

Cysyllte Dyffryn Clwyd

The magazine of the Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area June/July 2021

Plans for the Future

The sun has been shining and gardens are starting to bloom and I think we can say that summer is definitely arriving. Along with our gardens, the church is coming to life as we head towards July and August things are beginning to get busy. With Pilgrimage as one of our main priorities to develop these summer months are important as it is the main pilgrim season. Along with making sure our churches are open on Sundays we will be looking to hold various events over the summer, from fundraisers and social events to pilgrim services and journeys. Much of this summer will be about trying things out so that next year we can have a properly planned diary of summer events for pilgrims and seekers, locals and visitors. So keep an eye on the weekly news sheet and Facebook for things that are coming up.

We've already got a summer time-table of family events planned with Wild Church beginning in Llangynhafal & Llanbedr DC, Taste & See & The Bridge in town and we continue to develop the successful Forest Church in Clocaenog.

We've also got plenty going on in our buildings, planning for the future and re-building after the pandemic. Llangynhafal church is almost finished and we'll be planning events there to invite everyone to come and see the new facilities. In Llanynys there are exciting plans for a pilgrimage and retreat centre and along with Debbie Sawyer developing the Ceriglwydion we're nearly ready for a faculty application for developing the interior of the church as well as developing a car park and community garden. In Clocaenog we're also getting ready to apply for Faculty permission to develop the interior of the church and outside we'll be looking to build on the success of Forest Church to create a worship space that connects us to the divine through nature. In Llanbedr plans are being drawn up to look at the interior of the church to bring an open and dynamic space to allow groups for study and fellowship and more.

Our team as well is growing with Revd. John Searl joining us over the summer as a non-stipendiary priest (NSM) and Natasha Quinn-Thomas being ordained as deacon on the 3rd of July and joining us for her 2 year curacy. An exciting new opportunity has also come up with Tim Asbridge joining us as Director of Music for Mission. Tim will have a dual role focussing on re-invigorating the adult choir in the Ruthin churches and to develop a Mission Area Song School. The Song School will be offering a starter in music and singing to primary school aged children across the Dyffryn Clwyd with a view to develop children's choirs which will rotate around our churches on Sundays in term time adding and enhancing our weekly worship. This is an exciting new venture and I think the only project of its kind in the area.

With so much going on its hard not to feel the joy of our faith permeating our lives after a year and more of forced stillness, it seems like that time of isolation is coming to an end and the prayers said so fervently are leading to the spirit moving in so many places. But best of all of these things is quietly, Sunday by Sunday the worship in all our churches feeding and sustaining us in what feels like a new age of evangelism. The heart of all we do is always to be found in the community of the church in prayer, being fed by Sacrament and Word and I thank each of you for being a part of this all, whether you're volunteering and driving forward some of these plans or quietly in the background praying for the future of our churches, we all have our part to play. If you can spare a few minutes every day to pray the prayer for Church Renewal it will help carry all our plans and more as we seek to deepen our relationship with God and bring others to the joy of faith.

Tad Huw

Our New Curate - Natasha Quinn-Thomas

Having grown up in Rhyl and attended school in Denbigh, I have memories of weekend walks around the surrounding area of Dyffryn Clwyd. It brings me great joy to know that I will soon be moving to the place where I made many happy childhood memories. I felt a call from God to ordained ministry at the age of seven. Having not had much involvement with The Church, this came as a surprise to my family...my Mum informs me that the week prior I wanted to be a zebra keeper of ballerina! But the constant niggling call from God persisted and I began formally exploring ordained ministry at the age of sixteen.

I worked as a Nursery Nurse in the family owned business alongside my A level studies. Children's ministry is a real passion of mine, I love



working with young people and families, but really I love just having a chat with anyone! To get experience of Church life before I began training, I worked in two parish placements, one in London and one in Hatfield linked with the chaplain at The University of Hertfordshire. During my training I have been on an incredible placement in Splott. This will be my sixth year of full time service to The Church, and I'm so excited to be returning back to my home patch of North Wales (even if I do now need to get used to driving on country lanes rather

than city roads!).

I really look forward to meeting you all and getting stuck in to a new community. In particular I'm excited to be surrounded by such beautiful landscapes which I can explore.

See you all soon and do say hello!

Natasha

News from Llanychan

Our annual fund raising event was held on Saturday June 5th. Sir David and Lady Alyson Henshaw opened their beautiful garden at Plas Coch under the National Gardens Scheme and very kindly allowed us to provide





refreshments and open stalls with proceeds going to church funds. We had plant sales, bric a brac, cake stall, refreshments and a raffle. Total raised for the church was over £780. A successful day, the weather was kind to us and the garden was really looking at its best. Don't forget our next

event on 10th July, "Hymns and Pimm's", we have been prevented from singing in church for so long now and I am sure the Pimm's will help things along.

Hymns & PIMM'S

Llanychan Church
10th July 6pm



Join us on Saturday the
10th of July at 6pm
as we gather outside
in Llanychan church
For an evening of
socially distanced
Hymn's & Pimm's



www.DyffrynClwyd.co.uk

Heritage and legacy...



This is definitely the year of 'staycations.' I was reminded of a delightful pilgrimage, some years ago now, to Iona...

Lying off the west coast of the Isle of Mull the tiny Isle of Iona, barely three miles long by one mile wide, has had an influence out of all proportion to its size to the establishment of Christianity in Scotland, England, Wales and throughout mainland Europe.

In 563 AD St. Columba arrived on its white sandy beaches with 12 followers, built his first Celtic church and established a monastic community. .

So who was St. Columba? He was the grandson of the Irish King Niall. He left Ireland for Scotland not as missionary but as an act of self-imposed penance for a bloody mess he had caused at home. He had upset the king of Ireland by refusing to hand over a copy of the Gospels he had illegally copied, this led to a pitched battle in which Columba's warrior family prevailed. Full of remorse for his actions and the deaths he had

ultimately caused he fled, finally setting on Iona as the first place he found from where he couldn't see his native Ireland.

However, he was not the shy retiring type and set about building Iona's original abbey from clay and wood. In this endeavour he displayed some strange idiosyncrasies, including banishing women and cows from the island, claiming that "where there is a cow there is a woman, and where there is a woman there is mischief". [And you thought I had strange ideas!] The abbey builders had to leave their wives, daughters, etc., on the nearby Eilean nam Ban (Woman's Island). Stranger still, he also banished frogs and snakes from Iona. How he accomplished this feat is not as well documented! Over the centuries the monks of Iona produced countless elaborate carvings, manuscripts and Celtic crosses. Perhaps their greatest legacy was the exquisite *Book of Kells*, which dates from 800 AD, and is currently on display in Trinity College, Dublin. Shortly after this in 806 came the first of the Viking raids when many of the monks were slaughtered and their work destroyed. The Celtic Church lacking central control and organisation diminished in size and stature over the years to be replaced by the much larger and stronger Roman Church. Even Iona was not exempt from these changes and in 1203 a nunnery for



the Order of the Black Nuns was established and the present-day Benedictine Abbey was built. The Abbey was a victim of the Reformation and lay in ruins until 1899 when its restoration started.

In 1938 George MacLeod founded the Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian

community of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions in the Christian church committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel of Jesus in today's world. This community is a leading force in the present Celtic Christianity revival.

The Iona Community runs 3 residential centres on the Isle of Iona and on Mull which are places of welcome and engagement giving a unique opportunity to live together in community with people of every background from all over the world. Members share a common Rule which includes:

- Daily prayer and reading the Bible
- Mutual sharing and accountability for their use of time and money
- Regular meeting together
- Action and reflection for justice, peace and the integrity of creation

Members meet regularly throughout the year in local groups and in 4 plenary gatherings, including a week on Iona.

For me, it was a joy to live in community with others and contemplate, once again, the rich heritage of Christian faith we are all called to pass on to future generations.

'Lord, teach us when we are inclined to forget, that places of retreat are not places of escape; that when we clasp hands in prayer we take responsibility with you for your world; that worship and politics are not separate in your economy, nor should they be in ours. Because it was your Son who taught us to pray for your Kingdom to come in the here and now, in this place and time: for your will to be done on earth as in heaven. We dare to pray in his name, amen, let it be so.'

As we prayerfully seek to enact Christ's call upon our lives and the life of our church communities and formulate our M.A.P – our Mission Action Plan, I wonder what legacy Christ is calling us to pass on here as a gift to future generations from Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area...

St Garmons News

I've never seen anyone strip an "altar" quite as thoroughly as Fr Huw. In previous years we'd removed the hangings and altar cloths but this year a whirlwind appeared and anything that wasn't nailed down was removed to the vestry. You couldn't move in the vestry for flower stands, banners and candelabras fortunately Huw and Idris returned to help return the Church to its "Covid-normal" on Easter Saturday ready to celebrate the Easter Eucharist the following day. It's lovely to welcome people back after our enforced closure although it remains frustrating but unfortunately necessary, to have to book to come to Church. With luck (it still feels like luck rather than any planning by Boris et al) we won't have to book and social distance forever.

With the glorious Ascension window showing Jesus's Ascension to heaven (I always think it looks as if it's Moel Famau in the background but I think it's just a piece of lead that looks like the jubilee tower) it always feels very appropriate to celebrate Ascension day at Llanarmon. This year we celebrated in a Covid –safe way which meant booking and social distancing and an outdoor breakfast. I suppose we were lucky that it wasn't pouring with rain but we did have a steady drizzle to accompany our bacon butties. It was so nice to see people from across the Mission Area and as always Fr Huw lead us in a heartfelt Eucharist. It will be so nice to be able to sing in Church again although the quality and variety of the recorded music has been a joy.

Beryl Campbell, who has previously opened her garden as part of the Llanarmon yn Ial gardens for the National Gardens Scheme, has very kindly offered to open her garden in aid of St Garmons Church on Saturday 10th July from 12-4. There will be refreshments and plant sales and a chance to catch up with friends. The garden is at 12a Maes Ial (straight on past the shop then next left and follow the road round to the left)



OPEN GARDEN

In aid of **ST GARMON'S CHURCH**
Llanarmon-yn-Ial

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SAT 10 JULY
12.0pm – 4.0pm

At
12a Maes Ial,
Llanarmon-yn-Ial CH7 4PZ

Admission £2
Tea & Home Made Cakes available - £3

Plant Stall
Contact 07951964490

St Peters Church Llanbedr D C

It has been a busy few weeks at Llanbedr church with Services on Sunday morning at 10am and 6pm on Tuesday. Tad Huw has produced a new booklet for the mid -week service and it has been well received.



On the 13th May Ascension Day saw members along with others from churches within the Mission Area climb up to the Old St Peters Church on a rather wet evening for a bilingual Eucharist service conducted by Tad Huw. We sang several Hymns and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to have communion in the open air.

On Friday the 14th May we held a meeting with Tad Huw at the village hall to discuss the Mission Area Plan and the reordering at Llanbedr Church. We are making plans for a Toilet and small kitchen area at the back of the church. We will be starting to fund raise as soon as we are able to.

Deadline for copy for next edition:

Tuesday August 10th.

Contacts

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Revd. Richard Carter	Llanfair DC	01824 703 867

Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area Office

Contact details and opening times

An answer phone message can be left, outside office hours.

Email: admin@dyffrynclwyd.co.uk

Tuesday 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

Thursday 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

TEL: 01824 707 820

**Because of lockdown restrictions please telephone
the office before attending.**

Churchwardens

Llanarmon	01824 780 751
Llanbedr	01824 703 788
Llangynhafal	01824 790 726
Llanynys	01824 790 593
Llanychan	01824 702 152
St Peter's	01824 702 392
St Mwrog	01824 704 643
St Meugan	01824 703 505
Clocaenog	01824 750 653
Cyffylliog	01824 710 249
Efenechtyd	01824 705 790
Llanelidan	01824 750 288
Llanfair	01824 702 594

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