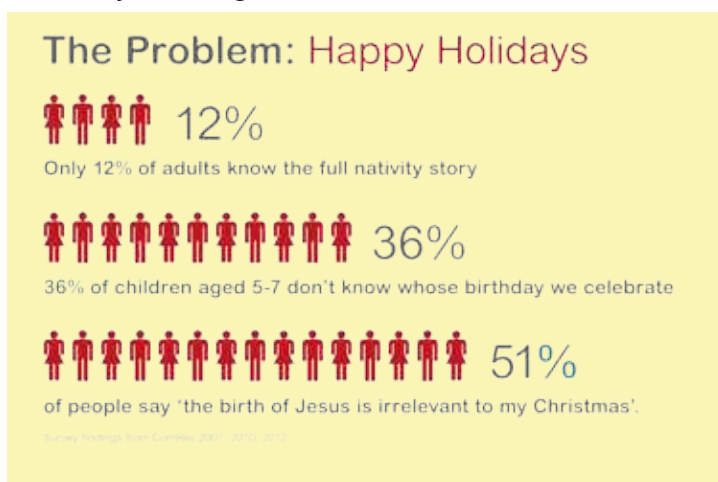
Only 12% of adults know the full nativity story

A song released by Andy Williams in 1963 still dominates advertising campaigns in the run up to Christmas, reminding us that “it’s the most wonderful time of the year...” According to the 60’s singer; parties with family and friends, kisses under the mistletoe and marshmallows ready for roasting on the fire make for the perfect Christmas. And for many in our society that’s what the season is all about – an opportunity to eat, drink and be merry with four days off work thrown into the bargain. Of course, there’s nothing wrong with parties, mistletoe or marshmallows but as Christians don’t we want people to have a deeper understanding of Christmas? Isn’t there more to it than a secular “Yuletide” or an enjoyable but ultimately meaningless consumerfest?

peace on earth, to see God and sinners reconciled and to offer us eternal life with him. That’s why Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. And it’s a wonderful time for our Churches too. Packed Christingles and Christmas nativity services, heaving pews for Midnight Mass and Carols by Candlelight – Christmas is a great opportunity to turn the tide away from the secular and remind people that the birth of our Saviour is why we celebrate Christmas.



At the Diocesan Conference in October, delegates were given information about the Christmas Starts with Christ campaign. The campaign is a call to Churches of all denominations to come together and share the powerful message that the birth of Christ is where Christmas begins. The Christmas Starts logo can be downloaded free of charge without any copyright restriction from www.ChristmasStartsWithChrist.com for you to use in your Christmas celebrations. You will also find a range of worship and communication resources including posters you can download to advertise your Christmas events.



A national ComRes survey shows that 51% of British people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas and only 12% of adults know the full nativity story. So how do we reverse this trend? How do we make sure that Christmas starts with Christ?

Andy Williams goes on to sing about “carolling in the snow” and “tales of glories of Christmas’ long, long ago.” Surely this is where our focus should be in 2014, in particular on that first glorious Christmas in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. We need to remind people why Christmas really is the most wonderful time of the year. As Christians we need to tell the world why we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and why he is our Saviour. We need to explain that in Christ, God Himself stepped into a world that had turned its back on Him because he wanted a relationship with us. To quote Charles Wesley from the much-loved carol “Hark the Herald Angel’s sing”, Jesus came to bring

How we can all help

- 1** Christmas provides a great opportunity to give, so why not buy a bible for your children or grandchildren? There are special ones designed especially for children such as the **Jesus Storybook Bible** and **A Child’s Bible**. You can find them in your local Christian bookshop or on the Bible Society website www.biblesociety.org.uk
The bible is the perfect gift for Christmas because Christmas starts with Christ.
- 2** Why not offer to read with children at your local primary school? You could even put the children’s bible on the reading list so that the next generation know the real nativity story.



Does Christmas start with a penguin?

Bishop Gregory

There's a relatively new phenomenon on the telly in these days before Christmas. Have you noticed over the last few years, there has begun to be an informal competition for the most clever/touching/dramatic narrative Christmas advert? A tale of two penguins competes with an extensive Christmas table from a budget supermarket and a chain store's marauding fairies (Where have the Christmas angels gone?). There are stories to tug at the heart-strings and hint at the Christmas that everybody wants: a cosy treacly family time where everyone gets the present they want (£199.99 at all good stores), the food is plentiful at the table, the logs are burning on the fire, and all's well with the world. Could anyone dare criticise this sort of sentimentality without risking the accusation of being Scrooge-like? Well, I suppose one could point out that it won't be the Christmas experience of many in the world, even in our own country, this year. And what I think we have to pinch ourselves and bear in mind is that all these adverts have only one goal really: the stores want to make money out of us this Christmas. The point about Dicken's Christmas Carol was not that there should be no brakes on the indulgence, but that there should be no brakes on the generosity, for He who had all things gave them up for our sakes.

Now I enjoy a good advert like the rest of us, and I certainly don't want to give my Christmas reflection a "Bah, humbug!" headline; but if I was to single out one aspect of a Christian Christmas that might be distinctive, then it might be to reflect upon our generosity. I have no doubt that we'll all be generous to family and friends; but what about generosity to the unlovely and the "undeserving"? When preaching about generosity, Jesus said: "For if you love only those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same?" (Matthew 5.46) "Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give." (Matthew 10.8).

I want us all to have a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas: good cheer all round! Nonetheless, perhaps we who remember that Christ was given freely by God to the world can also think: what gifts can I give this year, which are generous and freely given, to those who are in need, and without any strings attached at all? For this is truly



to honour the Christ child and the Spirit of Christmas.

A yw'r Nadolig yn dechrau gyda phengwin?

Mae ffenomen gymharol newydd ar y teledu yn ystod y dyddiau hyn cyn y Nadolig. Ydych chi wedi sylwi dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf bod cystadleuaeth anffurfiol wedi dechrau o ran yr hysbyseb Nadolig fwyaf clyfar / teimladwy / dramatig? Cawn hanes dau bengwin yn cystadlu yn erbyn bwrdd Nadolig helaeth un o'r archfarchnadoedd rhatach a thylwyth teg ysbeilgar siop gadwyn (I ble'r aeth angylion y Nadolig?). Ceir straeon sy'n cyffwrdd â'ch calon ac awgrym o'r Nadolig y mae pawb ei eisiau: amser gor-felys o glyd i'r teulu lle mae pawb yn cael yr anrheg maen nhw ei eisiau (£199.99 ym mhob siop dda), digonedd o fwyd ar y bwrdd, logiau'n llosgi ar y tân, a phopeth yn ei le yn y byd. A allai unrhyw un feiddio beirniadu'r math hwn o deimladrwydd heb beryglu cael eu cyhuddo o fod yn debyg i Scrooge?

Wel, mae'n debyg y gallai rhywun nodi nad dyma fydd profiad Nadolig llawer o bobl y byd, hyd yn oed yn ein gwlad ein hunain, eleni. A'r hyn rwy'n meddwl y mae gofyn i ni atgoffa ein hunain a'i gadw mewn cof yw mai dim ond un nod sydd gan yr holl hysbysebion hyn mewn gwirionedd: mae'r siopau eisiau ein hannog ni i wario ynddyn nhw dros y Nadolig. Nid y dylid rhoi'r gorau i ymfodddhad yw'r pwynt y mae Dickens yn ceisio ei wneud yn Christmas Carol, ond yn hytrach na ddylai'r haelioni ddod i ben, oherwydd ei fod Ef - yr oedd popeth ganddo - wedi ildio'r cyfan er ein mwyn.

Cofiwch, rwy'n mwynhau hysbyseb dda fel pawb arall, ac yn sicr nid wyf eisiau rhoi pennawd "Bah, humbug!" ar fy myfyrdod ar gyfer y Nadolig; ond pe bawn i eisiau amlygu un agwedd ar y Nadolig Cristnogol a allai fod yn unigryw, yna efallai y buaswn yn canolbwyntio ar yr hyn sy'n adlewyrchu ein haelioni. Nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth y bydd pawb ohonom yn hael at deulu a ffrindiau; ond beth am haelioni tuag at yr atgas a'r "anhaeddiannol"? Wrth bregethu am haelioni, dywedodd Iesu: "Os carwch y rhai sy'n eich caru chwi, pa wobr sydd i chwi? Onid yw hyd yn oed y casglwyr trethi yn gwneud cymaint â

hynny?" (Mathew 5.46) "Derbyniasoch heb dâl, rhowch heb dâl." (Mathew 10.8).

Rwyf am i bawb ohonom gael Nadolig gwirioneddol bleserus: gobeithio y bydd hwyliau da ar bawb! Serch hynny, efallai y gallwn ni, sy'n cofio bod Crist wedi cael ei roi o'i wirfodd gan Dduw i'r byd, ystyried hefyd: pa roddion y gallaf i eu rhoi eleni, sydd yn hael ac yn cael eu rhoi o'm gwirfodd, i'r rhai sydd mewn angen, ac sydd heb unrhyw amod ynghlwm â nhw?

Oherwydd hyn yn wir yw anrhydeddu Crist y plentyn a synnwyr y Nadolig.



Come ye, O Come ye to Bethlehem

So we sing year after year at this time, *writes Revd John Butler, a retired cleric from Pwllheli*. When I first went to Bethlehem in 2002 the approach to the city was beginning to be closed off with what has now become an 8 metre high wall of concrete, interspersed with watchtowers and a gate guarded by heavily armed Israeli soldiers. People often think this is the border between Israel and Palestine. Far from it. It's 5 kilometres inside Palestinian territory. Each year I returned the barrier was nearer completion. Now it makes Bethlehem look like a high security prison. Pilgrims inside their coach are unaware that for a Palestinian attempting to pass through the barrier is an experience of humiliation, abuse and frustration. I visit-

ed a lady through whose olive grove it was driven. One morning workers arrived and appropriated half her land to begin building. They threatened to demolish her house unless she was quiet. The family used to export olive oil, now they have to buy it in.

Pilgrims don't usually stay for long. Passing in and out of the Church of the Nativity they miss the dawn queues of those desperate to get some work for the day in Jerusalem to feed their family. One Palestinian I spoke to, Ramsi Hosh, was not allowed to keep his appointment with the dental clinic the other side of the wall; another, Leila Tarazi, was refused permission to travel to a Jerusalem hospital to which she had been referred by her GP. "I have lost faith in everyone", she grieved. "The world is deaf."

Bethlehem relies on tourism. It has no other industry. Yet, after I had been happily staying in the town for 9 days I met some pilgrims in the Garden of Gethsemane. They were disappointed because Bethlehem had been crossed off their itinerary. 'Too dangerous', their Israeli guide told them. The Palestinian economy is being strangled.

Thank God there is another way, a way to build bridges rather than walls. The Palestinian Churches have issued an appeal: "In order to understand our reality, we say to the Churches: Come and see" (Kairos Document, 'A Moment of Truth'). British Christians have responded with 'Time for Action' (<http://www.kairosbritain.org.uk>), guidance on how to go and "see for ourselves" and meet the Living Stones in the place where Jesus was born. As, Pnina Feiler, an Israeli volunteer nurse for Physicians for Human Rights (<http://www.phr.org.il>) once said to me, "Palestinians have always offered us flowers, coffee and thankfulness". They'll do the same for us: "For us not to show hospitality is a trial", a priest told me.

Not everyone can literally travel to Bethlehem so I invite everyone to become a Friend of Sabeel, a Christian Palestinian organisation. (<http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk>).

Church News

16-year-olds to get Diocesan Conference places



A private members motion put forward by the Diocese of St Asaph was passed at Governing Body in September which means sixteen year olds will now be able to serve on Diocesan Conferences.

Previously, you had to be over 18 but that will change after Governing Body voted to allow younger teenagers to become members.

After the motion was approved, Bishop Gregory said on Twitter:

"We're learning the value and facility of private members' motions and we have just passed the first motion passed up to us from a diocesan conference."

But what do younger members of the Diocese of St Asaph think of the news? Joanna Stallard is 17 and lives in Llangollen. She is waiting to see the Church welcome younger members to Diocesan Conferences after voting this legislation through. She said:

"My challenge to the Church in Wales now, after taking this important first step, is to ask what lengths they are

prepared to go to in order to further improve the position of young people who often feel marginalised in the Church.

"I would like to hear the Church's proposals to attract and welcome them with an agenda that is inclusive and engaging, now that this potentially positive first step has been taken."

Five lay people receive Order of St Asaph



Five members of the laity were awarded the Order of St Asaph by Bishop Gregory at this year's Diocesan Conference. The Order exists to recognise outstanding service to the Diocese by members of the laity and expresses gratitude for many years of faithful service. This year, medals were presented to Kath Royles, Peter Wilson and Helen Jenkin-Jones by Bishop Gregory at the Conference, while Michael Carding was also awarded the Order but couldn't be in Llangollen on the day. There was also a poignant award to the family of Dr Trevor Churchman (pictured above) who received the award posthumously.

A retiring Archdeacon and new senior clergy



Bishop Gregory will welcome the Revd Canon John Lomas as Archdeacon of St Asaph on Monday 1 December. John succeeds the Venerable Chris Potter who retired in the Autumn. Chris and wife Jenny were presented with a pilgrim's staff and flowers at the Diocesan Conference. Meanwhile Revd Jonathan Smith will be welcomed as Mission Area Leader of Wrexham at St Giles' Church on Thursday 8 January.

Governing Body supports Middle-East motion

Governing Body supported a Private Member's Motion from Bishop Gregory calling on Israel to find ways to end any threats to its security without the killing of innocents. The motion also affirmed solidarity with Christians across the Middle East who face danger or persecution. The motion which was seconded by the Ven Peter Pike was passed with one amendment. You can read it in full on our website: <http://bit.ly/1qhcPPY>

Newyddion Eglwysig

Women Bishops - learning to agree to disagree

Jennie Willson from Welshpool attended the "Crossing the Threshold" conference to celebrate the ordination of women as Bishops. Even though she agrees with the decision to open the Episcopate to women, not everything is sitting comfortably...

I really enjoyed September's Conference but one thing that struck me was the feeling amongst some in the room that the next step in this process is to ask the Church in Wales to stop ordaining those who were unable to accept the decision to ordain women as bishops. Instead of making provisions for them we should say that they either stand by the Church in Wales as a whole or not be a part of the Anglican priesthood. Now, as a lay person with no calling to ordination I recognise that to some extent this is the view of an outsider but I hope that my thoughts are helpful. Personally, I think this is a dangerous road to go down. Much as I am in favour of the Church in Wales' decision on the ordination of women, I also respect that there are people who have spent a lot of time trying to discern the truth around this matter and have a strong belief that the priest-



hood should only be open to males. We may feel that they have got it wrong but truly, who are we to decide that? We seem to be at a stage where we want to argue that the majority rules so the minority is wrong, and that's interesting coming from a Church that began very much in the minority in society and has fought for years to argue that the minority are in the right. I think it's very arrogant to assume that we know what God's will is. On one hand we are accepting the mysteries

of God and His unfathomable nature and on the other hand we are trying to argue that because we have made a majority decision, we must know what He is telling us.

There are many things that the Church as a whole believes but some priests don't. Everyone has their own personal understanding of Christianity and there are many other issues that priests disagree on. If we start refusing to ordain people who don't stick with the corporate view on this matter, when does it stop? What I'm suggesting is that we respect others who feel differently. We accept that they also believe they are right. We make space for their beliefs as they are making space for ours. We open the way for healthy theological debate on both sides and we are respectful in that debate. In short, we learn to agree to disagree.

New Vicars for Llandyrnog & Bala



New Vicars have been welcomed to Bala and the Llandyrnog Group during the Autumn as Revds Elaine Atack and Val Rowlands left St Asaph to begin their new ministries. Revd Elaine is the new Vicar of Bala. Since her ordination in 2012 she has been a Minor Canon in St Asaph Cathedral but was welcomed to Christ Church on Wednesday 19 November. Commenting on her new role, Elaine said: "I am delighted to have been appointed as the next Rector of Bala, and I am very much looking forward to working with everyone, as, by the Grace of God, we endeavour to take Christ Church into its next chapter." A week earlier Revd Val Rowlands – who was previously Vicar of the Parish Church in St Asaph – was welcomed by the Bishop (pictured above) to the Llandyrnog Group. Val said: "The joining together of the four parishes will bring about a time of change and growth enabling the parishes to get to know each other and to work together for the good of all."

Unlocking our Potential - a 19 year old's journey towards ordination

Dominic Cawdell is a 19-year-old student at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and is exploring ordination in the Diocese of St Asaph after becoming a Christian a couple of years ago. He contacted Teulu Asaph to share his testimony as an encouragement to sisters and brothers across the diocese that God is at work in the younger generation - and is calling some into ministry.



My conversion was not an academic one but an emotional one - I came to know God through prayer, Scripture and most powerfully in the Eucharist. It was at Easter 2013 when I stumbled into St Mary's Church in Mold. I found my spiritual home, a place where, under the guidance of Father Rex, I could flourish and grow as a Christian. I discovered a community so full of life, so full of love and devotion that I was swept along and shown 'grace upon grace' as I joined the community around the Lord's Table.

From here, I have gained a passion for the faith which fuels every moment of my life - filled with the fire of the Spirit, I have witnessed friends and family come to the Faith, I have burned with sadness and concern for our broken world and have tried to open my heart each day to God's presence, to take His easy yoke and learn from him.

I wanted to express something of how God is at work in my life because so often I have heard

people worrying and weeping for the Church. But my story has left little room for weeping. Instead I rejoice, for there are so many reasons to rejoice! We rejoice because young and old still come to us for baptism; we rejoice because we have seen what the Lord can do when he touches the lives of His people with grace and love; we rejoice because the Holy Spirit is alive and present among us! We rejoice because time has not lessened the Lord's power, He still works among His people and transforms us into bearers of Christ to the world.

My sisters and brothers, I believe we are the apostles of now, called to preach the Gospel in word and action to our friends, to our families and to all those who we meet. We are the lights to the world and I believe the way all this can begin is by telling people your story - telling people how God has worked, and is working, in your life, like I have tried to do here. The Lord knows what wonderful things can happen when we start to do that. Alleluia!

Llanrhos discuss way forward on 2020 Vision

One of our biggest Deaneries has started conversations about 2020 Vision. Llanrhos met together in October to discuss the formation of Mission Areas. Acting Area Dean Revd Dr David Jacks introduced the discussions before representatives from each of the parishes split into small groups to continue the conversations.

They discussed what they feared about 2020 Vision and what excites them about the move to Mission Areas. During the discussions, the parishes explored how they might share their gifts, talents and resources if they began to work together more closely.

Have you started your Mission Area conversations yet? Don't forget you can download the first part of the 2020 Vision tool kit to help you with this process on the Diocesan website: <http://bit.ly/1w8DxjG>

Diocesan Conference takes 2020 Vision forward

What should the Church stand for? Are we willing to be part of a Church that takes risks? These challenging questions were posed during the Diocesan Conference at Llangollen Pavilion which took the theme "Unlocking our Potential". All the sessions were designed with 2020 Vision in mind, with Bishop Gregory's Presidential Address kicking off a packed agenda. Thinking about how the world sees the Church, he compared what we would like the Church to stand for with what people really think it stands for. He then urged delegates to think of three words that describe the Church. Explaining that most companies now use three words to describe their product, he hoped the Church would stand for "truth, justice and inclusion". Delegates were asked to fill in a card that said "I think the Church in Wales should stand for..." The answers will help to form the Bishop's Advent Pastoral Message.

Commenting on the theme of the Conference, Bishop Gregory said: "Unlocking our Potential says in three words what we are trying to do together. Last year I told you that you had permission, but permission to do what? It is permission to interpret, apply and live the Gospel."

The theme continued into the Keynote Address as Canon Linda Jones – Director of Church Growth in the Diocese of Liverpool – explained the journey of change they have been on.

Talking about their mission and ministry, Linda introduced us to Pioneer Ministers, Fresh Expressions of Church and even "Zone 2" which is reaching families in Toxteth at Liverpool Cathedral through cafe Church.

She said: "We started employing Pioneer Ministers and began to experiment, to see what worked and we were given permission to embrace failure if necessary. There was opposition but now we have 1000 Fresh Expressions of Church and it is exciting."

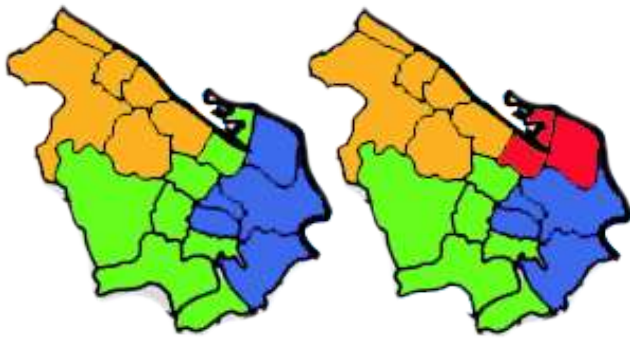
Linda explained that Zone 2 is now being replicated across the Diocese and there is also a Fresh Expression providing second hand clothing in one Church. Another pioneer minister has set up a pizza oven encouraging people to eat together.

There are now three areas that the Diocese of Liverpool are focusing on as they take their work forward: Ageing Money, Retiring Clergy and Broken Buildings. They are looking to prioritise growth and nurture disciples to deal with these problems. Concluding her address, Linda said: "We have a God of surprises who invites us to his banqueting table and gives us a clear vision of who he is. Are we willing to go on a journey and see where God wants to take us?"

Delegates then took part in a 2020 Vision Question Time before the Diocesan Offering Service for Farming Community Network. In the formal business of the day Conference approved a 2% increase in Parish Share as part of the 2015 budget. All the Conference reports are here: <http://bit.ly/1xwzVuP>



3 Deaneries become 4 Mission Areas



BEFORE

AFTER

RED - Hawarden North

BLUE - Hawarden South

YELLOW - Holywell

GREEN - Mold

Holywell, Mold and Hawarden deaneries met earlier in 2014 to discuss forming Mission Areas in Flintshire. The deaneries have a joint population of 152,000 and also cover two archdeacons. So how could these three deaneries move forward?

The clergy, churchwardens and deanery conference representatives all met together to discuss some of the problems. Flintshire has a growing population and increasingly the churches have to work across boundaries.

After the joint meeting, the delegates were invited to discuss proposals to create four Mission Areas in Flintshire with their PCCs and deanery conferences.

As a result of the discussions, it was decided that Holywell deanery will become a Mission Area but that Mold and Hawarden would be reshaped to form three more Mission Areas.

Two parishes from Mold have joined Hawarden and Hawarden will split into two Mission Areas. There will then be a smaller, fourth Mission Area centred on the town of Mold.

Revd Martin Batchelor presented these ideas to the Time is Now Conference in Llandudno to explain how existing deaneries can work together to discuss the best ways of forming Mission Areas.

Hawarden North

9 x Churches



4 x Stipendiary Clergy



2 x Non-Stipendiary Clergy



4 x Readers



1 x Evangelist



Hawarden South

10 x Churches



4 x Stipendiary Clergy



1 x Non-Stipendiary Clergy



4 x Readers



Mold

12 x Churches



5 x Stipendiary Clergy



6 x Readers



Holywell

14 x Churches



3 x Stipendiary Clergy



3 x Non-Stipendiary Clergy



DATGLOI EIN POTENSIAL - UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL



You Cube – stories of faith at 2020 Vision Conference

Stories of faith were used to decorate 1000 cubes sent out to parishes across the Church in Wales ahead of November's "The Time is Now" conference in Llandudno.

The You Cubes were used as part of the worship during the conference at Venue Cymru. One depicted a jelly fish and another Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins, proving a variety of sources have influenced people's journeys of faith.

Others featured pictures and collages of parish community events, foodbanks and prayers.

The You Cubes were developed by the team at the St Giles' RE and Faith Development Centre in Wrexham. They take seven themes from the life of Jesus – beginnings, growing, miracles/surprises, new beginnings, healing, farewells and resurrection/hopes for the future.

Organiser, Revd Mary Stallard said:

"Stories are at the heart of our faith. The themes of 2020 Vision invite us to look at our own faith stories: the ways in which we have grown, changed and learned and the hopes that God has given us for the future."

The story cubes were used at the Conference in Llandudno to build an altar and a shelter showing the Church in Wales' desire to share and offer our gifts. A full report from The Time is Now

Conference will be included in the next edition of Teulu Asaph. You can read an online summary here: <http://bit.ly/1xBQhO>

Golwg 2020 – Share your stories

Wrth i fwy a mwy o blwyfi ddechrau cydweithio a theithio tuag at ffurfio Ardaloedd Cenhadaeth, rydym yn awyddus i glywed eich straeon. Sut mae'r broses yn mynd? Beth oedd yr heriau? Yn bwysicach, beth oedd yr anogaethau? Fel rhan o gam nesaf Pecyn Cymorth Golwg 2020, rydym yn awyddus i gasglu straeon o eglwysi ac Ardaloedd Cenhadaeth o gwmpas yr Esgobaeth. Rydym eisiau rannu'r broses hon er mwyn annog ac ysbrydoli pobl eraill ar eu taith. Os oes gennych chi stori i'w hadrodd, dylech ei hanfon i comms.stasaph@churchinwales.org.uk neu drwy'r post i Swyddfa'r Esgobaeth.

As more and more parishes start to work together and journey towards forming Mission Areas, we are keen to hear your stories. As part of the next phase of the 2020 Vision Tool Kit, we are keen to compile stories from churches and Mission Areas around the Diocese. We want to share this process to encourage and inspire others on their journey. Send your story to: comms.stasaph@churchinwales.org.uk or by post to the Diocesan Office.



Your News

Youth club visit Air Ambulance base



Members of the Youth Club at St John's Church, Pool Quay have visited the Wales Air Ambulance base in Welshpool to hand over a donation to the charity in person.

During the visit, the Air Ambulance team were on hand to tell the group about the work they do and took many different questions from the children, in particular about how the helicopter works. All the children were then allowed inside before each had a turn at sitting up front in the pilot's seat. The money donated to the charity was a joint donation from the Youth Club and KP Fire who asked that their gift for conducting a fire safety talk in Pool Quay be given to charity. During the visit the youth had the opportunity to talk to the pilot and the paramedics to get a real insight into the work of the Air Ambulance. Youth Group Leader Tudor Jones said: "We had a great time, the children loved being able to climb into the helicopter and ask as many questions as they wanted about the Air Ambulance and we are very grateful for the time we were able to spend there."

Agoriad Byd Mary Jones

Ddydd Sul 5 Hydref, union ddau gan mlynedd i'r dyddiad y bu farw Thomas Charles, agorwyd Canolfan newydd Byd Mari Jones yn swyddogol yn Llanycil.

Dechreuodd y diwrnod gyda gwasanaeth yng Nghapel Tegid, ac yn ddiweddarach ymgynullodd aelodau ysgolion Sul Penllyn ac Edeirnion gerbron cerflun Thomas Charles gyda baneri, yn dystiolaeth bod ysgolion Sul yn parhau yn gymunedau byw yn ein hardal. Yna, gorymdeithiwyd tuag at Lanycil i gyfeiliant seindorf Abergynolwyn.



Yn y Gwasanaeth am 2 y prynhawn, cafwyd canu grymus gan Gôr Meibion Llangwm, a chroesawyd y gynulleidfa gan James Catford, Prif Weithredwr y Gymdeithas, a Nerys Pritchard, Rheolwr y Ganolfan. Cafwyd datganiadau cerddorol hefyd gan SOW Acapella, ac aethpwyd â ni yn ôl drwy hanes Mari Jones. Roedd Leta Jones, gor-or-wyres y Parchedig Thomas Charles yn bresennol ar gyfer dadorchuddio'r arwydd swyddogol. Cafwyd gweddi o ymgysegiad gan y Gwir Barchedig Gregory Cameron

cyn i bawb gydganu emyn gyda'r côr i ddiweddu'r achlysur.

Pleser oedd gweld bod y gwaith adnewyddu ar eglwys Llanycil wedi ei wneud yn hynod sensitif, gan gadw ei chymeriad. Ar ôl y penderfyniad anodd o gau'r eglwys, heddiw gallwn ddathlu bod bywyd a phwrpas newydd i'r lle hwn ac yn y lle hwn. I Dduw bo'r diolch.

On Sunday 5 October, 200 years to the exact date of the death of Thomas Charles, Mary Jones World was officially opened in Llanycil. Bishop Gregory attended the event which opened with a procession from Bala. You can read a report in English online: <http://bit.ly/1vIxcm7>

Procession through St Asaph to remember the fallen

A procession took place from the Cathedral to the Cenotaph as St Asaph remembered the fallen on Remembrance Sunday.

The Cathedral choir led the procession of clergy, civic dignitaries and the congregation to the Cenotaph before the two-minute silence.



Your News

Warden raises £1,400 in zip-wire challenge



When Church Warden Peter Jones heard that the roof of St Cystennin's Church near Mochdre required repairs he decided on a rather unique way of raising money for the project. On his 70th birthday in October, Peter travelled 114mph down the longest zip wire in Europe at Zip World in Snowdonia to raise funds for St Cystennin's.

The zip-wire is 500ft high and Peter says it was an exhilarating experience and all for a good cause:

"I would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to sponsor me and the sponsorship has resulted in raising more than £1400 for the roof project. "Anyone wishing to donate to the roof repair fund can send a cheque made out to St Cystennin's church and sent to the Parish office, Penrhyn Beach East, Penrhyn Bay. All donations no matter how small will be gratefully received."

Donations can also be made by texting "PFCC 01 £?" to 70070. The question mark represents the amount of money in pounds that you wish to give.

Meanwhile members of the Cystennin Masonic Lodge have donated £250 to the roof repair fund. The lodge has an historic association with St Cystennin's.

Scything workshop takes place in Towyn



Members of St Mary's Church in Towyn didn't let the cold snap in October put them off their scything workshop in the Church garden.

It was the first step towards creating a "wild area" and three quarters of the site has now been cut. St Mary's hope to finish the work in the spring with help from scything instructor Sion Jinkinson and Wildlife Wales who will help them to plant British trees and flowers which are local to

North Wales. The scything workshop followed their Cherishing Church Gardens celebrations in the summer which were organised by Lynda Griffiths and supported by Wildlife Wales, Towyn and Kinmel Bay Council and Co-op Funeral services. Revd Ginny Burton, Vicar of St Mary's said: "We had a number of objectives including the improvement of the foot path to the memorial garden at the back of the Church and to clear the area behind the Churchyard, in anticipation of creating a wildlife garden to be a place of contemplation and wildlife fascination for all.

"The path was completed by the end of August. Thanks to all who worked and donated."

Christmas shoe boxes sent abroad

More than 25 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts have been sent to children around the world from St Mary's Church Youth Group in Ruabon.

Part of Operation Christmas Child, the shoeboxes are filled with toys, sweets, clothing and stationary and are sent to children in deprived areas of the world. Youth group members are keen to thank all those who have supported their Operation Christmas Child campaign by donating to their stall at the Lions' Fun Day in September, knitting woolly hats at home, scrounging shoeboxes from local shoe shops or donating gifts and wrapping paper.

Eich newyddion chi

Diocese appoints Christian Aid representative

The Diocese of St Asaph now has a Christian Aid representative to help promote the work of the charity around the Diocese. Jean-Audrey Speare from the Parish of Ruabon will take the work on after being nominated for the role by the Engaging Steering Group. If you would like Jean to speak about the work of Christian Aid in your Church or Mission Area, please contact her on jeanaudrey@btinternet.com

Foodbank launch at Caia Park open-day

St Mark's Church in Caia Park has launched a satellite of the Wrexham Foodbank. It means that people who need to access the Foodbank from Caia Park will now be able to pick up food parcels on their doorstep, rather than having to travel to the other side of town.



The main Foodbank operates out of the Salvation Army headquarters in Rhosddu and the satellite was

launched in September as part of a networking event at St Mark's Church. Vicar Revd Eric Owen hopes it will lead to the church building being used for a number of community activities.

He said: "At the moment our church is a great community resource that is seriously underused. We are delighted that St Mark's will now be used to run a satellite from the Wrexham Foodbank and we would like to see the building on offer to other local organisations."

Penylan hosts annual produce show



A pumpkin so big that it couldn't be moved from the Church porch was just one of the attractions at All Saints' Church in Penylan for their annual produce show in September. There were classes ranging from the best scarecrow to photography, pottery and a whole variety of fruit and vegetable categories. The children produced some scary vegetable monsters, whilst tea and homemade cake was available for the visitors and the judges. Prizes were awarded at the end of the day by the vicar.

New Bishop for SW Tanganyika



Bishop Matthew Mhagama has been consecrated and enthroned as Bishop of our linked Diocese of South West Tanganyika. The Diocese of St Asaph was represented at the service in Njombe by Rt Revd Stephen Lowe who presented Bishop Matthew with a Pastoral Staff, sent as a gift to our brothers and sisters in SWT. Bishop Stephen said: "It was a privilege to be involved. We have so much to learn from their excitement and enthusiasm for their faith."

First Messy Church in Overton



St Mary's Church in Overton held their new Messy Church for the first time in September. Beginning with action songs and crafts in the Scout Hut, there was then a short outdoor service and barbeque in the late summer sunshine.

Entertained by the organist in Llanasa



Organist Roger Fisher entertained Llanasa Parish Church with a mix of musical styles during a charity recital in October. Raising money for Church funds, Roger performed music from Bach, Warlock, Humperdinck and Widor. The photograph shows Mr and Mrs Fisher with Revd Stuart Elliott and the Belles Fundraising committee.

Harvest offerings donated to Foodbank

Members of St Myllin's Church in Llanfyllin donated their harvest offerings to the Welshpool Foodbank as part of their all-age harvest service in October. Parishioners also donated money to the Farming Community Network – recipients of this year's Diocesan Offering – and signed postcards to their local MP asking for more to be done to prevent climate change. The theme of the service in October was "A million little steps and a million small candles lit to make a better world".

At the end of the service the high altar was filled with the offerings of

the congregation and small candles were lit as parishioners made personal commitments to being one of the small steps towards a better world.

Church member Ruth Weston said:

"In the service the church gave thanks for the good things we have. Then we signed Christian Aid campaign postcards to our local MP for climate justice and a low carbon economy because we don't want to thank God for good things we have at other people's expense."

Remembering the fallen in Llandrillo

Alan Nipper from St George's Church in Llandrillo-yn-Rhos explains how they have commemorated the fallen 100 years on.

In 1914 the Vicar, Revd Enoch James Evans, began listing the names of all those men from the Parish who left home to serve on land, sea and air. Eventually there were over 150 names on the list. Between August 1914 when the first man was killed and July 1919 when the last died of his wounds, some 38 from the Parish and 9 from Rhos Preparatory School made the Supreme Sacrifice.

The eldest son of the Vicar went to France with the first units of the British Expeditionary Force and saw service overseas again during the Second World War. The Vicar and his wife rushed across to France on the 11th November 1918 to learn that their younger son, who had been wounded a few days earlier, had died

as the guns ceased firing.

Details of most of these men are available to view in the Parish Church of St Trillo, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos or St George's Church, Rhos on Sea.

Interfaith meeting at Buddhist Temple

"Mindfulness" has almost become a cliché these days. Lots of places run courses about it and it is in danger of becoming detached from its religious origins. It has its roots in an ancient religious practice, meditation, followed by adherents of various religious faiths, but especially by Buddhists. In October a multi-faith delegation including Revd James Harris (Bishop's Interfaith Advisor), Sarah Wheat (Engagement Officer) and Ruth Holden (Glyndwr University chaplaincy), had the chance to reflect together about the importance of meditation in our spiritual life during a visit to a Buddhist temple in a former pub in Runcorn.

A thought provoking talk about meditation was given by the Abbot, Phramaha Thirasak and the delegates discussed the place of meditation within their faith traditions. For Buddhists, meditation can happen while engaged in work – such as cooking. Revd James Harris said: "Dtoi Harvey, a Thai Buddhist living in Llanferres organised the interfaith visit and shared with us that she meditates while chopping vegetables. No wonder that the meal she prepared for us tasted so good!"

Focus on Schools

Plans to turn Ysgol Esgob Morgan into a Church school

A formal consultation has been held by Denbighshire County Council and the Diocese of St Asaph on plans to change the status of Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St Asaph into a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled school.

The seven-week consultation ended in October and a consultation report is due out before the end of the year. If the plans are approved by the Council and the Diocese, there will be a formal proposal for Ysgol Esgob Morgan to become a VC school and providing everything is approved, the school would re-open as a Church School in September 2015.

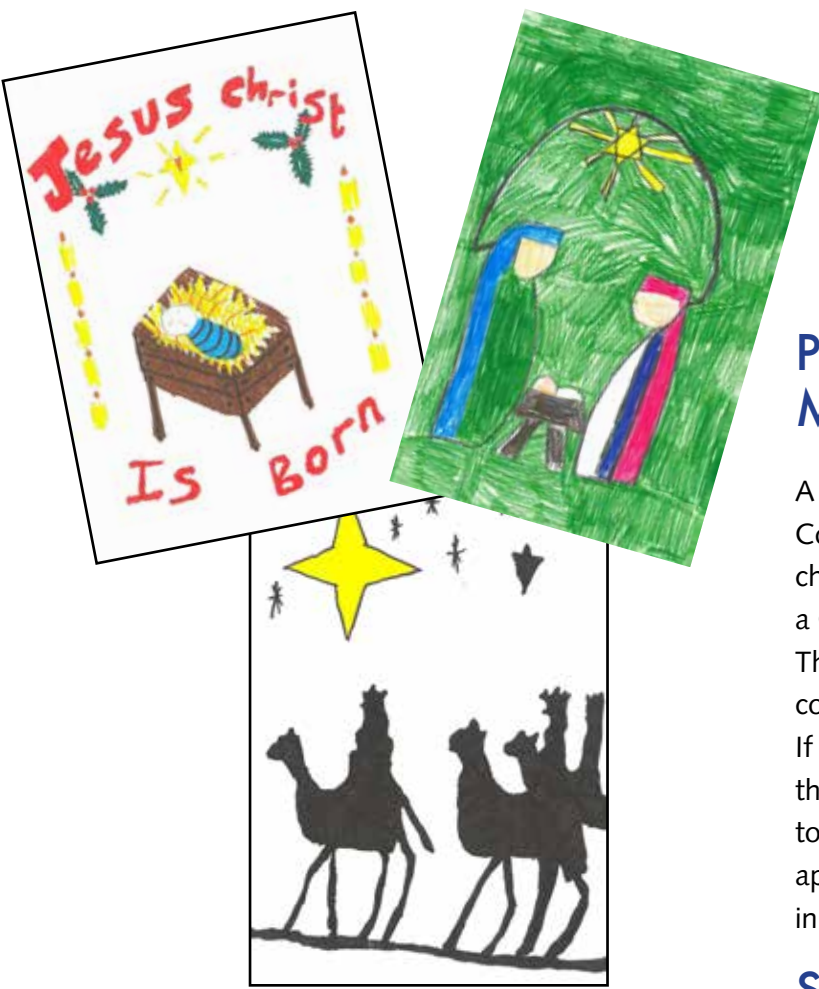
School becomes first primary in Wrexham to pay Living Wage

Minera VA School has become the first primary school in Wrexham to pay staff the Living Wage. It is calculated as £7.85 per hour (outside



of London) and takes into account what is needed to have a minimum, socially acceptable standard of living. The school took the step after Revd James Harris, the Chair of Governors and member of Together Creating Communities (TCC) suggested that they provide a pay rise to the school's lowest paid workers. Headmaster Andrew Partridge was more than happy to support the idea. Mr Partridge said: "If we profess to be Christians we need to live the Gospel and if this involves ensuring colleagues have a decent living wage then we are on the right path, hopefully heading in the right direction. Minera VA School can be pleased with itself that, as the first primary school in Wrexham to pay the living wage, we are spearheading an important and worthwhile campaign."

Could your school pay staff a Living Wage? Please visit www.tcc-wales.org.uk or call 01978 262588 for more information.



Bishop to announce Christmas competition winners

Bishop Gregory will announce the winner of his annual Christmas card competition on Wednesday 10 December. Every year, the Bishop asks pupils in our Church schools to design him a card. The entries are then handed to a team of judges before the winning picture is turned into a Christmas card to be sent to the Bishop's friends, family and colleagues around the world.

In 2013 the winner was Lucy Spencer Jones from Ysgol Llanbedr near Ruthin. This year the Bishop has had more entries than ever and as you can see from the entries pictured here, the standard is very high!



O gwmpas yr Esgobaeth Around the Diocese

BERRIEW

- 12 December** - Nativity Festival - 6pm-7pm
21 December - Tins, Toys and Toiletries Service 10am. Carol Service 6pm.
22 December - "Stille Nacht" Carols in the Lychgate 6.30pm with refreshments.
24 December - Blessing of the Crib 5pm. Midnight Mass 11.30pm.
25 December - Holy Communion 10am.

EGLWYS CRIST Y BALA

- Nos Sul 21ain Sunday 21st** - Gwasanaeth Carolau Carol Service 6pm.
Noswyl Nadolig Christmas Eve - Gwasanaeth Cristingl Christingle Service 6pm Cymun Canol Nos Midnight Mass 11.30pm.
Dydd Nadolig Christmas Day - Cymun Nadolig Christmas Communion 10am

RUTHIN

- 12-14 December** - Entertaining Angels weekend including exhibition of 'angels' at 5pm on the 14th.
18 December - Torch-lit walk from Brynrhydd for 'SILENT NIGHT' - a service remembering Christmas 100 years ago. St Meugan's, Llanrhydd. 6.30 walk for 7pm service.
21 December - Family Service & Carols at St. Mwrog's, Llanfwrog 11am. 9 Lessons & Carols at St Peter's, Ruthin 5pm.
24 December - Carols, Christingle and Crib at St Peter's, Ruthin 5pm. Bilingual Holy Communion at St Mwrog's Church, Llanfwrog 8pm. Midnight Mass at St Peter's Ruthin 11pm.

LLANDEGLA

- 21 December** - Candlelit Lessons & Carol Service, St Tecla's Church, Llandegla. 6pm.

ST CYSTENNIN'S CHURCH, LLANGYSTENNIN

- 17 December** - Christmas Celebration with Cantamus Chamber Choir at 7 pm. Christmas produce stall and raffle. Bubbly and mince pies. Collection for fundraising appeal for church roof repairs.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, GWERSYLLT

- 19 - 21 December** - Christmas Tree Festival. Friday: 3pm - 7pm, Saturday: 10am - 7pm, Sunday: 11am - 5pm. The festival finishes on Sunday 21 December at 5pm with a candlelit carol service.

ST SILIN'S CHURCH, LLANSILIN

- 5 December** - The Llansilin Plygain 7.30pm. Singing parties and visitors welcome. Refreshments. The church is fully accessible, parking in the street and village car park. SY10 7QB.

ABERGELE & ST GEORGE

- 14 December** - Cymdeithas Emrys ap Iwan - Naws y Nadolig Service - 6.30pm. St Michael's Church
16 December - Lessons & Carols 7pm, St George Church
24 December - Crib Service, 4pm. St Michael's Church. Crib Service, 5:30pm at St George Church. Midnight Mass 11:30pm at St Michael's Church.
25 December - Christmas Eucharist 10am at St George Church

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL

- 14 December** - Candlelit Choral Evensong 6pm
24 December - 9 Lessons and Carols 7pm. Midnight Mass 11.30pm
25 December - Communion 8am. Eucharist 11am.
4 January - Eucharist for Epiphany 8am.

MARCHNAD NADOLIG

Fe gynhaliodd Eglwys Crist ei Marchnad Nadolig gyntaf. Menter newydd, gyf-frous a da ydy gallu dweud iddi fod yn hynod llwyddiannus. Daeth dros 20 o stonidwyr o ar hyd ac ar led Gogledd Cymru i ddangos eu nwyddau amrywiol. Diddorol oedd gweld beth oedd ganddynt i gynnig. Da hefyd oedd cael cefnogaeth y 6ed Dosbarth o Ysgol y Berwyn a oedd ar gyfer eu gwaith ysgol wedi creu mentrau eu hunain. Er y tywydd anf-



fodus daeth prynwyr o ardal eang iawn i weld ac archwilio y nwyddau oedd ar werth. I greu awyrgylch cafwyd eitemau cerddorol byw a diwyd iawn oedd y prynu a'r gwerthu drwy gydol y nos. Dar-

parwyd lluniaeth blasus a thynnwyd y Raffl Fawr. Cafwyd digon o gyfle i gymdeithasu ac mae llawer wedi holi yn obeithiol a fydd yna un y flwyddyn nesaf. Roeddem yn hynod falch bod ein heglwys yn gallu cael ei thrawsnewid ar gyfer gweithgaredd gymunedol pan syfrdanwyd pawb gyda ysblander yr eglwys.

Christ Church in Bala held their first ever Christmas Market in November. The picture shows Sixth Formers from Ysgol y Berwyn selling their wares.

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We are sorry that we cannot print everything we are sent but you can see more stories here: <http://bit.ly/Mv8Rae>