

LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf

Parish Magazine



50p

July 2011

Services

Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

Sundays

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

Weekdays

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer (Tue, Wed
Thurs & 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)

oOo

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.

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.



Plwyf Llandudno
Parish of Llandudno

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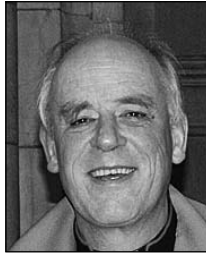
The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

From the Rectory

If you look at the calendar in this magazine you'll see that July is going to be quite a busy month in the parish with lots of interesting events of various kinds. May I draw your attention to one of these in particular?



On Sunday July 17th we shall be having a Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity during which the Sunday School Prize Giving ceremony will take place. The service will be followed by a 'bring and share' picnic (hopefully outside in the grounds) to which **everyone** is invited.

I hope that most members of the congregation at Holy Trinity will make an effort to stay on for this event. It's important that as a parish we mix socially from time to time as well as worship together; but it's especially important that we take the opportunity to meet our Sunday School leaders and their children. The only contact most members of the congregation have with the Sunday School is to see them briefly when they come to the altar at Communion week by week, or when they take part in a family service. Here is an opportunity to meet them socially and perhaps find out more about what goes on in the Hall on a Sunday morning when the rest of us are in church.

The children of the church, and those who look after them, are very impor-

tant. Our children are not to be seen as the church of the future (although we certainly hope that they will be!) but very much part of the church here and now. It is easy to shunt them off into their own little enclave and put them at

the back of our minds. Of course they need to have their own activities and worship in the Hall so that they experience the Christian faith in ways appropriate to their age. But I do feel that we need to come together in worship as a parish family more often, so that we can be visibly one body in Christ.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our Sunday School leaders and helpers, especially Julie, Sandy and Kristina. They are willing to give up their time week by week to care for our children and to nurture them in the name of Christ. They all have busy lives with many family and work commitments and yet manage to fit their Sunday School commitments into everything else that they have to do.

So do stay for the picnic on Sunday 17th and meet our Sunday School. Details of the arrangements for this event will appear in the bulletins in the weeks immediately before it.

I end my letter this month with an apology. During July events and commitments outside the parish will take

up a great deal of my time. Among these are my annual Walsingham Pilgrimage, a Conference, the Bishop's Visitation of the Cathedral and duties as a Diocesan Clergy selector. Normally 'outside' events like these are spaced out so that they do not interfere with parish life very much, but on this occasion eve-

rything seems to have come together. So I hope you will understand that for the next few weeks I will be unable to do more than what is essential in the parish. Thankfully August looks as if it will be very different!

Fr John

News and Notices

Gift Direct

Gift Direct is a direct debit scheme operated by the Church in Wales to allow parishioners to make regular donations to their own Parish:

- it means you, the giver are always in control;
- it is easier for the giver and the church;
- it means no frantic search for the correct money or hurried writing of cheques before church;
- it is reliable, as your gift arrives each month direct to your church's bank account; and
- it means Gift Aid can be claimed and paid direct to your church if you are a taxpayer. (BUT anyone can use the scheme whether a taxpayer or not).

For more information, please contact Stan Whittaker. tel. 596796.

Aircrew Association Standard Laid Up

The standard of the North Wales Coast Branch of the Aircrew Association which is being disbanded later this year has been laid up in the Memorial Chapel of Holy Trinity Church.

The standard had been entrusted to the care of the Church at choral matins on May 8th when the Chairman of the branch, Mr Arfon Evans, handed it to the Rector. The preacher at the service was the chaplain of the branch, the Rev Prebendary Bob Griffiths.



ACA standard in the Memorial Chapel.



Members of the Aircrew Association after their standard was handed over.



Carers UK Llandudno Branch at Holy Trinity on 15 June.

St. Tudnotide

We were blessed with a bright but breezy (well, pretty windy actually) day for the annual St. Tudno's Pilgrimage Walk, which this year took place on St. Tudno's Eve, Saturday 4 June. The Pilgrimage was timed to avoid the Three Castles classic car rally, which would be using St. Tudno's Road that afternoon, so we began with a short service at Holy Trinity at 4.00 pm. At different places, or 'Stations', during the



Pilgrims at Holy Trinity.



Resting at the ski-slope.

Pilgrimage we used some of the 'Psalms of Ascent', which are thought to have been used on pilgrimages to Jerusalem, beginning with Psalm 121.

Walking towards the pier it was good to see the Prom and beach crowded with people enjoying the sunshine, the beach and the Punch and Judy show. By the Grand Hotel we climbed the hill to our first Station at the Camera Obscura, from where we could look down on the town. Here we said Psalm 133

and prayers for the town which bears St. Tudno's name and for all who live or work in or who visit Llandudno.

We continued our climb through Happy Valley and past the ski slope, leaving behind the bustle of the town, to our second Station, overlooking the sea and St. Tudno's Church in the distance. Here we said Psalm 125 and thought and prayed about the beauty of the natural world around us, including a Jewish prayer which mentioned 'the beasts of the field', while a group of the Great Orme



At the camera obscura.
nanny goats looked on.

We visited St. Tudno's Well by kind permission of the landowners, descending through the field and then climbing up again to where the spring appears on the hillside. At the Well, Fr. John spoke about St. Tudno using the water for baptism and reminded us of our own baptism. Fr. John then blessed the water and signed each of us with a cross before pouring more of the water over our cupped hands.

Arriving at St. Tudno's Church we gathered in the chancel for a short service to complete the Pilgrimage, including the hymn We love the place O God, Psalm 122 and a reading from Genesis (28:11-12 & 16-17).

A number of us enjoyed a picnic tea in the churchyard before starting some preparations for the St. Tudno's Day service the next day. With the agreement of the Highways Department of Conwy County Borough Council we blocked off the bus turning circle outside the church, to enable the shuttle bus to turn there on the Sunday.

The wind was still blowing strongly on St. Tudno's Day but the sun had gone, there was some rain and it was rather cold, so the Parish Eucharist was held in the church rather than in the open air, as had been hoped. However, as Fr. John said, it meant that we were worshiping in St. Tudno's Church and all close together – very close together, actually, as we fitted in 104 people and even with

**St. Tudno's Church
Great Orme
PET BLESSING
SERVICE**

**Sunday 10 July at
4.00 pm**

**Open air, weather
permitting**

**All pets and their
owners welcome**

**Each pet will be
blessed individually**

bringing in a couple of benches there were a few people standing. It was lovely to welcome to St. Tudno's the choir and congregation of Holy Trinity, visitors and St. Tudno's regulars, while Alpine Coaches provided an efficient service carrying people between the two churches. The town of Llandudno was represented by the Mayor and Mayoress of Llandudno, Cllr and Mrs Robbins, and by Miss Alice Llandudno, Miss Nicol Thompson, and we were delighted to welcome them, too. For some of the Holy Trinity congregation this was their first visit to St. Tudno's and we hope that it will not be the last.



Counsellor and Mrs Robbins with Nichol Thompson.

The service included the prayer of the Friends of St. Tudno's Church and a



St. Tudno's Day Eucharist at St. Tudno's Church.

hymn by Madelaine Brady which can be adapted for local use and so begins: For St. Tudno's strong foundation, we sing your praise. The service ended with rousing singing of Lord, for the years, after which the Friends of St. Tudno's served tea, coffee and home-made cakes.

Many thanks to everyone involved in both days, for making this a wonderful celebration of St. Tudnotide.

Christine Jones

At St. Tudno's in July

The open air services continue at 11.00 am each Sunday and a taxi for these leaves Holy Trinity at 10.30 am. On the first Sunday in the Month, the open air service is followed by a shortened Eucharist service in the church. There will be a service of Compline by Candlelight at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 July. The popular Pet Blessing service will be on Sunday 10 July at 4.00 pm. Weather permitting, the service will be in the open air and all pets and their owners are welcome. On Tuesday 12 July we welcome members of the Bangor and St. Asaph Society of Catholic Priests for their Concelebrated Eucharist service at 7.00 pm. The main celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Gregory of St. Asaph and everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you at St. Tudno's.

***Christine Jones
Stephanie Searle***

St. Tudno's Opening 2011

St. Tudno's is open every day from the beginning of April till the end of October, thanks to a team of volunteers who each have a regular day of the week (over winter, the church is open weekends, Wednesdays and bank holidays). The openers swap around and do 'turns' for each other as required but it is still helpful to have some reserve openers to call on, for instance if two of the regulars are away at the same time. Would you like to join our team as a reserve? The duties are quite simple: unlock the church in the morning and put out the 'open' sign (and perhaps check that the windows are all intact); in the evening say any prayers in the Prayer Requests book, tidy up if necessary, bring in the sign and lock up. Times are flexible but we hope to have the church open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, though the opening hours can extend as the days lengthen. Please speak to one of us if you are interested in being an opener.

***Christine Jones
Stephanie Searle***

Friends of St. Tudno's

The Friends were busy at St. Tudnotide, as several took part in the Pilgrimage and the St. Tudno's Day service, while all the preparation for, and clearing up after, the service was performed by the Friends. The Friends are continuing to raise funds for St. Tudno's roof and on

Saturday 27 August we will be holding a fair at Holy Trinity. To make this a success, we would be grateful for any books, plants, bric-a-brac, raffle prizes, etc that you are able to donate. After services at St. Tudno's the Friends sell their special souvenirs, including Christmas cards (I realise that it's a bit early to start thinking about Christmas but some of our visitors come only once a year). There will be two designs available: the candlelit sanctuary and, new for this year, St. Tudno's in the snow with moonlight on the sea.

The Friends outing will be on Saturday 16 July and we will be going to visit one of St. Tudno's brothers, St. Tudclud, following an invitation from the Rector of St. Tudclud's in Penmachno. On the way we will be visiting Ty Mawr Wybrant, home of Bishop Morgan who first translated the Bible into Welsh, and Conwy Falls. As we will be travelling in cars places are not limited, so any parishioners who would like to join us would be very welcome. This year's Great Orme walk will be on Saturday 6 August and will be a natural history walk, led by one of the Country Park Wardens.

Please contact me if you are interested in anything to do with the Friends.

Christine Jones (Secretary)

Exploring Worship

Our 2010-2011 season of Exploring Worship services has finished. The

next EW service will be at 6.00 pm on Sunday 11 September and thereafter on the second Sunday of each month.

Exploring Worship, held in the church hall, is less formal than other services at Holy Trinity. Team led, each service is different and uplifting. Everyone is invited to attend.



The team that produced the service on 12 June.

Mothers' Union

On June the 14th the evening group met for a takeaway dinner and a film presentation. We started with prayers led by the Rev Jane Allen to whom we offer thanks.

The Bishop of Lango was scheduled



Members enjoy their takeaway dinner.

to visit the afternoon group on June 20th. Unfortunately, members of his group had visa problems so the visit has been delayed. Fortunately, the Rev Philip Hughes, the Rector of Llanfairpwch and Llanddaniel fab was able to fill in at short notice and gave a wonderful talk on the meaningful possessions collected during his life.

We also welcomed Diocesan President Kath Broadbent and her predecessor Mary Salmon. Betty Dodd presented our guests with sunflowers to mark our gratitude. Afternoon tea followed: thanks to Angela and Shirley for their help.

The next meeting of the afternoon group is a quiz on July 11. Glenis Roberts will be the quizmaster. Do come and join in the fun.

The evening group will next meet on September 13 for a Eucharist and Social Evening.

Calendars of events for 2011-2012 have been distributed. There is a slight amendment in that the Advent carols are now to be held on the 12th December, not the 19th.

Join Sarah on the Dawn Walk

Sarah knows what a positive difference St David's Hospice made to her Father's final days. The care received by Bob, and the whole family, will stay with her forever. As her way of saying thank you, she will walk the 9-mile route for this

year's St. David's Hospice Dawn Walk.

'When Dad was in the Hospice, I was eight and a half months pregnant but nothing was too much to ask of the nursing staff. We all felt supported. Dad felt safe and was happy. The Hospice is the place where he chose to die. We now know that over 75% of funding for the Hospice is raised through the community and this makes me determined to continue to support St. David's in all that they do.'

Early mornings are now familiar for Sarah who has a beautiful baby boy, Bobby, named after her father. On Sunday, August 14th, she will meet hundreds of other women at Aberconwy School, Conwy at 4.15am and walk with them as the dawn breaks, remembering her Dad and raising vital funds for the charity.

Please join Sarah – and help St. David's Hospice continue to provide free end of life care for adults with terminal illnesses across North West Wales.

Please sign up now and join Sarah to help make a difference.

How to register:

Please call 01492 873664 for a registration form or visit www.stdavidshospice.org.uk/article/78 to download a copy

Please register before Monday 25th July to confirm your place. Congratulations if you have already signed up. We so look forward to seeing you there!

Marie Lidgett & Wendy Clark

2011 Sea Sunday – July 10th

Did you know that last year over 1,000 people were taken hostage by pirates? In the first quarter of this year the number of ships attacked was greater than ever before and with the killing of at least two seafarers by pirates, the international community's attention is once again being turned to the pirate-infested waters of the Indian Ocean.

'There's a feeling among seafarers that they are left on their own when transiting these waters,' says the Revd Michael Sparrow, the Mission's chaplain in the Kenyan port of Mombasa. 'Many crews have told me that they do not see the navy ships that are supposed to be protecting them when they're out at sea which is contributing to the loneliness and trepidation that they already feel.'

For The Mission to Seafarers, dealing with victims of piracy is high on the list of the services it offers to mariners, not just those visiting nearby ports in the hotspot region, but in all its 230 presences around the world. From Mombasa to Melbourne, Halifax Nova Scotia to Hull – our chaplains provide a friendly welcome and access to a vital support network for seafarers who are worried about this menace which is threatening the world's shipping industry with greater intensity.

'I find that my main ministry regarding piracy is to the crews who have to sail



through the danger zones,' says Michael. 'Seafarers do want to talk about their fears and I make myself available to them, both when visiting them on board their ships or when they come to the seafarers' centre.'

In the piracy hotspots from the Arabian Gulf to South East Asia to the West Coast of Africa, our chaplains are trained in post-traumatic stress disorder and counselling skills, and are often one of the first people a released crew will see after they have completed the formalities required by the authorities.

Just recently, 24 Kenyan seafarers visited Michael at the seafarers' centre to get help and advice after a four-month detention by pirates after the ship they were working on was hijacked off the coast of Somalia.

'Once the vessel had docked and the formalities were over,' said Michael, 'I immediately went to visit the crew to offer the services of The Mission to Seafarers. The crew were naturally pleased to be released and reunited with their loved ones, but from my conversations with them, it became clear

that they had been forced to spend their captivity sailing across the Indian Ocean acting as a mother vessel which was used by the pirates to attack more ships further out to sea.

‘One of the seafarers told me that he was assaulted with a weapon because he could not make the pirates understand that they were low on fuel. Another told me that the seafarers had to fish for food to supplement their diet because they only had limited stores on board.’

For those who have survived months in captivity, the sight of a Mission to Seafarers’ chaplain on the dockside is a welcome sight. We provide them with what they desperately need – a friend they can rely on and a safe environment for them to recover, talk about their experience and make vital contact with home.

But of course, it’s not just seafarers who are the only victims of piracy. Very often their families are kept in the dark because companies fear passing sensitive information across. In Tuticorin, South India, for example, our chaplain is a regular visitor to families of captured seafarers, reassuring them of his prayers and providing whatever assistance as may be needed – from providing grants to keep children in school, to lobbying government and shipping company officials for information and to secure a swift release.

We are only able to do this work, however, because of the vital support that

we receive from people and churches. As the Church of England’s official mission agency to mariners, The Mission to Seafarers reaches out with a message of love, hope and support in a harsh and often inhospitable environment. From providing piracy support, to regularly visiting ships in port, our chaplains and ship visitors are always waiting on the quayside to provide a welcome and support to seafarers whose time ashore is often heavily restricted and limited.

In over 100 ports, the Mission operates seafarers’ centres which operate around the clock offering access to telephone, email and pastoral support. In a further 130 we have mobile ministries – chaplains who daily visit the ships, taking on board laptops and mobile phones so that a seafarer can call home and let his loved ones know that he is safe and well.

This year we are continuing to be where the ships and the seafarers are. Plans are afoot to open in key Asian hubs as the demand for seafarers’ centres increases. This though, can only happen because of the support we get from people like you.

So thank you for supporting The Mission to Seafarers – your support is vital and we really do appreciate it.

For more information about our work or to make a donation, visit: www.missiontoseafarers.org, call 020 7248 5202 or donate online at <http://www.justgiving.com/SeaSunday2011>

Calendar for July

All events are held in Holy Trinity or Holy Trinity church hall unless indicated otherwise.

Sun 3rd Trinity 2/St.Thomas the Apostle

Services as usual for the 1st Sunday

12.30 pm Holy Baptism

Tues 5th 10.00 am *'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris*

7.30 pm Compline by Candlelight at St.Tudno's

Sun 10th Trinity 3 (Sea Sunday)

Morning services as usual for the 2nd Sunday

1.00 pm Drumhead Service to mark the 90th

Anniversary of the Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion

4.00 pm Pet Blessing Service at St.Tudno's

No 5.00 pm Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity

Tues 12th 7.00 pm Concelebrated Eucharist for the Society of Catholic Priests at St.Tudno's. The preacher will be the Bishop of St.Asaph.

Thurs 14th 7.30 pm Concert by University of Warwick Chamber Choir

Sat 15th Friends of St.Tudno's Church – Pilgrimage to Penmachno (for details see separate article)

Sun 17th Trinity 4/Pentecost 5

All services at usual times for the 3rd Sunday.

At 10.30 am there will be a Family Eucharist with Sunday School Prizegiving. After the service there will be a bring and share picnic to which all members of the congregation are invited. Please see weekly bulletins for further details.

12.30 pm Holy Baptism

Fri 22nd **Mary Magdalene**

11.00 am Holy Eucharist

Sun 24th Trinity 5 (Mayor's Sunday)

Services at usual times for the 4th Sunday. Our new Mayor, Cllr Greg Robbins will be joining us at the Sung Eucharist. The preacher at this service will be

the Mayor's Chaplain, Fr Phillip Barratt

Mon 25th James, Apostle

11.00 am Holy Eucharist

Sun 31st Trinity 6/Pentecost 7

Services at the usual times for the 5th Sunday

Attendance Figures for May

Holy Trinity

May 1st	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	17
Easter 2	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	89
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
		Other weekday Eucharists	29
May 8th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Easter 3	10.30 am	Choral Matins and laying up of the Air Crew Association Standard	102
	12.45 pm	Shortened Eucharist	21
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	6
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	35
		Other weekday Eucharists	28
May 15th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	16
Easter 4	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Confirmation	128
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4
		Other weekday Eucharists	27
May 22nd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	16
Easter 5	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	88
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	7
		Other weekday Eucharists	39
May 29th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	16
Easter 6	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	95
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayers	5
		Other weekday Eucharists	6

St. Tudno's

May 29th	11.00 am	Morning Service	19
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Sidespersons

July 3rd	William Maidlow Mary Rees Wendy C Stewart Joyce Crosby	July 24th Civic Sunday	Pat Ridler Doug Pritchard Barbara Yates Mary Rees Stan Whittaker Joyce Crosby
July 10th	Dorothy Trent Ron Illidge Annabel Jones Vernon Morris	July 31st	William Maidlow Judith Williams Wendy C Stewart Ron Illidge
July 17th	Sandra Davies Angela Pritchard Terry Dewar Adele Arrowsmith	August 7th	Barbara Yates Eira Jones Annabel Jones Adele Arrowsmith

PARISH REGISTER

Holy Baptism

May 29th: Alana Nicole Owen

May 29th: Lewis Jakob Abed-Jones

Holy Matrimony

*May 14th: David Philip Gale and Cher Nadine
James-Owen*

The Departed

*May 20th: Howell Williams aged 67
Service at Holy Trinity Church followed by burial
at the Lawns Cemetery*

Bracken – Boon or Bane?

I could have chosen a number of different flowers for this month but the plant which dominates large areas of our countryside at this time is a fern: bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

In spring, bracken fronds push up through the ground, sometimes forming hoop and loops until the tip emerges, as shown in the photo. The tips of the leaves are initially tightly curled and are often called ‘crosiers’, ‘shepherd’s crooks’ or ‘ram’s horns’. The leaves unfurl to a typical fern leaf which is divided into smaller and smaller sections, called ‘pinna’, ‘pinules’ and ‘pinulets’ with successive subdivisions. As summer progresses the leaves darken and patches, or ‘stands’, of bracken can be



Bracken Fronds in Autumn.



Bracken pinules and pinulets.

seen from a long distance, often on the slopes of hills such as the ffriddoedd, or sheep walks, above the A55 between Conwy and Bangor. Like other ferns, bracken reproduces by spores which form on the undersides of the leaves and these may be produced in late summer. In autumn the fronds begin to die back and the colour of the hills changes from green to bronze.

There are some extensive stands of bracken on the Great Orme, for example on the hill above St. Tudno’s Church shown in the photo, and some of these stands might be, biologically,

single plants. Spores may introduce bracken to new areas but bracken generally spreads by the rhizomes, or underground stems, which provide its winter survival. There has been quite a lot of research on the question of 'how big is a bracken plant?' and up to 300 m across seems to be a typical answer, though one report from the United States has recorded plants just over 1 km across! Genetic studies, rather like DNA fingerprinting, have also shown that two or more plants can intermingle within a stand.

Species of bracken occur in all continents except Antarctica and anywhere except in very cold, wet or dry conditions. It is thought that bracken originated as a woodland plant and so it is suggested that present stands of bracken may show where woodland occurred in the past.

The presence of bracken may also be an indicator of particularly good soil conditions and there is apparently a Welsh saying *Newyn dan y grug, Arian dan yr eithin, Aur dan y rhedyn* (Famine under the heather, Silver under the gorse, Gold under the bracken). In



Bracken emerging.

sheltered areas bracken may grow to 2 m or more in height but its height is restricted in exposed situations, so the bracken on the Great Orme is generally shorter than this.

In the past, bracken has been used in various ways, for example the rhizome as a source of starch and the fronds for thatch, animal bedding or manure, and in some parts of the UK harvesting of bracken was controlled to maintain a crop for future seasons. However, bracken now tends to be regarded as a weed which should be controlled. Over the past 200 years bracken has been spreading as the plant has not been utilised and changes in grazing practices have resulted in less trampling by livestock, which used to restrict its growth.



Bracken unfurling.

Although bracken is used by some insects and birds, stands of bracken are generally regarded as being rather poor habitat in terms of other species of plants and animals and its invasion of grazing land can be problematic. Bracken is unlikely to be eaten by stock animals unless other food sources are scarce but it does contain chemicals which are suggested to be toxic or carcinogenic, while the spores have also been suggested to be carcinogenic. Furthermore, bracken can harbour sheep ticks which can transmit diseases to sheep and Lyme disease to humans. (A tip if you are unlucky enough to be attacked by a tick and are not equipped for removing ticks from pets: don't try to pull it off, as the mouth parts get left behind and can cause infections. Instead, go to the pet shop or vet and get a special tool for the job – it's well worth it!)

So, is bracken a boon or a bane? This fascinating plant is very much a part

of our natural landscape, unlike other invasive plants such as rhododendron, and in some areas bracken can increase species diversity rather than decreasing it. On the Great Orme, which has only small areas of woodland, a number of woodland plants thrive under the bracken. For example, wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non scripta*) all grow amongst the bracken, flowering before the fronds have expanded and then benefitting from the shade and shelter as they would in a woodland. Without the bracken we would probably have few of these lovely flowers on the Great Orme.

There is a considerable body of research on bracken but I have made good use here of the following review: Marrs, R.H. & Watt, A.S. (2006), *Journal of Ecology*, 94, 1272-1321.

Christine Jones

The Parish Share or 'Quota' for 2010 is £76111

The Quota is the sum of money that we have to contribute to pay the stipends of our clergy. For some years, we have partially paid the Quota from our reserves. This is ultimately unsustainable and it is imperative that we maximise our giving.

If you are able, 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 regular giving and donations as 'Gift Aid' so HM Customs and Revenue might refund to us the tax you paid on earning your gift.

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)



More tea, Vicar?

This question, traditionally used in an attempt to lighten the atmosphere after a social indiscretion has certainly entered English usage. But why 'Vicar'? An Internet search reveals over 200,000 hits on the phrase whereas 'More tea, Bishop?' attracts 1600 hits, 'More tea, Minister?' attracts 71 results, and 'More tea, Rector?' a measly 5 hits.

Nowadays in the CofE and CinW, with all stipends being paid by the dioceses, the terms rector and vicar when applied to a priest in charge of a parish are generally synonymous though not interchangeable. Nevertheless, a clergyman or woman is likely to be addressed as 'Vicar' when his or her status is unknown. The difference is entirely historic and depends upon the way tithes were distributed in medieval parishes.

Tithes were levied on the personal and agricultural output of parishes. The 'greater' tithes were levied upon wheat, hay and wood and the 'lesser' tithes were levied on everything else. A rector received both the greater and lesser tithes. If a parish was attached to a monastery, the monastery itself was the rector and vicars were priests appointed to minister to the parish. Typically, vicars would receive the lesser tithes only. At the time of the Reformation, monastic lands were distributed amongst the gentry who become lay

rectors with the power to appoint vicars. Because rectors received both greater and lesser tithes, they were historically better off than vicars and their status was thus elevated.

Technically, the 'curate' of a parish is the priest in charge. What we now know as 'curates' are 'assistant curates'. Some parishes were either too small or isolated to have either rectors or vicars and the priests in charge were termed 'perpetual curates'. A perpetual curate held the living in perpetuity and could only be removed by his licensor, usually the bishop. They were paid from diocesan funds. Rectors, vicars and perpetual curates were the representatives of the authority of the Church and were collectively known as 'parsons' though the term was generally used by perpetual curates to distinguish them from assistant curates.

As more parishes were created in Victorian times, then the new parish priests were perpetual curates. Some parishes became very wealthy and affluent and many perpetual curates were very influential. An Act of Parliament in 1868 allowed perpetual curates to assume the title of vicar. From that time, the term of parson fell into disuse. So the distinction between vicars and rectors is historic though reorganisation with benefices and combined parishes with team ministries muddies the water.

Coffee Time

Cryptics (thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright).

All initial letters 'G'

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Inferior kind of knot, relatively speaking (6) | |
| 2. Organised in an imposing setting. (9) | |
| 3. She was found in a broken grate. (5) | |
| 4. Get Ray to spin around. (6) | |
| 5. Cook eats duck and a great ape. (7) | |
| 6. Get a dog, and lose nothing to show the device (6) | |
| 7. Learned that the Communist was to follow the
General Assembly. (8) | |
| 8. Brilliant conclusion of a stratagem. (3) | |
| 9. Where driving lessons take place. (4, 6) | |
| 10. Gear to brag about. (4) | |
| | Results for last month: |
| | 1. Resort |
| | 2. Minorca |
| | 3. Barmouth |
| | 4. Canary Islands |
| | 5. Tampa |
| | 6. Paris |
| | 7. Oporto |
| | 8. Oban |
| | 9. Florida |
| | 10. Skiing |