



NEWSLETTER 2021

Diary

10-16 May Christian Aid Week

Wednesday 12 May

11.00 am Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom

Thursday 13 May Ascension Day

10.30 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity

Sunday 16 May Seventh Sunday in Easter

08.00 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity

9.45 am [Junior Church on Roz Harrison's Facebook page](#)

10.30 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity

12.00 noon Open-air Holy Eucharist at St. Tudno's

2.00 pm Vestry Meeting - see below

Wednesday 19 May

10.00 am Prego Reflection with Andrew Sully on Zoom followed by

10.45 am Virtual Coffee Morning on Zoom

Sunday 23 May Pentecost or Whit Sunday

08.00 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity

9.45 am [Junior Church on Roz Harrison's Facebook page](#)

10.30 am Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity

12.00 noon Open-air Service at St. Tudno's

Zoom Meeting Settings

Quicklink = <https://zoom.us/j/98588546892?pwd=UWdDZFFoZ2Vqd2t4OGNMcKytDWHZMQT09>

Meeting ID = 985 8854 6892 Password = tudno

Listen to Zoom meetings live by phone on 0330 088 5380, same ID, phone password 266968

Vestry Meeting

Notice is given that this year's Vestry Meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on Sunday 16 May at 2.00 pm. The meeting will be held on the Ministry Area's Zoom meeting page. All those registered on the MA's Electoral Roll are encouraged to participate.

Jennifer Bicknell, MA Secretary

Further to this

If you have a desktop or laptop computer, or a smart phone or tablet, then you should be able to join the meeting using the settings in the previous column. Note that you can participate in sound only by telephone.

The meeting will be relayed on our [Facebook page](#) but anyone using Facebook will not be able to join the meeting, only observe it.

Since the "Easter Vestry" is the parliament of the Ministry Area, then every effort will be made to help you participate. Please contact me for assistance.

Andy Leitch

The Church Programme

Churches offer all sorts of meetings, groups, events and services to their local communities. Collectively these can be called the church's 'programme' – the list of things the church does. Of course this list is often not the result of a fully thought-out strategy resulting in a coherent 'programme.' In many churches the list of what is done is more the piecemeal result of history. But let us call it the church's 'programme' anyway!

Very often the programme is focussed on community use of the church premises. Many churches have pre-school groups, pensioners' clubs, lunch clubs, youth clubs, open house cafés, bell ringers, or uniformed organisations meeting on their own premises. Many of these will attract members who do not attend regular church services.

There are two main routes into the worshipping community available for such people. One route is that the group they attend becomes a halfway house into public worship. A person attends the coffee morning and sits next to someone who is a church member. They become friendly and they get invited along one Sunday. Or else they are given an invitation card to a carol service, and when they get there, they are pleased to meet up with a couple of other coffee

morning members.

The other route is that the church takes steps to turn the event on the programme into 'church' for the people who attend it. For example, one church moved its Wednesday weekday service to half an hour before the start of the coffee morning. Most of the members started turning up half an hour early so that church worship, coffee and fellowship became part of the same event and experience. Another church held a regular Saturday morning breakfast club with speaker, some prayer and singing. People thought they were coming to a social event with a cooked breakfast. But if it quacks like a duck and waddles like a duck, it's a duck! They had been to a form of church.

Some churches turn their premises into a base for community social action, perhaps calling it a 'social action centre'. The aim is simply to serve the local community but one outcome is that a lot more contacts are made. Many people are able to discover the life and people of the church through its community enterprise.

Many churches will also hire out their premises to all manner of community groups for events that are not part of the church's own programme but still take place on church premises. These at least get people used to coming to the church premises and they open up new contact and discovery opportunities. Churches where the worship space is multi-purpose and available to let during the week have a particular advantage here – the premises ice has been broken.

Some churches simply see these users as revenue sources. Some even make the mistake of taking so many bookings in order to balance the books that the church can't use its hall for its own events. Other churches see the user groups as contact points and take steps to get to know them. One church appoints a link person for every user group. Their job is to attend the group regularly, ensure smooth relationships between the group and the church, to befriend the members and introduce them to the wider life of the church.

In some churches the programme of community service will involve activities not based on the church premises at all. Examples include home-visiting of the disabled and elderly people, gardening services to pensioners, debt advice, or charity fund-raising. One such has a large number of such 'touching points.' Three times a year it invites the contacts to attend a discipleship course. Many people over the years have followed this route into faith starting with a touching point, then the discipleship course, then joining the

worshipping community.

Some churches have an annual round of fundraising social events that involve a lot of others in the local community – the Christmas Fayre, the Summer Fete etc. These can be good fun, draw the church together, and be great points of contact with local people. The danger is that the church is seen as being mainly interested in other people's money to keep them going. But there is also a great opportunity to develop links, to get noticed and to enable people to take the next step. At such events there should always be an invitation to a future special church service or event.

Many churches have too big a programme. It is too burdensome and nothing is done very well. It exhausts the members trying to keep things going and they get de-motivated. A healthy church does a few things well. It concentrates on those that are the most effective today in forwarding the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, ecumenical and social.

What are the best opportunities to us here in Llandudno for enabling people to get to know the church and the God who inhabits it and us better?

Christian Aid Week - Florence's story

A woman sings a deep, joyful tune. Her song lifts the spirits of the other women on the farm. This is Florence.

She is full of life, love and laughter. The women in her farming group look up to her.

She's courageous, kind and a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us.

Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It's thanks to Christian Aid Week donations like yours that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of our partner ADSE, just a short walk away from her village.

"I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power."

With this dam, Florence can grow tomatoes, onions,

papayas and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables. It's her source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the water from the dam to keep honey bees. She sells the rich, golden honey for cash at the market. Now, Florence is reaping a good life for herself and her family.

The dam gives Florence strength to withstand even the most unpredictable weather. It's a reliable water source, whether she faces long drought or relentless rainstorms.

"I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving."

Florence is generous, and she knows other people are struggling to cope without a reliable water source. 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They travel for a long way to come to this water point. They are suffering.'

Give today and help more people like Florence stop this climate crisis.

Your generosity this Christian Aid Week could help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

[Watch Florence's Story](#)

[Donate to Christian Aid](#)

Pakistani Christian nurses fear for lives after accusation of "blasphemy"

Three Pakistani Christian nurses fear for their lives after a "blasphemy" accusation against them provoked anger among their Muslim colleagues.

Sakina Khurram was accused after sharing in her WhatsApp group a post that was critical of the Pakistani government, and the two other nurses "liked" the same post.

Although there was no blasphemous content in the video post that Sakina Khurram shared, a group of Muslim nurses occupied the Christian chapel at the Punjab Institute of Mental Health in Lahore on 27 April and called for it to be turned into a mosque.

The nurses began reciting naat (poems in praise of the Islamic prophet Muhammad) in front of a wooden cross. For many Muslims, once a place has been used for Islamic worship, it is considered to "belong" to Islam for ever.

Later hundreds of staff joined a demonstration, and the three Christian nurses fled in fear of their lives. They have taken extended leave from their jobs, concerned that the threat against them will continue.

Christian and Muslim religious leaders said the dispute has been settled and no police complaints will be filed against any of the people involved. Christian health workers will continue to use the chapel for weekly worship as before, according to a church minister.

It is the third reported incident of "blasphemy" against Pakistani Christian nurses this year. In January Karachi nurse Tabitha Nazir Gill was forced to go into hiding after she was charged with "blasphemy" under Section 295-C of the Pakistani Penal Code, which carries a mandatory death penalty. In April two Christian nurses were rescued by police from an angry mob after being accused by hospital staff in Faisalabad of "blasphemy".

Pakistan's notorious "blasphemy" laws are often used to make false accusations in order to settle personal grudges. Christians are especially vulnerable, as simply stating their beliefs can be construed as "blasphemy" and the lower courts usually favour the testimony of Muslims, in accordance with sharia (Islamic law). Christians acquitted of allegations live in fear of attack by extremists and can often no longer return to live in their homes.

