

LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf

Parish Magazine



50p

November 2012

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

© 2012 Rectorial Benefice of
Llandudno

Registered Charity 1131171
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

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

From the Rectory

Over the last few months it has been fascinating to read the various letters and comments regarding the possible removal of the pews in Holy Trinity Church and the wider debate about the re-ordering of the church to make it more suitable for worship in the 21st century. These topics have certainly stirred up passionate feelings!

Let me make one thing clear – there is no possibility that the pews in the nave will be replaced by chairs in the foreseeable future! Whatever the pros and cons of either form of seating we simply couldn't afford to buy enough replacement chairs! Having said that, there may be some mileage in the idea of removing just the pews in the side aisles which are only used two or three times a year. This would de-clutter the



church and provide space for exhibitions, make it easier to do the Stations of the Cross, have a better space for a children's area etc. We would need to buy some new chairs for use on the few occasions when they would be needed

– chairs which could be stacked when not in use.

As far as re-ordering the church so that clergy, choir and congregation are closer together during worship – this is something I think we do need to give consideration to in the run-up to our 150th anniversary in 2015. Surely an anniversary such as this provides us with an excellent opportunity to think about the future of our parish church as well as its past. So the 150th Planning Group will certainly be considering whether to include it among their suggestions for the 2015 celebrations.

Do be assured however, no plans will be furthered without full consultation with everyone. Membership of the 150th Planning Group is open to all members of our congregation so if you want to be part of this process you would be very welcome to come along. Meanwhile I think every-



Fantastic news!! I've got top billing in the *Good Bier Guide!*

one has had plenty of opportunity to comment on the 'pews' issue and so hopefully we can draw that particular controversy to an end!

As the Planning Group looks to the future and formulate its proposals – it will be reporting to the PCC next year – what we can all do as a parish is – to pray! We can plan all we like but unless

we are open to God's will for us then we will be wasting our time – *'Unless the Lord builds the house; those who build it labour in vain.'* (Psalm 127:1). I believe that we should deepen the prayer life of the parish and am proposing that we make 2013 a special year of prayer. More of this very soon!

Fr John

News and Notices

The Llandudno Showplayers

We are delighted to announce that the Llandudno Showplayers are to perform at Holy Trinity throughout the 2013 summer season. The Showplayers are a very successful group and have been performing for some years at Gloddaeth United Church. They approached us because they needed somewhere larger in which to perform. Our agreement is for an initial 'trial' period of two years to be renewed if both they and we are happy with the arrangement. Their concerts will be on Wednesday evenings.

Arllechwedd Deanery News

We are delighted to welcome the Revd Janice Brown to our deanery. She will be inducted as incumbent of the new parish of Dwylan on Monday 19th November. Dwylan is one of the new Mission Areas being set up in our Diocese (see my letter in the Octo-

ber magazine) and is the first in our deanery. It is an amalgamation of the former parishes of Llanfairfechan and Dwygyfylchi. We ask for God's blessing both on Janice and on the people of the parish as they set out on a new journey of faith.

At the Deanery Conference held at Holy Trinity last month, we welcomed our new Archdeacon, Paul Davies. Archdeacon Paul spoke to us of his own journey of faith and of how he was now settling in to a new life in the Diocese of Bangor. He encouraged us to attend the forthcoming meeting at the Cathedral to discuss the Church in Wales Review Report. He also commended a book called *The Healthy Churches Handbook* by Robert Warren which gives seven marks by which healthy church may be distinguished: They will be 1 – Energized by faith; 2 – have an outward looking focus into their community; 3 – be seeking to find out what God wants of them; 4 – be facing the cost of change

and growth; 5 - operate as a community; 6 – make room for all; and 7 – Doing a few things but doing them well. Lots to think about there!

Fr John

Madge Owen

Madge will be 97 years old on 8th November this year. She has been a faithful member of both Holy Trinity and St. George's churches all her life and was a member of the choir at St. George's until it closed several years' ago.

Madge is now housebound but still receives Communion regularly from Fr. John. She is always keen to keep up to date with what is going on in church by receiving the weekly bulletins and the Parish Magazine. She is an amazing lady and we would like to wish her many Happy Returns of the day. Love from all your church family

Jennifer Fossi

Conwy Food Share

Conwy Food Share has registered for the Daily PostWish 12 campaign where organisations in the community are given a share of £25,000. The amount given depends on the number of tokens collected and sent in for that organisation. If you or anyone you know reads the Daily Post please could you consider saving the tokens for us?

The first tokens were issued on

October 2nd, there were 20 bonus tokens on Thursday 4th, and there will be tokens every day until November 19th. We will be collecting the tokens at the address below or if you contact us nearer the time, we could possibly collect them.

We have almost no expenses so any money received would be used to buy food for our parcels. September was our busiest month ever and included 21 parcels delivered to families with a total of 50 children so there is a real need for the service in this community.

Kind regards
Conwy Food Share

Thank you

I would like to say a big thank you to my Church friends who sent me cards, gifts and messages on my 90th birthday.

A special thank you to the Rector for the kind words he wrote about me in the October magazine. I was very touched by the article and especially surprised to see my photograph in print.

Eileen Joyce

Coffee Morning Team Notes

On Wednesday, 4 October, our Coffee Morning Team, including friends and supporters, enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea at the Queen's Hotel. It was a happy and relaxed afternoon following the

16 coffee mornings that we were able to hold – fewer than usual due to the re-roofing of the Hall.

The tea consisted of a beautiful array of sandwiches, scones and jam plus as much cream as you wished, followed by fabulous cream cakes – all very naughty but nice. Gwen Robinson also donated a raffle prize which was won by Joan Jones. Thank you Gwen for your continued support. We had a few cancellations due to the weather etc, but all present had a thoroughly enjoyable and relaxing afternoon. Many thanks to David and staff at the Queen's Hotel.

Dorothy Trent

St. Tudno's News

Sunday 9th September – the weather so far this weekend had been wonderful and with the forecast being good we knew the service would be outside. However, as soon as the service started the sky clouded considerably and quite a breeze crept up. Revd Mike Harrison led the service, accompanied by Pauline Bigby on keyboard. The readings and address were on the theme of rich people's attitudes to the poor, as in the story of the Syrophenician woman in Mark's Gospel.

The weather was wet on Sunday 16th September but the congregation was still 30 and the service was led by Fr. John and accompanied by Denis Cartwright on the organ. The theme of the readings from the letter of John and the

address was on the impact of the words we choose to say in everyday life.

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St. Tudno's Church was held on Saturday 22nd September. It began at 11.00 am with a service at St. Tudno's led by Bishop Andrew, Patron of the Friends. A delicious meal followed at the Queen's Hotel. The highlight of the meeting was a slide show spectacular photographs of scenery of the Great Orme, together with pictures of all the events in the last year. The slide show also included beautiful photographs of flowers on the Orme, such as the green winged orchid. One or two slides of our goats obviously crept in as well!



On Sunday 23rd September the weather was quite cold but we had an enjoyable service outside. The service was led by Revd Derek Simpson, accompanied by Pauline on the keyboard. The reading and address was on the special, simple faith of a child. In the afternoon, we were pleased to welcome members of Soroptomists International to St. Tudno's, for a service to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

The last morning service of the season was on Sunday 30th September – a wild and windy day. Revd Peter Plunkett led the service accompanied by Pauline on the organ and the readings and address were on the theme of suffering and faith.

In the afternoon of 30th September St. Tudno's held its first Harvest Festival for 24 years. The church was decorated with flower arrangements, arrangements of foliage and food and an arrangement of mussel shells to represent our local harvest of the sea. The service was led by Fr. John, accompanied by Denis on the organ and with a congregation of 30. The service was a great success, with many gifts of food for Conwy Food Share laid before the altar during the service. Tea, coffee and homemade pies and cakes were served after the service.

The next Sunday service at St. Tudno's will be the All Saintside service at 11.00 am on 4th November. There is no



Harvest decorations at St. Tudno's (and previous page).

heating in the church but the welcome will be warm and hot drinks will be served after the service.

Shirley Georgeson
Stephanie Searle

Thank you

We would like to thank you all very much for the very generous food donations that you gave to Conwy Food Share from your recent Harvest Festivals.

We get referrals from different sources every day and it is important to us to have the stock to be able to fulfil these requests, as the people we help are in desperate situations.



Gwilym Davies with the donations at Conwy Food Share.

Our figures show that we are giving many more parcels than this time last year and a much larger proportion of these parcels are for families - we gave 21 family parcels in September and a total of 50 children were included in these families.

Thank you again on behalf of Conwy Food Share, but also thank you for helping the people in our community who are in need.

Your generosity is much appreciated.

Conwy Foodshare

Friends of St. Tudno's Church

Shirley has written about the worship and social side of our AGM but we did do some business as well! The Committee members were all re-elected and Eurig presented an interim financial statement. The Friends were thanked for all their efforts which had enabled the church to be re-roofed this year. Fundraising for future projects was discussed and the screen doors and window coverings were suggested as items in need of attention. Possible events for 2013 were discussed and the Committee will be putting together the programme.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the working party on 13 October. The benches were put away, the shed tidied, the church cleaned, the churchyard cleared of litter and the wobbly headstones checked – and there was

even time for coffee and cakes.

The Friends' Christmas cards will be on sale at the parish Christmas Fair. This year's design features the lovely Nativity set knitted for St. Tudno's by Barbara Cartwright.

Perhaps you've been thinking about joining the Friends but haven't yet got around to it. There are membership forms in both churches or available via the Friends' page on the parish website. Membership costs just £10 per household per year and the membership fee helps to support St. Tudno's. Some Friends are able to join in the various activities, others like to keep in touch with St. Tudno's through the Friends' newsletter. This is published three times a year and as well as news on St. Tudno's includes articles on the church and the Great Orme and the popular "Goat's Eye View" – written in turn by "Bertie", "Freddie" and "Nia", our rather idiosyncratic and opinionated "contributors"!

Christine Jones

Books of Sponsors

The Books of Sponsors for Sponsora-Slate at St. Tudno's Church have now been placed in the Parish Archive at Holy Trinity. If you would like to look at the books to read the many interesting messages or to see your entry, please arrange with one of the Wardens to view the books after a service.

Thank you

Thank you very much to everyone who has helped at St. Tudno's during the past season: the clergy, organists, all who attended services and those who prepared for the services, took part in services or cleared away afterwards; those who helped at working parties, organised the taxi or gave lifts, provided or arranged flowers or cleaned the church; the team of openers, those who have helped with publicity and the volunteer who did some additional grass cutting. Thanks too, to the Friends of St. Tudno's Church for all their help, support and fundraising – it's good to have Friends!

Stephanie, Shirley and Christine

St. Tudno's joins the smart phone age

You will all be familiar with the "stripey" bar codes used to scan goods in supermarkets, etc., and perhaps you've begun to notice an increasing number of "square" bar codes. The frame of the notice board by St. Tudno's church door now boasts a pair of these but are they for? These "square" codes are known as QR, or quick response, codes and are designed for use with "smart" phones – mobile phones with internet connections and some computing abilities. Using a special computer programme, or "app" (short for an "application"), a smart phone user can take a picture of the QR code with the phone's camera.



The QR code may then provide information or a link to a website.

The top code at St. Tudno's provides some brief information on the church and the bottom one provides a link to the History Points website. The parish was invited by Llandudno & Colwyn Bay History Society to take part in the History Points project, which provides information on places of historic interest. The entry on St. Tudno's gives the history of the church, a link to

our parish website and a list of other places in Llandudno which are part of the project, including Holy Trinity and St. George's Churches. QR codes are easy to produce and if you look out for them you'll see them appearing on parish posters, too.

Christine Jones

Christmas Fayre

I would like to make a request for help and donations for goods, raffle prizes and cakes for the Christmas Fayre which is to be held on Saturday 17 November. Thank you.

Judith Williams

Details of the Fayre can be seen on the back outside cover – Ed.

The next 'Messy Church' will be on Sunday, November 4 at 2:30 pm.

Sunday Rota

4th November

Reader Eileen Box
 Sidepersons Wendy C-Stewart
 Eira Jones
 William Maidlow
 Marion Heald
 Eucharistic Ministers Maggie Leitch
 Angela Pritchard

William Maidlow
 Judith Williams
 Wendy C-Stewart
 Eucharistic Ministers Stan Whittaker
 John Ridler

11th November

Readers Pat Ridler
 Sidepersons Dorothy Trent
 Stan Whittaker
 Annabel Jones
 Joyce Crosby
 Ben Edwards
 Vernon Morris
 Eucharistic Ministers Marion Heald
 John Ridler

25th November

Reader Eileen Box
 Sidepersons Barbara Yates
 Cynthia Poyser
 Ron Illidge
 Eira Jones
 Eucharistic Ministers Maggie Leitch
 Angela Pritchard

18th November

Reader Angela Pritchard
 Sidepersons Doug Pritchard

2nd December

Reader Stephanie Searle
 Sidepersons Cath Lloyd
 Joyce Crosby
 Stan Whittaker
 Marion Heald
 Eucharistic Ministers Lynn Ferriday
 Marion Heald

Attendance Figures

Holy Trinity Church

September 1st		Weekday Eucharist	5
September 2nd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Trinity 13	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	83
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	7
		Other weekday Eucharists	29
September 9th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Trinity 14	10.30 am	Choral Matins	65
		Shortened Holy Eucharist	14 + 2
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	2
		Other weekday Eucharists	22

September 16th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Trinity 15	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	82
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4
		Other weekday Eucharists	13
September 23rd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	20
Trinity 16	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	93
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
		Other weekday Eucharists	32
September 30th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	11
Trinity 17	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	86
		No Evening Prayer	

St. Tudno's Church

September 2nd	11.00 am	Morning Service	26
	11.45 am	Shortened Eucharist	17
September 9th	11.00 am	Morning Service	37
Tue 11th	7.30 pm	Compline by Candlelight	14
September 16th	11.00 am	Morning Service	30
Sat 22nd	11.00 am	Friends' Eucharist	25
September 23rd	11.00 am	Morning Service	21
	3.00 pm	Soroptomists' Service for Peace	23
September 30th	11.00 am	Morning Service	19
	4.00 pm	Harvest Festival	31

Calendar for November

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

Thurs 1st	All Saints' Day		
	11.00 am	Eucharist	
	7.30 pm	Eucharist	
	8.00 pm	150th Anniversary Planning Group meeting	
Fri 2nd	All Souls' Day	(Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)	
	11.00 am	Requiem Eucharist	
	7.30 pm	Requiem Eucharist	

Sun 4th	Kingdom 1	Services as usual for the 1st Sunday with the addition of: 11.00 am All Saintside service at St. Tudno's 12.30 pm Holy Baptism 2.30 pm Messy Church
Tues 6th		10.00 am <i>'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris</i>
Thurs 8th		11.15 am Childrens' & Young Families Group meeting 7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Sun 11th	Kingdom 2/Remembrance Day	



		8.00 am Holy Eucharist 9.45 am Civic Remembrance Service 10.55 am Act of Remembrance & Eucharist 5.00 pm Evening Prayer 6.00 pm Exploring Worship Service (in Hall)
Weds 14th		7.30 pm Friends of St. Tudno's Church Committee Meeting
Thurs 15th		10.00 am Eucharist at Ysgol san Siôr (No 11.00 am Eucharist at Holy Trinity today)
Sat 17th		10.00 am Parish Christmas Fayre
Sun 18th	Kingdom 3	Services as usual for the 3rd Sunday with the addition of: 12.30 am Holy Baptism
Sun 25th	Christ the King (Kingdom 4)	Services as usual for the 4th Sunday
Fri 30th	Andrew, Apostle	11.00 am Eucharist

Harvest at Holy Trinity





Reordering and Seating (Views from the Pews)

After all the talk of changing our pews for chairs I would like to add a few thoughts to the discussion.

The modern wooden church chairs we would want would be well upholstered, would link together into rows, (as required by fire regulations) and would have a book box on the back for our books. You may rest assured they would be far more comfortable than the pews could ever be; they would be colour-matched to the carpets, and look warmer and more modern in style.

However, the cost would run to about £40,000 to refurnish the whole church to this high standard, money we might raise but not in the immediate future. We must also bear in mind our use of our funds when people in the third world are dying of hunger.

The last point is that chairs would be virtually no more flexible in use than the pews because of the raised wooden floor area where the seating goes. This is 4mm higher than the stone floor of the aisles. Little freedom of use could be organised without re-flooring the whole church. I think we had better think again later.

Whilst thinking about bringing a beautiful Victorian church into a format more in line with twenty first century thinking there is a hair-brained scheme I would consider for some time in the

future. (Call it cathedral style.)

Bring the St. George's altar, pavement candles, Bishop and servers' seating down into the chancel to above the chancel steps and move the choir pews to below the lectern facing across the aisle.

We then fit a rood screen across the chancel just level with the organ. This would be low enough to allow the east windows to be seen from the nave. It should have a large crucifix on centre top and arches either side of it to allow access into the old sanctuary area.

The high altar and its reredos would remain as they are and would have two rows of chairs before it behind the rood screen and either side of the altar, seating about 20 people. We might even call this 'St. George's Chapel'.

This arrangement would bring the Eucharist down to the congregation, retain the existing beauty of the sanctuary roof and windows, put the choir nearer the congregation to lead the prayers and singing and still keep the altar and priest high up enough to be seen from the back of the nave. Just a passing thought.

Peter La Trobe (Warden)

From the Parish Pump

Prisons Week 2012

Prison Fellowship (England & Wales) will be relying on its community of volunteers, supporters and friends this month to get behind Prisons Week 2012 in November (18-24).

For more than 30 years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable Christians, whether as individuals or in churches, to pray for the needs of prisoners, their families, victims of crime and the many people who are involved in caring for prisoners.

The 2012 theme is 'Taking the Path to Life' which is taken from Psalm 16. The aim is to look at ways in which the



'It's funny that the only times you ever get down on your knees to pray is whenever the rector scans the congregation for volunteers.'

Christian faith can bring about freedom in spiritual terms even in the midst of great difficulty.

Godbaby

A very different image of baby Jesus is due to hit the streets this Christmas, with the new Godbaby poster from ChurchAds.net – the Churches Advertising Network.

The striking image of a fictional 'God-baby toy' aims to make the Christmas story appeal to the younger generation, and puts Christ at the centre of conversations.

'It's another strong and arresting image. It will surprise some and disturb others,' said Bishop Nick Baines, giving the image an enthusiastic thumbs up.

He went on: 'Which is exactly what the real Jesus did. And it forces us beyond the tinsel to the human reality of 'God among us.'

The cute brown-eyed boy doll in a blue baby grow represents the baby Jesus, and plays on the idea of Christmas being a time when everyone is searching for that 'must-have' Christmas gift. It carries the slogan – 'GodBaby – He cries, He wees, He saves the world' and is the latest advert from the 'Christmas Starts with Christ...' campaign.

The Christmas Starts with Christ campaign has been running for four years and research shows that 42% of people seeing it say 'it makes me think more about the true meaning of Christmas'. It is supported by all major Christian denominations and many large Christian organizations, including Premier Christian Media and The Jerusalem Trust.

To maximise the impact of the message, ChurchAds.net is asking individuals and churches to make a donation to a National Christmas Advertising fund. The aim is to raise enough money to cover the placing of posters at bus stops, buy airtime for specially commissioned radio ads, and buy colour ads in national and regional newspapers. For more information and a FREE campaign activation pack and resources, visit: www.churchads.net

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project – sending gift-filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world since 1990.

Churches and individuals up and down the country have discovered the joy and effectiveness in sending such a simple gift – both for the adults and children in the UK giving and the child overseas receiving. The churches have also often found that shoeboxes are a fantastic mission opportunity – both

overseas and at home.

Overseas, children receiving shoeboxes not only encounter God's love through the gift they receive – they also have the chance to hear the Gospel, and are invited to a follow-up programme run by the local church.

At home, shoeboxes are a great way to draw people in – through a special Shoebox Service, through packing parties for children or by becoming a Drop Off Point for local people to take their shoeboxes to.

The deadline for shoe boxes is 18 November. Go to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk to order or download FREE resources, including a leaflet of details as to how to pack a shoebox.

Let's make 20 million Christmas trees more meaningful

Meaningful Chocolate Tree Decorations are now available and are an opportunity for parents, grandparents and Godparents to buy a gift that allows the sharing of the Christmas story while making the family Christmas tree a bit more Meaningful.

Each box contains a new limited edition Christmas story booklet, a nativity character sticker set and five hand-wrapped blank chocolate discs.

The Christmas story booklet allows adults and children to share the Christmas story while placing nativity character stickers on the blank discs.

Once completed, the five decorations can be hung on the tree as a reminder of the real meaning of Christmas.

Each decoration is made from Belgian Fairtrade chocolate so the biggest problem will be keeping them on the tree for any length of time.

David Marshall, from The Meaningful Chocolate Company, says; 'Research has found that only 12% of adults, and only 7% of people aged between 18-24, know the Christmas story. So these decorations can help adults communicate the essentials of the Christmas story to the next generation.'

The Meaningful Christmas Tree Decorations cost £4.20, or £4 if more than 20 boxes are ordered at a time. Church orders can be made through www.MeaningfulChristmas.co.uk or exclusively from Traidcraft. Orders should be made by the end of November 2012 as supplies are limited.

Did you know? The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season began before the birth of Christ. However, in Britain the custom of decorating trees to mark Christmas did not begin until Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's German husband, brought the tradition from his home land to Windsor Castle in the 1840's. 161 years later it's hard to believe that most of the UK's 20 million Christmas trees have nothing religious hanging on them.

Interest in church weddings up

More couples have felt inspired to explore the option of a church wedding. Unique visits to the Church of England's 'one-stop' weddings website www.yourchurchwedding.org increased by nearly 50 per cent in 2011, to 410,044 (up from 273,746 unique visits in 2010).

This rise in interest, which follows a change in the law in 2008 to make it easier to marry in church, has also been seen at the Church of England stand at wedding shows around the country, with a noticeable increase in couples visiting the stand to ask questions about church weddings in 2011 compared to 2010.

The Revd Rosie Harper, who is part of the church weddings team, said: 'Church of England weddings increased by four per cent in 2010 and it's great to see more couples wanting to find out all about marrying in church. We'd love to be a part of their big day, so we'd encourage everyone to come and talk to us.'

Colombia: pastor assassinated outside church in Bogota

A pastor was recently shot dead as he left his church in Bogota, Colombia, reports Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Henry Rodriguez (44), a United Pentecostal Church leader, was gunned down by two men on a moped in what appears to have been a targeted killing

by professional hit men.

The reason for the assassination is not yet known, but church leaders in Colombia are frequently targeted by illegal armed groups because of their refusal to support the gangs' activities; an estimated 20-30 church leaders are killed every year. Pastor Rodriguez left a wife and three children.

EU: asylum granted to those unable to practise faith publicly

In a landmark ruling, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has decided that those who are unable to practise their faith publicly are entitled to claim asylum in EU countries.

The decision, made on 5 September, means that EU member states will now grant refugee status on the basis of religious persecution, even in cases where the claimants are still able to practice their faith in private in their homeland.

The ECJ ruled: 'It is not the public or private, or collective or individual, nature of the manifestation and practice of the religion which will determine whether a violation of the right to freedom of religion should be regarded as persecution, but the severity of the measures and sanctions adopted or liable to be adopted against the person concerned.'

The ruling is a significant victory for religious freedom and should make

it easier for persecuted Christians to escape oppressive regimes. It came in response to an asylum appeal brought in Germany by two Ahmadi men from Pakistan.

Government plans to cut betting machine stakes welcomed

Government plans to limit harmful betting machines have been welcomed by many churches and also the Evangelical Alliance. Reports suggest the government are planning to reject proposals to remove the cap on machine numbers and are considering lowering the stakes.

Betting shops are currently allowed four fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) in each shop and players can stake £100 on each spin and potentially lose £18,000 an hour.

Recent media reports suggest David Cameron and Nick Clegg have agreed to cut the limit, potentially to £2 per play. This follows a report from the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee earlier this year that proposed removing the cap on the number of machines in betting shops.

The fixed odds betting machines are played by six per cent of gamblers but are cited in 29 per cent of calls to the gambling helpline. These machines have also frequently been referred to as the crack cocaine of gambling.

Fixed odd betting terminals have dou-

bled since 2007 to 34,000, bring in over £1.3 billion to the betting shops and account for nearly half their overall takings. Recent research shows that gaming machines are disproportionately located in areas with higher levels of deprivation, and the 2010 British Gambling Prevalence Survey showed those who are unemployed or on low incomes are more likely to have gambling problems.

32,000 Christians attend the National Day of Prayer

More than 32,000 Christians from across the churches gathered at the National Day of Prayer and Worship (NDOP) at Wembley Stadium on September 29. They came to pray from across the church denominations and independent churches. They also committed themselves to work with Samaritan's Purse and with churches overseas, to reach children around the world with the Gospel.

This year it is hoped that Operation Christmas Child will reach its 100 millionth child.

To find out how you can get involved in the UK's largest children's Christmas project – which ends on November 18th – please visit www.operation-christmaschild.org.uk/churches or phone 01392 455 036

New floods in northern India force 800,000 to flee

Recent incessant rains in the Indian states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (for a period of at least 19 days) have forced 800,000 people to flee to higher ground after flood waters breached river dykes and embankments.

Christian Aid has released £50,000 to help meet immediate fresh water, sanitation and hygiene needs in 131 flood-affected villages in the Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts of north east Assam.

More than 34 people have been killed in the third wave of flooding to hit the area during exceptionally high monsoon downpours since June. More than 700 villages have been submerged in the worst flooding for three decades.

When schools are not just struggling, but under outright attack

The Archbishop of Canterbury recently hosted a conference on Education for Children Affected by Armed Conflict – promoting the education services of Anglican Churches in a number of conflict-affected areas.

Of the 61 million children currently not accessing education, 40% live in fragile and conflict-affected states. These children struggle not just to access decent education – in many situations of conflict they also face the trauma of attacks on their own schools.

In such contexts, faith groups are often at the front line in continuing to deliver education. Because such faith groups remain present in communities before, during and after periods of armed conflict, they remain committed to providing education for their children. Many

faith leaders already act as advocates for education, within their communities and nationally. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, a reported 72% of primary education is provided by churches and religious organisations.



St HILDA

St Hilda was born a princess on November 17th 614 and was christened at the age of 13 with her uncle, King Edwin of Northumbria. When she was 33 she became a nun and in time she became the abbess (or leader) of a double monastery (where both monks and nuns lived) at Whitby in Yorkshire. And it was at Whitby, under St Hilda's leadership, that a famous conference was held to decide the date of Easter.



You know that Easter falls on a different day each year, but do you know that at that time the Celtic churches (in Ireland, Scotland and some of England) used a different way to the Roman Church (in the rest of England and Rome) to work out the date. This meant that in some kingdoms one group of Christians were still keeping the fast of Lent while others were celebrating Easter. The debate went on until finally it was decided that everyone would follow the Roman pattern.

CELEBRATION DAYS

The words hidden in this word search are names of holidays and seasons in the Church's calendar. The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

C H R I S T M A S T
 A Y A F A R L L R N
 N N D E S I A N O O
 D A V S T N E L G I
 L H E T E I T S A S
 E P N I A T U E T N
 M I T V S Y V I I E
 A P E A T E H V O C
 S E S L E W S E N S
 H Y A D R E B M E A

Advent Ascension Candlemas
 Christmas Easter Ember Day
 Epiphany Eve Festival Lent
 Rogation Trinity Whit



Whose parrot said 'Pieces of four, pieces of four'?

Short John Silver.

What is a ghost proof bicycle?

One with no spooks in it.

How does a boat show its affection?

It hugs the shore.

Autumn Colours

As the days get shorter and temperatures drop the leaves on deciduous trees and shrubs begin to change colour. The change in colour occurs as the green pigment, chlorophyll, is broken down so that its constituents can be recycled within the plant. The golds and browns which then appear have been in the leaves all the time but have been masked by the chlorophyll.

The more spectacular reds which may be seen in some ornamental trees, or which give help to make famous the 'fall' in eastern America, result from pro-



duction of new pigments in the leaves, anthocyanins. It may seem strange that leaves which are about to fall off a tree are producing new products but recent research has suggested a couple of possible reasons for this. One suggestion is that the anthocyanins provide some protection against intense light



Autumn leaves. See this image in colour in our website edition.

while the chlorophyll is being broken down and allow its component parts to be 'harvested' more efficiently by the plant. Another suggestion is that the red colour deters insects such as aphids, which might otherwise overwinter on the plants, ready to attack them in spring.

The photo on the previous page shows the colours of some fallen leaves in St. Tudno's churchyard. Unfortunately, in our relatively mild but rather windy climate, the leaves often fall before the colours have developed fully – cold, still weather giving the best colours on the trees.

Christine Jones



The new design of offertory plates hold a larger number of coins.

Coffee Time

Cryptics (thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright).

All **food** - sorry for any confusion in October.

Results for September

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. Two sailors point to fish sauce. (7) | 1. Opener |
| 2. Pasta of a romantic sort. (8) | 2. Other half |
| 3. Dad's attempt at this may not be flaky (6) | 3. Originally |
| 4. This pudding has nothing after the talk back. (4) | 4. Own |
| 5. Food from cottage industry perhaps. (6) | 5. Offending |
| 6. Beginning to nibble a lot of pasta. (7) | 6. Osmosis |
| 7. Mid-morning snacks seem to be doubly plural. (9) | 7. Orations |
| 8. Pancake a little mediocre perhaps. (5) | 8. Opal |
| 9. Fruit of the melon variety. (5) | 9. Osier |
| 10. Old man cracked a nut. (6) | 10. On air |

Holy Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday November 17

10.00 am - 1.00 pm

General Stall Cake Stall

Mustard Seed Shop

Tombola Raffle

Refreshments

Hand Bells

