

# LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf  
Parish Magazine



30p

**Christian  
Aid Week**  
11-17 May 08

**May 2008**

# Services

## Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

### Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
- Matins followed by shortened Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)
- Combined Matins and Eucharist (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer
- 6.00 pm Exploring Worship - in Church Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)

### Weekdays

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer (Tue, Wed & Thurs)
- Holy Eucharist with Morning Prayer (Fri)
- 9.00 am Holy Eucharist (Wed)
- 11.00 am Holy Eucharist (Thurs & Major Saints' Days)
- Holy Eucharist in Welsh (Sat)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer (Tue, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

## St Tudno's Church Great Orme

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer (Sat)
- 11.00 am Open Air Service (Sun from end of May to end of September)
- On the first Sunday of each month, the service is followed by a shortened Eucharist in the church.

The pattern of Sunday and Weekday services sometimes changes. Please check the calendar in each month's magazine and the weekly bulletin.

The Rector is in Holy Trinity Church on most Saturday mornings from 11.30 - 12.00 to see parishioners on any matter – for confessions, spiritual guidance, the booking of baptisms or weddings etc.

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[www.llandudno-parish.org.uk](http://www.llandudno-parish.org.uk)

The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

[editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk](mailto:editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk)

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

## A Letter from the Rectory

This year Christian Aid Week begins on the Feast of Pentecost – Sunday 11th May. Surely there could be no more appropriate day to begin this week than Pentecost. When the followers of Jesus received the gift of the Holy Spirit they were transformed into the Body of Christ and sent out to proclaim Him to the world. And what better way could there be to proclaim Him to the world, than to show concern for our brothers and sisters in the developing world?

However I do have to admit that I don't look forward to Christian Aid Week. I always take part in the house to house collection, a task which frankly I find rather difficult. Not that I have ever encountered much hostility although I know other collectors have. In fact, on my usual round the majority of those I call on are quite willing to give to the collection. It's just that I don't like asking for money and it can be quite hard to explain to some folk exactly what it is you are collecting for.

On the other hand I do see this as an opportunity to meet people one would



perhaps not normally call on and to show them that the Church is not just interested in raising money for itself but really does care for the disadvantaged people of the world.

The money we give, or that we help to raise through our house to house collection, Christian Aid Coffee mornings etc, goes to help many communities throughout the world often in simple ways like providing safe drinking water or treatment for HIV infection. Less than 1% is used for administrative costs. Christian Aid also works to campaign for better trade agreements to help developing countries, and has recently successfully lobbied our government to pass a tougher climate change bill to limit industrial emissions. Climate change will almost certainly affect many in the developing world more severely than it will affect us.

So Christian Aid Week is well worth supporting. No doubt elsewhere in this magazine (and on the poster in Holy Trinity porch) you will see details of the various event planned by our

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**'If we come together,  
we can achieve  
amazing things.'**

local Christian Aid Committee. Please support these and why not volunteer for the house to house collection. Fewer and fewer folk are willing to do this year by year. Coffee Mornings etc are certainly worth supporting. But they are not a substitute for house to house collecting. We naturally prefer the comfort of drinking coffee in con-

genial surroundings and company, but the challenge is surely to go out to the community to enlist their support too, and to show them that we as the church here in Llandudno are looking outward to a world very much in need.

*Fr John*

## Rector's Notes

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Aberdaron – Saturday 21st June**

Everyone will have heard of this event by now and I do hope that as many of you as possible will want to take part. We will leave Llandudno by coach at 8.30 am arriving at Rhoshirwaun at around 10.30 for a brief service. We will then walk with our fellow pilgrims from all over the diocese the couple of miles to Aberdaron where there will be time for lunch and for special activities for children and young people. The climax of the day will be a great diocesan Eucharist on the beach at the end of which a small group will, weather permitting, cross to Bardsey Island (Ynys Enlli) - the burial place of 10,000 saints.

If you are not able to take part in the walk you may proceed straight to Aberdaron in the coach where there will be a service similar to the one in Rhoshirwaen. Angela Pritchard has kindly booked the coach for us, the fare will

be £5 per head (a £2-50 non-returnable deposit is required). Please put your name on the list in church.

### **Cytûn Pilgrimage of Prayer**

There will be a further meeting of this group at Stella Maris on Tuesday 6th May at 10 am and the group will continue to meet on the first Tuesday each month. Each meeting will consist of some short opening readings, about twenty minutes of silent prayer together and then a cup of tea/coffee. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to meditate in the company of others and to grow together in prayer.

The group might choose to become a 'Julian group' – ie one of a network of similar groups meeting together throughout the country for meditation named after the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich, groups made up of Christians from various denominations and backgrounds, but more of this at

a later date. Why not come and join us for a period of peace and closeness to God?

### Croeso!

We welcome to Llandudno the Revd Dafydd Rees Roberts, the new minister of the local Welsh speaking chapels: Seilo in Llandudno, Bethania at Craig-y-don and Peniel, Deganwy. He was inducted on Saturday 26th April. We look forward to working with him in Cytûn.



*Work began on the car park in April.*

and willingly. She has served as PCC. Secretary since 1999 – many thanks Jenny for your commitment over these nine years.

### Jenny Bicknell

A good PCC. Secretary is worth his or her weight in gold so I am very sorry to report that Jenny Bicknell reluctantly wishes to resign this post as soon as we can find a replacement for her. We will be very sorry to lose her – she does everything so quietly, efficiently

## Sidespersons

May 4th ( & June 1st)	Dorothy Trent Roy Rees-Jones Sandra Davies Doug Pritchard
May 11th	Kath Lloyd Mary Rees Judith Williams Joyce Crosby
May 18th	Annabel Jones Angela Pritchard Eira Jones Eileen Roberts
May 25th	Pat Ridler Margot Hughes Stan Whittaker Ray Millington

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### COLLECTORS NEEDED

**If you think you could help, please see Jane Allen or Eira Jones.**

# Calendar for May

- Thurs 1st      **The Ascension of Our Lord**  
11.00 am      Holy Eucharist with hymns  
7.30 pm      Holy Eucharist with hymns
- Fri 2nd      **SS Philip & James, Apostles**  
11.00 am      Holy Eucharist
- Sun 4th      Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Services at the usual times.
- Tues 6th      10.00 am      *'Pilgrimage of Prayer' meeting at Stella Maris*
- Thurs 8th      10.00 am      Guild of St Raphael meeting  
11.00 am      Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
- Sun 11th      Pentecost (the end of Eastertide)**  
Services at the usual times  
7.00 pm      *Bishop's Visitation at the Cathedral*  
**Christian Aid Week begins** (For events see the poster in the porch at Holy Trinity)
- Weds 14th      **St Matthias, Apostle**  
9.00 am      Holy Eucharist  
11.00 am      Holy Eucharist
- Sun 18th      Feast of the Most Holy Trinity**  
(Patronal Festival of our Parish Church)  
Services at the usual times
- Tues 20th      7.30 pm      *Cytûn Llandudno AGM at Stella Maris*
- Thurs 22nd      **Corpus Christi** (Thanksgiving for the Eucharist)  
11.00 am      Holy Eucharist with hymns
- Sun 25th      Trinity I (Pentecost 2)**  
Services at the usual times  
11.00 am      1st Sunday morning service of the Season at St Tudno's

And looking forward ..... **Important Dates for June**

- Sat 7th      At St Tudno's. St Tudnotide Eucharist with the inauguration of the Friends of St Tudno. The preacher will be the Dean of Bangor, the Very Revd Alun Hawkins.
- Sat 21st      *Diocesan Pilgrimage to Aberdaron (see page 9 for details).*

# Attendance Figures for March

## *Holy Trinity*

<b>Saturday 1st Dewi Sant</b>	11.00 am	Bilingual Eucharist	19
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
<b>Lent 4</b>	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	154
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	5.00 pm	Evensong/Bible Study	12
Saturday 8th	11.30 am	Holy Eucharist (Quiet day at Loreto)	8
		Total of Other Weekday Eucharists	26
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	21
<b>Lent 5</b>	10.30 am	Choral Matins	67
		Shortened Eucharist	15
	5.00 pm	Evensong/Bible Study	15
		Total of Weekday Eucharists	26
<b>Sunday 16th Palm Sunday</b>	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	21
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist/Palm procession	114
	5.00 pm	Evensong	7
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	28
<b>Holy Week</b>			
Monday 17th	2.30 pm	Quiet Afternoon	18
Tuesday 18th	7.00 pm	Holy Eucharist	7
Wednesday 19th	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist	4
	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist at Ysgol San Sïor	25
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist	17
	7.30 pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper	35
<b>Good Friday</b>	11.30 am	Children's Service	43
	12 noon	Cytûn Outdoor Service	c150
	2.00 pm	Good Friday Liturgy	51

<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	42
<b>Easter Day</b>	10.30 am	Festival Eucharist	216
	5.00 pm	Choral Evensong	27
	Total of Weekday Eucharists		40
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b>	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	53
	5.00 pm	Evensong/Bible Study	13
<b>Monday 31st</b>	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist	6
<b>The Annunciation of Our Lord</b>			
<b>St Tudno's</b>			
Saturday 22nd	7.30 pm	Easter Vigil	30

## From the Parish Registers

### Holy Baptism

9th March: Evie Grace Owen  
of Fairways, West Shore, Llandudno

## The Parish Share or Quota for 2008 is

**£68412**

*giftaid it*

The Quota is the sum of money that we have to give the diocese each year to forward to the Church in Wales to pay the stipends of our clergy. We were able to pay this sum last year by using our reserves. This year the Quota is 4.51% more than 2007 and it seems certain that we will not have the reserves to pay it.

Please consider revising your regular giving so the Parish can pay its dues.

If you are a payer of income tax or capital gains tax, please declare your regular giving and donations as 'Gift Aid'. This is a scheme where HM Revenue and Customs refunds the tax you paid on earning your gift.

So if you make a donation of £10, the Parish receives an extra £2.50 at no cost to you.

Please contact Stan Whittaker, the Gift Aid Secretary. (Tel: 596796)



## Good Friday Children's Service

At Holy Trinity on Good Friday, stripped of all adornment, only a solitary wooden cross stands at the crossing. This is the setting for the annual Children's Service. On this most solemn day, the children arrive in a flurry of activity, all age groups from teens to toddlers, even babies, along with mums and dads, grans and granddads, friends and church helpers: truly a church family who warmly express their delight in each others company.

The service started with the singing of 'There is a green hill far away' after which Rev. Jane asked the children to identify symbols of Jesus' Passion, a heart and part of a cross, which had been hidden around the nave.

The children had great fun hunting for the symbols which they needed to complete the lovely Easter Cards which had been prepared for them to colour in and attach their symbols. Later, we noticed that some of the adults sat at the craft table with enthusiasm enjoying some colouring and pasting of their own.

Adults and children were then invited to think of something they had said or done and for which they felt sorry to take a pebble and place it at the foot of the cross. It was very moving to see the quiet dignity of the children as they approached the cross and laid down their pebbles. We then formed a huge

circle around the cross and sang 'Jesus' love is very wonderful' with actions! This produced beaming smiles from the children and adults as we expressed God's love for us.

We joined together in saying the Lords Prayer and Rev. Jane gave the Blessing. Afterwards. We all cooed over baby Eva, Jennifer and Tony Fossi's latest grandchild before leaving to go our separate ways.

A big thank you to Rev. Jane, Church Wardens and Sunday School helpers for their hard work in preparing the material for this Service. Next year, if you are able, do try to come to this service, it reminds us that Jesus said that in order to enter His Kingdom we should seek to be as little children.

*Angela Pritchard*

**The next Exploring  
Worship will be on  
TRINITY SUNDAY  
18 May at 6pm.**

## St Tudno's

The Easter Vigil service took place on a cold and windy evening and the New Fire was quite popular with people arriving at the church (perhaps we should have made the fire larger!). The service began in the dark with blessing the Pascal Candle, lighting it from the New Fire and passing the light from person to person. After Fr John sang the Exultet, readings were heard in the darkened church and the Easter Proclamation was followed by simultaneous fanfare on the organ, ringing of the bell and switching on of the lights. After singing an Easter hymn, water for baptism was blessed in the font and baptismal vows were renewed. Many thanks to everyone who took part in this lovely service and a special word of thanks to Iris and Chris Fosbury for braving the cold to set out and put away the outdoor lights which enabled everyone to safely negotiate the paths in the dark.

The open air services will begin on Sunday 25 May and a free taxi service (donations welcome) will again operate between Holy Trinity and St Tudno's, leaving Holy Trinity at 10.30 am. The first service will include blessing of the new service booklets, there will be monthly services of Compline by Candlelight and other special services and a full list of services is available.

St Tudno's Day is on Thursday 5 June

and this will be celebrated with a Eucharist service at 2.30 pm, after which a small group will make a pilgrimage to St Tudno's Well. The well is on private farmland and the visit has been agreed by kind permission of the landowners. Although the well is not far from the church 'as the crow flies', reaching the well requires a walk down and up hills over rough ground and stout footwear is recommended. We have not yet measured the time or distance between the church and well but if you are interested in making the pilgrimage, please speak to one of us.

We will be starting a Friends of St Tudno's group, with a Eucharist and Inaugural Tea at 2.30 pm on Saturday 7 June and this will also be a second opportunity for everyone to celebrate St Tudno's Day. The aim of the Friends is to enable people from outside the parish to keep in touch with St Tudno's and one of the first prospective Friends has 'volunteered' to act as Secretary. We will publish more information on the Friends when the details have been finalised but we hope to see both parishioners and Friends on this day.

We look forward to seeing you at St Tudno's this summer.

*Christine Jones & Mark Collins*

## **Prayers and reflections for Christian Aid Week**

Ever-present God,  
Fill me with your Spirit,  
And send me out to make a difference  
To the voiceless; the powerless and  
the poor.  
Help me to know that  
I stand with all who seek justice  
And I go with the strength of your Spirit.  
Take my prayers, my time and  
my envelopes.  
Use them with others' to achieve  
amazing things.  
For the sake of your people,  
And to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring  
good news to those who felt no good  
news,  
to proclaim freedom to those imprisoned  
by injustice,  
and recover health and wholeness to all  
the world.  
You took up the cause of the oppressed.  
You proclaimed the year of the Lord's  
favour.  
At the heart of your ministry was action.  
Remind us of the unlikely group of people  
you gathered around you to perform your  
work of love,  
and empower us to bring your good news  
so your kingdom will come and your will  
be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Amen

'At the heart of the Christian gospel is an  
identification with all living beings, and a  
demonstration of a different way of  
transcending limits, not by rolling over  
them, but by embracing and transforming

them. Jesus did not voluntarily seek out  
suffering and did not glorify it, but he  
chose to bear it rather than inflict it on  
others. The sign of the bread and the wine  
on the communion table are a reminder  
to us, a bit like the rainbow is for God,  
that apart from all living beings we have  
no life, that we are creature not creator,  
and that what is given, and given up in  
love, is never lost or wasted.'

*From Sharing the Blessing, Kathy  
Galloway, SPCK/Christian Aid £8.99  
Call 08700 787 788 to order a copy of this  
new Christian Aid publication.*

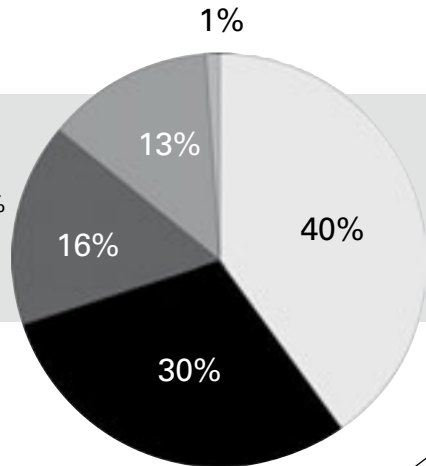
'As a woman, I now feel very good. I have  
learned to talk. I am confident. In my  
heart, I have weight. We used to gather  
water before in big pots, but I never used  
to put a net over them. We used to go to  
the toilet without wearing sandals. Now  
we wear them and we wash our hands  
with soap. Everyone in the family is  
happy because now we have good safe  
water for many months of the year.'  
*Minu Basar from Bangladesh who had to  
cross a wide and sometimes dangerous  
river and travel up to 10km to buy  
drinking water for her family. Since  
joining the village pani parishad (water  
council), she has learned how to safely  
gather and store rainwater. The pani  
parishads are supported by Christian Aid  
partner, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced  
Studies.*

# Ten things to know about Christian Aid

- 1 We believe in life before death – we are passionate about rooting out poverty.
- 2 We fund long-term development work, respond to emergencies, and challenge the unjust systems that make and keep people poor.
- 3 We are the official development agency of 41 church denominations in the UK and Ireland.
- 4 We help people of all faiths and none.
- 5 We believe in helping people to find their own lasting solutions to poverty.
- 6 We work through more than 600 partners – local organisations – in nearly 50 countries.
- 7 We challenge those with power to change things that have an adverse effect on poor communities, such as international trade rules and climate change.
- 8 We don't give money to governments – we work directly with local organisations on the ground.
- 9 We spend money where it's needed most. For each £1/€1.43 given in 2006/7, 83p/€1.19 was used for direct charitable expenditure. The remaining 17p/€0.24 was used to raise the next £1/€1.43.
- 10 You can find out more at [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org) or [www.christianaid.ie](http://www.christianaid.ie) or by calling 0845 7000 300.

## How your money helps transform poor communities

Emergencies – 30%  
Long-term development – 40%  
Campaigning, advocacy and education – 13%  
Fundraising – 16%  
Governance – 1%



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## **Time for action on climate change**



Christian Aid/Mohammadur Rahman

As sea levels rise in coastal Bangladesh, saltwater is contaminating the water supply of riverbank and coastal communities. These communities also face losing homes to rapidly increasing river erosion

The changing climate is poised to reverse decades of development. Forget making poverty history; poverty is set to become permanent unless we address climate change as a matter of urgency.

Your donations this Christian Aid Week will help communities in the developing world to cope with the effects of climate change. But money in itself is not enough. We also need to act. We can all use our influence on politicians and business leaders in the rich world – who are the

ones making many of the key decisions affecting poor countries. Global warming is not just a distant forecast. It's already happening now, and poor people are the ones who are being hit the hardest.

Climate change increases the unpredictability and severity of extreme weather patterns. During the past 35 years, hurricane-force storms have almost doubled. Eleven million people are threatened by hunger because of years of unprecedented drought in east Africa.

Ninety per cent of the victims of weather-related natural disasters during the 1990s were from poor countries. And an estimated 150,000 people are dying annually from diseases exacerbated by the changing climate. For example, scientists predict that malaria-carrying mosquitoes, which cannot survive at low temperatures, are now spreading the disease further as regions warm up, putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk.

And the outlook is bleak. Even if we are able to stabilise CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, global average temperatures are still likely to rise by at least 2°C by 2050. If this is the case, 1-3 billion people will face acute water shortages. Thirty million more people will go hungry as crops fail across the globe. Melting ice caps, combined with the thermal expansion of the oceans, means that sea levels are set to rise dramatically. A rise of one metre would displace ten million people in Vietnam and 8-10 million in Egypt, as well as potentially submerging around 16 per cent of Bangladesh.

Climate change is an issue of injustice. The world's poorest people have done the least to contribute to the problem, and yet they are suffering the worst effects. Carbon has fuelled the rich world's wealth and development. But the devastating impact of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on our climate means that poor countries cannot now develop in the same way.

Christian Aid is pressing for an international agreement to ensure that rich countries dramatically cut their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions so that poor countries can develop in a way that won't further increase climate change and condemn

them to perpetual poverty. This agreement will call for rich countries to cut their own CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 80 per cent by 2050; compensate poor countries for the damage already caused by climate change so they have the resources to adapt; and assist poor countries to develop in ways that will limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Eighty per cent by 2050 means cuts of five per cent every year. This is the absolute minimum action required if global warming is to be kept below the tipping point of 2°C. Five per cent every year is a big challenge. But it's one that we must meet. Millions of lives depend on it.

As citizens of a rich country, we are all in a powerful position to make a difference. And this is where we need your help. Please sign the prayer and action card this Christian Aid Week, and send a message to the government that urgent action is needed on climate change now.

Campaigning works. Previous campaigns have delivered real change on issues such as debt and fair trade. We need to take action on climate change now, before it is too late.



**Find out more about Christian Aid's Climate Changed campaign, and sign up to take further action, by visiting [www.christianaid.org.uk/climate](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/climate) or [www.christianaid.ie/climate](http://www.christianaid.ie/climate)**

# Flowers at Easter



## Do this in remembrance of me

- a series about the Eucharist by  
Father John

### Part I – The most important service we can offer

Amongst various important feast days this month is Corpus Christi (the day of thanksgiving for the Eucharist). It seemed an excellent opportunity to begin a series of short articles on this service which is so central to the life of our parish. Indeed any newcomer soon realizes that the Eucharist is the most important act of worship we offer.

But why is this so? Matins and Evensong (Morning & Evening Prayer) are surely worthy services as is the more informal 'Exploring Worship'. What's so special about the Eucharist?

The first point to answer this question is simply that it is the only act of worship directly commanded by Our Lord himself: 'Do this in remembrance of me' he said at the Last Supper. True, he didn't say how often we were to 'Do this' but it is quite clear from the Acts of the Apostles that right from the beginning Christians met together at

least once a week to share in the special meal that Christ had given them (see Acts 2:42). Christ was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Secondly, whilst Christ can indeed be encountered in any act of Christian worship it is in the Eucharistic action that he is most powerfully made known to us as we take bread and wine, bless them, break the bread and share in the sacramental gifts. Also in the elements of bread and wine themselves he becomes in a sense visible to us.

And finally when Our Lord said 'Do this in remembrance of me' it is very likely that he meant far more than that we should literally 'remember' ie think about him and what he did for us. 'Remember' in a biblical context often seems to mean that a past event is made known powerfully in the present moment, almost as though it were happening now. When we offer the Eucharist Our Lord's offering of himself on the Cross, his resurrection etc becomes a present reality. As we sing as, in William Bright's familiar hymn (no 33 in Hymns Old & New):



*And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
that bought us, once for all, on Calv'ry's tree,  
and having with us him that pleads above,  
we here present, we here spread forth to thee  
that only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
the one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.*



## 'Mums' from the Mother's Union

A woman, renewing her driver's license was asked by the counter clerk to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. 'What I mean is,' explained the counter clerk, 'do you have a job or are you just a ...?'

'Of course I have a job,' snapped the woman. 'I'm a Mum.'

'We don't list "Mum" as an occupation, "housewife" covers it,' said the clerk emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own medical centre.

The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title – Official Interrogator or Town Registrar. 'What is your occupation?' she probed.

What made me say it? I do not know. The words simply popped out. 'I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.'

The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written, in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire. 'Might I ask,' said the clerk with new interest, 'just what you do in your field?'

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, 'I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Master's, (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money.'

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a six-month old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern.

I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than 'just Motherhood!' What a glorious career, especially when there's a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers 'Senior

Research associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations'; and great grandmothers 'Executive Senior Research Associates'? I think so!!! I also think it makes aunts 'Associate Research Assistants.'

Please send this to another Mum, Grandmother, Aunt, and other friends you know.

May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door!

## Winter Warmers

A second Frugal Lunch during Holy Week, marked the end of another season of Winter Warmer's, because Easter was early this year we held only 18 Coffee Mornings on Wednesday's with 2 additional Saturday Coffee Morning's. A total of £5,814.54 has been paid into the Parish account, this includes £102.79 raised for Llandudno Carers and £800.39 for our friends in Uganda who lost their harvest to floods.

Thank you to the team who made this possible, the people at home who baked cakes and to everyone who gave us support and encouragement.

We have a short break before starting another season of Tuesday afternoon tea's, we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us and promise hard work, fun and friendship, just contact one of the team if you are interested.

Please continue to support the Summer Coffee Morning team who do such a wonderful job for the Parish.

**Angela Pritchard**

Agnes, Peggy and Diane wish to say a

big thank you to all who have supported them in buying raffle tickets and to all who have generously donated the prizes for this very successful activity.

### Llandudno Carers

**On behalf of the Llandudno Branch Carers Wales, I would like to thank all the ladies and gentlemen of Winter Warmers for holding a Coffee Morning and donating the money raised, £102, to our branch. Thank you for all your hard work in raising this brilliant amount of money, which we greatly appreciate.**

**Betty Perrin**

**The Carers' letter paper includes the following statement:**

**'Carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. The care they provide is unpaid.'**

## Church in Wales let down by its Clergy?

At a meeting of the church's governing body this week, the laity gave an overwhelming vote in favour of passing legislation to allow women to be ordained as bishops. All the bishops voted in favour, but the clergy failed by three votes to gain the necessary two-thirds majority.

So it is that a few petrified, stick-in-the-mud, backward-looking dinosaurs have thwarted the will of the people to take the church into the twenty-first century. We can now confidently march forth carrying Christ's message to the world that women are second-class citizens. Whatever the law of the land says about equal opportunities and rights for all citizens, the Christian church will nail its colours to the mast – nay, stand by the cross – proclaiming that women are not worthy to aspire to high office in the church. Good at waiting at table and sweeping out the church porch, but holding holy office? Never!

In some people's minds, the line from the hymn 'and nothing changes here' seems to apply not to the Love of God, but to our (partial) understand of him/her/it. This is how it was and this is how it always will be. It was good enough for me as a child and it's good enough for me now.

This is an attitude that has brought the church to its present-day state of

decline. We have lost two generations – the young and the middle aged – and only the old remain. Our thoughts, beliefs and practices have 'petrified' (turned to stone) and those who wanted change have gone elsewhere.

There is a fixation in the church that 'God is a Rock'. (The Lord is my Rock and my Fortress [Ps 18:2].) There is much of value in this allegory, but it can also be misused to justify a clinging to the old and familiar and a reluctance and fear to venture into the new. If only our clergy could lift their eyes to the hills, they might notice that, gradually, even the rocks change. Even our familiar Orme/Gogarth has had it landslides and will one day crumble into the sea.

Some of the clergy use the argument that Jesus chose only men to be his disciples (carefully focusing on 'the twelve' and ignoring references to Mary Magdalene ['a devoted disciple of Jesus'] and others). From this 'fact', they infer that, 2000 years later, only men can mediate God's blessings to his people (or whatever priests do – coming from a nonconformist background, I was never very sure!) I could also point out that Jesus chose no Europeans and, indeed, no-one who could not speak Aramaic!

Canon Jeremy Winston, the vicar of Abergavenny, said that bishops had failed to give concrete assurance to

## Rocks and Rivers

those opposed to female bishops that they would be provided for. Archbishop Barry Morgan knew that if the constitution had been changed to create an assistant bishop to look after those who, in conscience, were opposed to the ordination of women, the vote would have sailed through. But he knew that, by doing so, the church would be compromising its principles.

Can you imagine the uproar there would be if a group of clergy said that, in conscience, they were opposed to the ordination of black people and wanted a white bishop to minister to them? What they are saying is no less blatantly discriminatory than this. Their stance needs to be seen for what it is.

Let us pray that the laity will have the courage to challenge its clergy. The issue of women bishops will not go away. There will be another vote in a few years. Let us pray that, by then, more of the clergy will have a deeper understanding of God's love for his/her/its people. (There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.)

**Garth Higginbotham**

PS: Since writing this article I have enquired where our own members of clergy stand on this issue. I am delighted to say that both support the appointment of women bishops. John advocates proceeding cautiously. We are, John; we are!

While writing about women bishops and mentioning God as a Rock, I came across a lovely song by Peter Mayer. In it, he portrays God, not as an immovable rock, but as a mighty river, forever flowing onwards, shaping the landscape, cutting through rocks and bringing water and nutrition to the land through which it passes. There are other verses, which you can easily find on the Internet.

*In the ever-shifting water of the river of  
this life,  
I was swimming, seeking comfort; I was  
wrestling waves to find  
A boulder I could cling to, a stone to hold  
me fast,  
Where I might let the fretful water of  
this river 'round me pass.  
And so I found an anchor, a blessed rest-  
ing place,  
A trusty rock I called my saviour, for  
there I would be safe  
From the river and its dangers, and I  
proclaimed my rock divine  
And I prayed to it 'protect me' and the  
rock replied*

*God is a river, not just a stone;  
God is a wild, raging rapids  
And a slow, meandering flow;  
God is a deep and narrow passage  
And a peaceful, sandy shoal;  
God is the river, swimmer,  
So let go.*

## Maytime

This month the hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) should be in flower on the Great Orme and in hedgerows, the creamy-white blossom being so characteristic of this time of year that it is called the may-blossom.

Hawthorn is so common that it is easy to overlook the beauty of the flowers. If you can avoid the thorns and get close to the clusters of scented flowers, you will see that they are far from plain. The petals are delicately crinkled and sometimes a pale pink in colour and the anthers, which produce the pollen, are a deep pink on white stalks.

Hawthorn is a member of the rose family, as are blackthorn (which flowered

in April) and bramble, and similarities can be seen between the flowers of these and wild roses. Take a close look at even our most common plants and, like William Blake, you may see 'heaven in a wild flower.'

*To see a world in a grain of sand,  
And heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour.*

### **haw thorn** (hō'thōrn')

n. Any of various usually thorny trees or shrubs of the genus *Crataegus* having clusters of white or pinkish flowers and reddish fruits containing a few one-seeded nutlets.

[Middle English, from Old English hagathorn : haga, *haw* + thorn, *thorn*.]

*Christine Jones*



## Great Hymns — Love divine

This month's hymn is perhaps one of Charles Wesley's most famous:

*Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart*

\* *Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!*

*Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest;  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee:  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

The hymn has its origins in Dryden's very secular poem 'Fairest isle, all isles excelling'. The poem had been set to music by Henry Purcell for an aria in his oratorio 'King Arthur' (1691):

*Fairest isle, all isles excelling,  
Seat of pleasure and of love  
Venus here will choose her dwelling,  
And forsake her Cyprian grove.  
Cupid from his fav'rite nation  
Care and envy will remove;  
Jealousy, that poisons passion,  
And despair, that dies for love.*

*Gentle murmurs, sweet complaining,  
Sighs that blow the fire of love  
Soft repulses, kind disdainings,  
Shall be all the pains you prove.  
Ev'ry swain shall pay his duty,  
Grateful ev'ry nymph shall prove;  
And as these excel in beauty,  
Those shall be renown'd for love.*

The last verse of the hymn unashamedly borrows from another poem/hymn (1712), this time by Thomas Addison:

*When all thy mercies, o my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view I'm lost  
In wonder, love and praise.*

'Love divine' was written in 1743 and first appeared in *Hymns For Those That Seek, and Those That Have Redemption in the Blood of Jesus* (1747). The hymn is, in the Wesley tradition, full of biblical content and is a prayer addressed to

Jesus. It embraces the fact that God is love which was quite a novelty for a hymn. The hymn has four stanzas: the second suggesting that one can be completely cleansed of sin in this life. Some, including Wesley's brother, John, found the stanza troublesome and either changed the words or omitted the stanza altogether.

Several changes from the original appear in the text. In stanza two, line four, the original was, 'Let us find that second rest'; stanza two, line five, 'take away our power (or love) of sinning'; stanza three, line two, 'let us all Thy life receive'; and in stanza four, line two, 'pure and sinless let us be.'

John Wesley's hymn book *Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed* (1762) set the words to the tune 'Westminster' which he had adapted from Purcell's tune for 'Fair-est Isle'. This tune has been reinstated in *Hymns and Psalms*, the Methodist hymnal with the name 'Westminster (Sacred Harmony)'.

Over the years, the hymn has been set to many other tunes. The tune traditionally used in the USA is 'Beecher' (1870) specially composed for the hymn by German-American John Zundel. The tune whilst still popular, is rather dated and sentimental. Thankfully, 'Hyfrydol' (1844) by Rowland Huw Pritchard is gaining popularity there. Setting 'Love divine' to 'Hyfrydol', wedded here to 'Alleluia sing to Jesus' since 1906, is not unknown in the UK but has to compete with other established tunes.

The 'proper' tune is seen by many as 'Love divine' (1889) by Sir John Stainer (1840-1901). Stainer was an English composer and organist whose music was much performed during his lifetime. His work as choir trainer and organist set standards for Anglican church music which are still influential. He was also active as an academic, becoming professor of music at Oxford University in 1889. Stainer's most famous work is his oratorio 'The Crucifixion'.

Stainer's 'Love divine' has only four lines (87 87) so the stanzas are split. Other lesser-known tunes include 'Airedale' by CV Stanford and 'Moriah', a Welsh tune arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams for the *English Hymnal* (1906). All these tunes have to compete with another great Welsh tune, 'Blaenwern' by William Penfro Rowlands.

William Rowlands and Rowland Pritchard (Hyfrydol) before him were not professional musicians. Rowlands was a schoolteacher and Pritchard was a mill hand at Bala. Likewise, John Hughes (Cwm Rhonda), William Owen (Gwalchmai), Joseph Jones (Bryn Calfaria) and professional composer, Joseph Parry (Aberystwyth) all had humble beginnings. Virtually all were of Nonconformist stock and associated with chapel choirs and singing societies. These great Welsh tunes are memorable for their distinctive fervour and passion, with a hint of melancholy.

William Rowlands was born in Cwmderi, Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire in

1860. 'Blaenwern' was written during the Welsh revival of 1904-1905 and was published in Henry H Jones' *Cân a Moliant* (1915). The tune's name refers to a relative's farm at Tufton where Rowlands convalesced in his youth. Rowlands moved to Morrision in 1881 becoming active in its chapels and choral societies. He died in Swansea in 1937.

'Blaenwern' has been used for several other hymns including 'Deued Dyddiau O Bob Cymysg' by William Williams (Pantycelyn) and has gained a popularity in the USA through Billy Graham crusades when it was sung to the words of 'What a friend we have in Jesus'.

Anglican churches in the UK usually have to choose between 'Love divine'

and 'Blaenwern'. Passions can run quite high when it comes to the selection of tunes and none more so than this hymn. Some will view Stainer's 'Love divine' as somewhat effete when compared to the opposition. Others with an appreciation of Stainer's contribution to Anglican church music will loyally support him, regarding 'Blaenwern' as 'too chapel'!



*Charles Wesley and Sir John Stainer.  
William Penfro Rowland's image cannot  
be found.*

## Caption competition



Quite a few publications (including the Church Times) run caption competitions. I thought that this photo was a marvellous opportunity to do the same. Please do have a go and let me have your suggested captions on a piece of paper together with your name by Sunday 18th May.

There is only one caption that is **not** allowed and it goes along the lines of 'So which one is the donkey?'

Just to encourage you, there will be a small prize.

*Jane Allen*