

1997 – 2007: Congratulations!

It was on the evening of April 28th 1997 that the Right Reverend Roy Davies, then Bishop of Llandaff, said the following words at the consecration of St. Michael's Church, Whitchurch Road, Cardiff: "May this building which we dedicate to your holy name be a house of salvation and grace, where Christians, gathered in fellowship, may worship you in spirit and in truth, and grow together in love: Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

Ten years later on 27th April, a celebratory service was held at St Michael's church to give thanks for the anniversary of the building of the new church. In the congregation were people from all the churches of the former parish of Central Cardiff, together with a number of clergy associated with the parish at the time of construction. They were warmly welcomed by Rev. Caroline Downs, priest in charge of the new parish of Cathays.

A lively address was given by Ven. David Lee, who was Archdeacon at the time of the building, and much involved with it. During the service, the clergy and congregation joined in re-affirming their dedication of both the building and themselves to the service of God. After the service, an excellent buffet was provided in the hall, giving people an opportunity to meet and talk, and see a small exhibition of pictures of St Michael's church before and after rebuilding.

The Cathays mission began in 1893 with the establishment of St Monica's, a combined school and chapel. This was a time when Cardiff was at the height of its period of expansion. What had once been rural farmland was being covered with row after row of terraced houses, in which lived thousands of people. By 1907 it was thought that a new church, separate from the school was needed, but the First World War caused the project to be delayed, so it was not until 1922 that a temporary church was erected. This was followed by a hut intended to serve as a hall.

Plans for a stone-built church did not come to fruition as this was the period of the depression, the Second World War, and the decline of the coal trade, so funds for a grand structure were diminished. The congregation came to love the "tin tabernacle" that they worshipped in. After well over half a century of use, the structure of this temporary building was beginning to suffer, losing its turret to bad weather and prey to rust and incurable leaks. It was reaching the end of its useful life.

A moment of vision was needed, and



this came, in realising the value of the land it stood on. This could be used to yield funds for the construction of a permanent, modern church with all the facilities and conveniences that people want in a church building today. After a considerable search, a development partner was found, who would build flats for the elderly on one part of the land, and a church on the other. The scheme was agreed and work started in 1995. In little over a year both the flats and the new church were ready.

It is pleasing to report that the project has been a success, with the congregation rising steadily over the ten years since the new building was opened and the new Parish of Cathays can look to the future with confidence and enthusiasm.



St Michael's old Church



The Sanctuary

Godly Play Course

The next 3 Day Godly Play Training Course will be held at St. Donat's Church, Abercynon. Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th September 2007. For further information or to book your place, please contact: Rev. Pauline Williams Tel: 01443 740207 or e.mail: revpauline@uwclub.net or Rev. Elaine Evans Tel: 02920 708044 or email: enid63@btinternet.com

'We must deepen our part in the world' – but how?

The Diocesan World Mission Group has aimed to put together a roadshow-style resource that can be used in parishes, deaneries or by other interested groups.

We wanted to produce something that could tell the stories of how our parishes are currently connected to the world church and involved in world mission, and then move on to inspire people to think how God might be calling them to deepen their own links.

We have a programme that lasts one hour, and uses PowerPoint presentations, a quiz, world church music and a reflective time of prayer, to help give a flavour of how God has led people in Llandaff diocese to feel a part of the world church. We hear the story of some who have gone overseas to experience the Anglican Church in another context, or to be part of a visit that helps with church projects. We share the story of some churches who benefit from strong links with mission agencies or support particular mission partners and ventures. Additionally, we open up our eyes to see the overseas Christians in our own communities and discover how some have become part of parish staff teams.

There are many excellent resources available from world mission agencies, and in part of the programme we break up into small groups for us to see some of these materials in action, giving people ideas on how they might be used in their own parish contexts.

It is a programme that opens our eyes to see new possibilities of how we can receive blessing from a deeper engagement in the world church. It is being made available from September onwards to parishes or deaneries who would like to find new suggestions of what works in other churches. (It comes free of charge and we ask that you give us only an hour of your time and provide some refreshments). Please contact our world mission officer, Revd. Peter Lewis, for more information. Tel: 01639 721964 or email: revpeterlewis@ntlworld.com

Comfort Zone

It's not too late to join us for this year's Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham, taking place from Monday 6 to Friday 10 August. Called 'Comort Zone' it promises to be a fantastic time of great worship, teaching, bible study, workshops, fun and laughter. During the week we will learn more about the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent as our comforter. The pilgrimage is a great time, which is why so many people keep coming back! So get out of your comfort zone and into the real comfort zone and book your place now!

The pilgrimage is for young people aged 11 years and over. Cost: £90 includes transport, accommodation and food. Booking form and more information is available from Fr Dean Atkins 029 20499867 youth@llandaff.org.uk www.enterthemystery.com

croeso

This edition has been produced by the editorial team: Rev'd Caroline Downs (Convenor), Rev'd Mike Lewis, and Jean Rose, with contributions from people in all parts of Llandaff Diocese. Please send any articles, stories and pictures for the next issue to: Rev'd Caroline Downs, 6 Newminster Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF23 5AP or preferably by email to: croeso@llandaff.org.uk. Letters, articles, and features should be typed and, where possible, saved as Word or text files if sent by email. The next issue will be published on November 9th 2007. The copy deadline is October 23rd 2007. **croeso** can also be seen at our website www.llandaff.org.uk where other articles are sometimes published when demand for newspaper space has been high. **croeso** is funded by the Diocesan Board of Finance and is free to parishes.

Check out our web-site www.llandaff.org.uk