

A year of special opportunity

Archbishop Barry's Presidential Address to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

2005 is an important year – and not just for the Church in Wales because of the decisions it has to make about its own future, but because the UK is president of the G8 group of nations and the European Union, it is the 20th anniversary of Live Aid, the Commission for Africa has reported, 5th June is World Environment Day when individuals and business will sign up to a series of environmental pledges, and there will be parliamentary elections. In his address to the Governing Body, Archbishop Barry said, “Each of these events is worthy of our attention. Taken together, they ought to encourage us to realise that this year is a year of special opportunity.”

Archbishop Barry commended the motion being proposed that would identify the Church in Wales with the



Make Poverty History coalition. But, as he said,

“there are many problems, and none of this is easy. It is about political will, but also appropriate actions and behaviours from governments, multi-nationals and individuals.”

“A General Election year gives us all an opportunity to think of where we are going as a nation. It also gives us as individuals a chance to assess what factors we ought to take into account in casting our vote. Do we vote for the party that we think will protect our own personal interests – financial or otherwise—or will we as the Epistle to the Ephesians puts it ‘look to the interests of others’”. Archbishop Barry listed four issues which he thought merited attention:

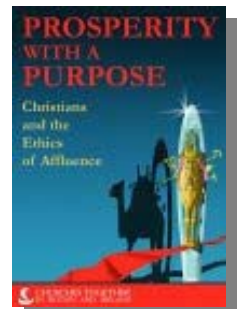
- € Britain has a billion pound nuclear weapons programme. This was set up to eliminate targets in the Soviet Union that ceased to exist 15 years ago. Is this the best use of our resources?
- € Is it right that the UK should be the first country in the world to



consider withdrawing from the 1951 United Nations Convention on refugees, which protects 17 million displaced people worldwide? As Church leaders in Wales said recently, “the intention to place a 5 year limit on refugees appears draconian and may hinder plans to integrate displaced people. These limits do not encourage highly skilled refugees to retrain or invest in establishing much needed businesses in Wales”. The Christian faith reminds us of the fragility of life and the vulnerability of particular people and groups within it. Our attitude reflect God’s attention and concern for these people not just as objects of our concern, our giving and our aid but of new hope for the world because there is a blessedness in the Kingdom of God which applies to all people,

however vulnerable, and perhaps especially to those who are vulnerable.

€ There is the question of poverty at home. “The Council of Churches Together for Britain and Ireland launched a book entitled ‘Prosperity with a Purpose’ in London in February, and at the Welsh Assembly on 7th March. It focuses on the need to move people out of poverty into prosperity. It is broadly true that most people in most countries, if not all, have got richer over the past 50



years. Even most poor people are better off but inequality continues to increase and the very poor are still increasingly vulnerable.” “It is important that people have access to good jobs, good standards of housing, good healthcare, good social networks and all these things have a political context, but prosperity will also include relational values and self esteem. We are very lucky in the Church in



The Governing Body of the Church in Wales met at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, on 6th and 7th April 2005

Wales that our social responsibility projects are helping young parents and children at an early age to experience positive values in this way. For too long Christians have separated spirituality from economic and social realities. The challenge for all of us now is to find a new integrated approach to the problems we face.

€ The question of world poverty is being highlighted through the Make Poverty History campaign, with its focus on debt cancellation, more and better aid, and trade justice. “However we know that without better governance and political stability in African countries, more aid won’t help in the longer run. The African Union itself has admitted that \$148 billion of aid and inward investment money is lost every year through corruption and inefficiency. How do you link aid with better governance?”

“All of these challenges focus our Christian attention during this special year,” said Archbishop Barry. “It is right that we lift our heads up over the parapet to look at wider horizons. We cannot trap ourselves with our own internal concerns. On the other hand we cannot ignore issues that face our Church either.”

It was at the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva that Archbishop Barry attended in February that a major internal concern was addressed.

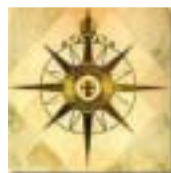
The WCC has 550 million members across 120 countries with 342 different member churches, whereas the Anglican Communion has about 70 million Anglicans across the world in 38 different provinces. “During the week with the Central Committee, we looked at documents dealing with the WCC’s relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, as well as issues dealing with Iraq, the Middle East, the Pacific, the ministry of healing, faith and order matters, and how one reaches decisions consensually. One of the mornings however was given over to what the WCC called a *Hearing on Human Sexuality*. The resolution at the last World Council Assembly in 1998 was “to engage in a study of human sexuality in all its diversity and to make it available to member



churches since it is recognised that this causes divisions both within and among churches”.

“A hearing in WCC terms is a presentation on a topic from several different angles followed by questions and discussions without coming to any conclusions. This hearing on human sexuality was to my mind one of the best sessions of the Central Committee, because it managed to deal with this controversial topic in a mature and open way, allowing a discussion that was humane, theological and thought provoking. Now I raise all that because also in 1998 the Lambeth Conference in plenary session had a discussion, if you can call it that, on human sexuality and the fall out has been with us ever since. The way in which the World Council of Churches has begun to deal with the issue of human sexuality and the way the Anglican Communion has set about things means that we have much to learn as a Church.”

“The Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Nottingham in June has been asked by the Primates following the Windsor Report to organise a hearing on human sexuality. What is needed at the ACC is not a theological rant or a throwing of verbal grenades at people who happen to disagree with our own particular positions, but a reasoned, balanced, discourse of some of the issues involved and the giving of space and time to every kind of viewpoint. It would be better not to have a hearing at all in June if it is going to degenerate into some kind of verbal slanging match. How can we as a communion carry on saying as Lambeth 1998 did and as the primates do that we ‘should listen to the experience of homosexual people, be committed to



their pastoral support and see their victimisation or diminishment as abhorrent’ and be unwilling somehow to concede that all of us have much to learn about ourselves as sexual beings.”

Archbishop Barry shared some of the insights from the WCC that he felt could be of enormous help to the Anglican Communion at this time:

- € Human sexuality is not simply about matters of same sex relations;
- € There is a gap between what we say as churches and how Christians actually behave—and most churches of the WCC acknowledged this;
- € Whilst regarding the Bible as the main foundation for ethical decision-making, those statements produced by the WCC recognised the need for further study and also the provisionality of many church statements. Most church statements were willing to engage in a critical approach to the Bible and to look at texts in their cultural contexts rather than accepting them as God’s literal and final words on this topic;
- € All the statements affirmed human sexuality as intrinsically good and as a gift to be celebrated;
- € Sexual sins are not the only sins and are not even the main sins;
- € Theology has to be open to the possibility of encountering God’s revelation of truth in new and novel ways;
- € What is needed is for us to see one another through the eyes of God since we are made in his image and the God we believe in is a God who is interested in our restoration and healing;
- € We need discussions and openness, not confrontation and a break down in relationships. If the Church of God can’t conduct a debate in a civilised way when it claims to be a reconciled and reconciling community – what message does that give to the world? We cannot as a Church call for compassion, peace and justice if we as Christians do not exemplify these virtues in our own lives and in our dealings with one another.”

For the full text in English see www.churchinwales.org.uk/archbishop/b0010e, *ac yn y Gymraeg* o www.churchinwales.org.uk/archbishop/b0010c

Bringing cheer in ecumenical relations

The Governing Body had before it two bills to tidy up the provisions of a 1991 Canon which contained the regulations for local ecumenical projects and for shared worship with Christian churches of other traditions. The Standing Committee had decided to separate the two functions of the 1991 Canon into an 'Ecumenical Bill' and a 'Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEP) Bill'. The Ecumenical Bill sets out the regulations for what a minister or lay person of another denomination may be invited to do in a Church in Wales context, and what invitations to serve outside a Church in Wales context may be accepted by an Anglican cleric or licensed lay person. The LEP Bill provides for the setting up and monitoring of a special relationship between denominations at a local level, and its conduct from the Church in Wales's side.



The first Bill "to support relations with other churches" was passed without debate. In the supporting papers, a guide to what invitations may be issued to a minister or lay person of another denomination was provided in the form of a helpful flow chart.

The second Bill "to permit the establishment and support of local ecumenical partnerships" was proposed by the **Bishop of St Asaph**. Bishop John stressed that while both the Bills clarify what was previously ambiguous, this is not the last word in ecumenical relations; however, it moves us forward in Wales. The Bills provide more

flexibility, and more clarity; there are no doctrinal changes, and both have been welcomed by the other Churches.

The Venerable **Bernard Thomas** (St Asaph), in seconding, said that "the Bills move us forward, bringing much needed cheer in ecumenical relations." Many are unaware of what is permissible; there must be clear communication of what can be done together. A flow chart shows how an Anglican congregation can move into a Local Ecumenical Partnership. How the process and details will be worked out will vary from place to place; the fundamental question is "Would an LEP be appropriate here?" "Let's not disappoint our ecumenical partners by giving this Bill the support it needs."

The second Bill was passed *nem. con.*

The Bill to support relations with other churches (*summary*)

A minister or lay person who is baptised and is a member in good standing of another Church holding the Trinitarian Faith and administering the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion may be invited by the incumbent of a parish to perform all or any of the following duties:

- (i) lead Morning or Evening Prayer or other non-sacramental service;
- (ii) read the Scriptures at any service
- (iii) preach at any service;
- (iv) lead prayers;
- (v) conduct a service of Holy Baptism;
- (vi) assist at Holy Matrimony;
- (vii) conduct a funeral service;
- (viii) assist in the distribution of the elements at Holy Communion;
- (ix) an ordained minister, preside at Holy Communion according to the form of service authorised by the Commission of Covenanted churches;

provided that the minister or lay person is authorized to perform the same duty in his or her own Church."

The Bill to permit the establishment and support of Local Ecumenical Projects (*summary*)

It shall be lawful for a diocesan bishop of the Church in Wales to authorise the establishment of a local ecumenical partnership in a parish or parishes within his diocese, after reaching agreement with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church.

It shall be lawful for a diocesan bishop of the Church in Wales after consultation with the appropriate authorities of each participating Church to authorise the following to officiate within a local ecumenical partnership: clerics, licensed lay ministers and other members of the Church in Wales, and ministers or other baptised members of the participating churches.

CYMDEITHION AM NEWID COMPANIONS FOR A CHANGE

Together in Ministry and Mission in 21st century Wales

Bishop **Dominic** (Monmouth) and the Revd **Gethin Rees** (Cytûn) introduced a conference for 200 people across the churches in Wales to be held at Trinity College, Carmarthen, 13-15 September 2006.

The purpose of the Conference is to look at how to overcome theological, historical, practical and human blocks which get in the way of the urgent need to respond to our shared responsibility as churches playing our part in the life and future of Wales. However, the organisers hope very much that this will not just be 'yet another conference' – but that we will become deeper Companions for a Change as a result.

The conference will build on 2005/2006 local study groups, conversations and initiatives. The conference will have three phases - exploring current reality (including what has come out of the study period); hope for the future; and next steps. It will do this through main speaker input, small group bible study, base groups, a forum for church leaders and worship. The conference will be accompanied by a theological reflector. Professors Duncan Forrester and Densil Morgan will be the main speakers.

A discussion pack is being produced by Cytûn, designed for use in local groups ecumenically. It is hoped that as many areas as possible will use this pack during autumn 2005 in order that the local groups' responses can be fed into the conference in 2006. There will be six leaflets, designed to be used as discussion starters in groups. Five will each focus on one of the "Marks of Mission" in the specific context of Christian ministry, lay and ordained, and the sixth will focus on the question of "Why do ministry and mission in partnership?" Each leaflet will include Biblical references, quotable quotes, examples from local situations and discussion starters.

There will also be a separate video pack. The video will tell the story of existing ecumenical partnerships in Wales and show aspects of the lay and ordained ministries exercised in each.

The third time of asking

At its last meeting, the Governing Body debated an interim report from the Representative Body Review Steering Group, commended it to the dioceses for discussion, and invited the Representative Body (RB) to bring forward final resolutions at this April meeting of the GB. The GB had before it the third and final report, with some changes made to the original recommendations reflecting the discussions in the dioceses, which had been unanimously received by the RB at its March meeting.

Sir **David Rowe-Beddoe** (ex-officio) introduced the Final Report by stating that after two years of consideration, the proposals are practical and workable, a fitting response to the financial situation in



Sir David Rowe-Beddoe and Archdeacon Randolph Thomas

which we find ourselves in order to put the Church in Wales on a sound financial basis. Without a reduction in the RB's financial commitment, the liability of the clergy pension provision would outweigh the assets of the RB.

The Venerable **Randolph Thomas** (Swansea and Brecon) thanked all who had been involved in the

Dioceses' response to the Review Group's Interim Report. Some of the original recommendations had been amended in response, others retained even though they had been questioned. If the Final

Report is accepted, this would mean a major exercise in constitutional change, with the amendments to the constitution being presented to the GB in September 2005 for implementation in January 2006.

Each section of the Report was introduced by Sir David and then debated:

A. Structure

The Final Report suggests a RB membership of 26 (20 in the Interim Report), to include an additional lay member from each diocese, and the Archbishop ex-officio.

B. Clergy Remuneration

In the light of the recent actuarial review, there is no significant change to the original recommendations. The aim is to bring the pension liability under control in the longer term. One change is that pensions will increase by RPI, not LPI. There are some new provisions in the housing loan scheme.

C. Funding from Dioceses

The one change in the Final Report is that Continuing Ministerial Education will be funded by the Province, not the dioceses. The funding arrangements between the RB and the dioceses through the block grant will be made through a contract, and work is beginning with the dioceses on the terms of this.

Concern was expressed as to would happen if a diocese was not able to fulfil its financial obligations. Sir David said that then a diocese would go into administration. But the RB would work with the dioceses to

Recommendations

A) Structure

- 1.(a) That from 1 January 2006 the Representative Body shall have up to 26 members.
- (b) That the ex-officio members of the Representative Body shall be:
 - (i) The Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance of each Diocese
 - (ii) The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Governing Body of the Church in Wales
 - (iii) The Archbishop of Wales
- (c) That the elected members shall be one Cleric and one lay person elected by the Diocesan Conference of each Diocese.
- (d) That the co-opted members shall be limited to 2, co-opted by the ex-officio and elected members of the Representative Body without any regard for Dioceses.
- (e) That the nominated members shall be limited to 4 members, nominated by the Bench of Bishops in consultation with the Standing Committee.
2. That the Representative Body shall have power to appoint such committees as it sees fit and to specify terms of reference for each of its committees
3. That the Representative Body shall be responsible for determining the size and composition of its committees.
4. That the Representative Body shall elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman from amongst its members.
5. That all members (except ex-officio) shall hold office for a 3-year period and shall be eligible for re-election, co-option or nomination for a further period subject to the existing provisions for retirement at the age of 75.
6. That the Representative Body shall meet at least twice a year and may hold other meetings as it considers occasion shall require.

B) Clergy Pension Scheme and Link with Stipends

7. That the rate of pensions in payment for service after 31 December 2005 shall be increased annually by the same percentage as the increase over the previous 12 month period in the index of retail prices subject to a maximum increase of 5%.
8. That the rate for the payment of pensions to full time stipendiary Clerics joining the scheme or returning to the Church in Wales after 31 December 2005 shall be for each year of pensionable service 1/80 of the minimum stipend of the highest pensionable office held anytime during the last five years of such service.

Save our Cathedrals



The Review Group recommended that the stipends of cathedral clergy be paid by the diocese, and that the diocese would administer the grant originally paid direct to each cathedral. The **Dean of St Davids** opposed this recommendation: "Whenever the Church gets it wrong, it takes it out on cathedrals." He was supported by some of the other deans. The



Dean of Brecon emphasised the role cathedrals play geographically as well as ecclesiastically, open to local, diocesan and secular organisations. The **Dean of Monmouth** felt there was a lack of understanding of what cathedrals actually are. Mrs **Helen Biggin** (Llandaff) called for safeguards, otherwise cathedrals would lose out.

9. That the Representative Body be invited to introduce a new Housing Loan Scheme for retired clergy on the basis set out in the Steering Group's Report.

C) Block Grants

10. That from 1 January 2007 the dioceses will be responsible for the full cost of the following items:

Clergy Benefits

- (a) Archdeacons' stipends, housing and expenses (where not parochial)
- (b) The stipends of the Dean, Residentiary Canon and Minor Canons of each cathedral
- (c) Current service pension contributions for all stipendiary clergy except bishops
- (d) Contributions to Bishops' Hardship Funds
- (e) Contributions to Widows, Orphans & Dependants Funds
- (f) Chaplains currently paid from the Maintenance of Ministry Fund

Clergy Training

- (g) Bursaries and Grants for Ordinands
- (h) Grants to Educational Bodies (principally St Michael's College)

Property

- (i) Costs of parsonage maintenance
- (j) Cost of insurance of clergy houses
- (k) Provision of Curates' houses
- (l) Representative Body Grants to Cathedrals
- (m) Diocesan & Archdeacon Registrars' costs

Governing Body

- (n) Governing Body Meeting Expenses

11. That from 2007 dioceses will be given a 'block grant' by the Representative Body. The total sum to be distributed will be based on an estimate of the Representative Body's expenditure on the items listed above for 2007. The grant to each diocese will be its share of this total based on its proportion of the 2002 expenditure on these items incurred by the Representative Body.
12. That the payments to be made in accordance with the foregoing paragraph will be subject to the conditions to be set out in contracts between the Representative Body; and each Diocese and will be maintained at the aforesaid level until 31 December 2008 by which time they will be reviewed to enable the Representative Body to decide whether and if so to what extent the level of such payments should be adjusted annually and whether the formula for allocating such payments should be changed.

prevent this situation happening, through sharing information in detail and looking at cash flow to ensure that dioceses are kept viable with a sustainable programme. There will be no requirement by the RB for the dioceses to ring-fence any of the block grant; it is up to church members to ensure that particular aspects of the life and work of the dioceses, e.g. cathedrals, are safeguarded.

D. Other Proposals

Further work on property management is needed, and this will be a priority for the new RB. Sir David stressed that there was no need for concern over the fact that the Clergy Pension Scheme will not be separate from the RB general fund. The level of risk to the Pension Scheme is low, because the level of support is under 30% of the RB's funds, there is a rigorous Child Protection Policy which should prevent large claims, and the cost of separating the scheme is high. However the situation would be kept under review.

Most speakers indicated support for the Report, that it gives a way for the Church in Wales to move forward. The motion to 'approve the recommendations set out in the Final Report' was passed overwhelmingly.

Amendment to the Recommendations

An amendment was proposed that an addition should be made to the Review Group recommendations, that "the RB be requested to make £100,000 available annually for 5 years to generate and test imaginative ideas to renew the Church through new and diverse patterns of ministry and mission."

Proposing, Mr **Nigel King** (Swansea and Brecon) pointed out that the Church in Wales has lost a third of its congregations since 1990. "The Review Group recommendations as they stand will make matters worse." His amendment, he believed, would make the renewal of the Church possible. "To try new things costs money—this money must come from the RB." This would fulfil what the Bishops call for in the Report — the extending of God's kingdom.

Seconding, Dr **Graham Humphreys** (Swansea and Brecon), emphasised that the function of the changes in the Report is to support the mission and ministry of the Church in future—but the money is needed to do so.

Speakers in the debate following supported the principle of the amendment to encourage innovations and initiatives—but that the funding should be diocesan. When put, the amendment was defeated.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Legislation related to Marriage, Civil Partnerships and Transgender Matters


The next stage in introducing new arrangements for the registration of marriages would be the publication of an Order to implement the necessary changes to the Marriage Act. Bill procedure would be necessary to change the Church in Wales Prayer Book requirements for banns and common licences, A Bill will be brought to the Governing Body in September 2006 or April 2007, unless parliamentary procedures allow further time for this. The Civil Partnership Act is likely to come into effect this summer.

The Gender Recognition Panels are now determining applications. The Bench of Bishops will be issuing guidelines.

Employment Status of Clergy
A Working Group is preparing advice

on what action the Church in Wales needs to take in response to the DTI's proposals for extending to ministers of religion the employment rights contained in Section 23 of the Employment Relations Act 1999.

Christmas Stamps

The Church of England General Synod Meeting of July 2004 had  approved unanimously a motion asking the Royal Mail to use Christian themes for their Christmas stamps. The GB, noting that over 71% of the population declared themselves to be Christian in the 2001 Census, similarly requested the Royal Mail to issue Christmas stamps with Christian themes every year.

Constitution Working Group

A group is working on the task of developing proposals for simplifying and restructuring the Constitution of the Church in Wales.

QUESTION TIME



Q *Is the business of the GB formally reviewed after the meeting, perhaps at a meeting of the Bishops and/or of the Standing Committee? If so, would the September 2004 resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian separation wall have been formally conveyed to specific individuals and organisations? Have any replies of interest been received?*

- Dr. Peter Padley (Swansea & Brecon)

A GB meeting proceedings are always reviewed by Standing Committee and particularly by its Business sub-committee. Particular items are referred on to other Groups, such as the Bench of Bishops, as appropriate. Where a motion such as that on the Separation Wall is approved by the GB, the secretariat writes to appropriate organisations and individuals immediately. In this case, 32 letters were sent out, and 7 replies received.

- His Honour Michael Evans QC

Q *Can the Representative Body assure us that 'development of our mission and ministry' is taken as seriously as 'stable financial and administrative structure' (Interim Report) in considering such developments as putting church buildings to imaginative use for the benefit of the community, and that the simple option of 'sale for profits' is not automatically preferred?*

- The Revd. Ariadne van den Hoff and Canon Madalaine Brady (Bangor)

A The Representative Body's Churches sub-committee takes the development of our mission and ministry very seriously, and certainly responds to ministry needs when looking at the future of our church buildings. The RB holds most church buildings on provincial trust 'for the benefit of the bishops, clergy and laity of the Church in Wales'. We are required by trust law to 'act as prudent men of business' but our mission enables us to temper the

legal requirements to further the Church's work at parish and other levels.

Most churches are listed and cannot be demolished. When they become redundant, it is in the RB's interest to find a suitable alternative use. We have approved numerous leases to community organisations and others.

Where a church is to remain in use, we have approved schemes whereby a much smaller area of the building is reserved for worship, and the residue of the space is made available e.g. for outreach or low cost housing.

- The Venerable Hywel Jones

Q *In view of our long-standing policy of producing all liturgical productions bilingually, why has the CD Rom Liturgical Offices of the Church in Wales not been produced in a Welsh version?*

- The Revd Hugh James (St Davids)

A The Welsh-language version of the CD Rom is now available, and the Welsh text of Holy Eucharist 2004 has been added to it. The Welsh and English texts of the 2003 Calendar, lectionary and Collects, and the 2004 Holy Eucharist can also be downloaded from the Church in Wales website.

- The Right Reverend David Thomas

Q *Is the performance of the ritual usually called Benediction consistent with Anglican doctrine?*

- Canon Jo Griffin (Swansea & Brecon)

A This question is answered in the affirmative by Professor John Macquarrie in his book *Paths in Spirituality*. As a former Lady Margaret Professor in Divinity at Oxford and theological consultant to various Lambeth Conferences, his credentials as an Anglican theologian can hardly be questioned.

- The Right Reverend David Thomas

REPORTS

St Michael College, Llandaff



The College Garden Party, 29 May 2004

Negotiations have been taking place over the last year to see whether the College should move to another site, or whether the buildings could be used more efficiently. Archbishop Barry told the GB that it has been decided to remain on the present site, but that the College may not be the only occupier.

A recent Vocations Day has shown that there are many people interested in the varied courses available.

The College has had a complete change in staff during the last year, who have been willing to engage with the Church's needs. Archbishop Barry thanked the Principal, the Revd Dr **Peter Sedgwick**, for his work; "in him, as in previous Wardens, we have a major resource for the Church in Wales."



Church in Wales Interchange Scheme

The Revd **David Sutton**, a priest from Monmouth Diocese, reported on his visit to Nepal in Autumn 2004 under the Church in Wales Interchange Scheme. The scheme was set up to enable employees of the Church in Wales to work with a church in another part of the Anglican Communion for a period of three to six months. This helps a sister church by providing someone with the necessary skills to fulfil a need for that church, but also helps expand the vision and understanding of the Church in Wales.

David taught and mentored students on the first course in the newly set-up Mission Training Centre in Kathmandu; the Centre has asked for help with future courses.




RETIREMENT



Archbishop Barry presents Michael Evans with a token of appreciation from GB members

After 20 years as a member of the GB, 17 years as a member of the Standing Committee, and 11 years as its Chairman, His Honour Judge **Michael Evans** QC attended his last meeting before having to retire at the age of 75. In paying tribute, Archbishop Barry said that the quality of Michael's work was evident to GB members, particularly in the way that he was able to present complicated proposals in an intelligible way, and as a chairman giving members every opportunity for debate. Michael has always made himself available to the Church in Wales, especially in offering legal advice. "We will miss his contribution greatly."

The Church In Wales Jubilee Fund




A raped woman with her triplets

The current Jubilee Fund newsletter highlights the plight of rape victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Donations from the Fund have helped the Diocese of Bunia provide clothing for 71 teenage mothers and their children; girls to return home from displacement camps, some to start a small cooperative and others to set up market-stalls; girls to have operations, particularly for internal injuries; and to provide emotional and spiritual support.

Since the last GB, a grant to the Diocese of South West Tanganyika has enabled it to buy a tile-making machine, which finally arrived in early January. By the end of March, tiles were being manufactured, bringing some needful employment, and providing more durable roofing than the present widespread use of zinc sheets.

The Venerable **Philip Morris** (Llandaff), co-ordinator of the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund, up-dated the GB on some of the long-term projects the Fund is helping finance.

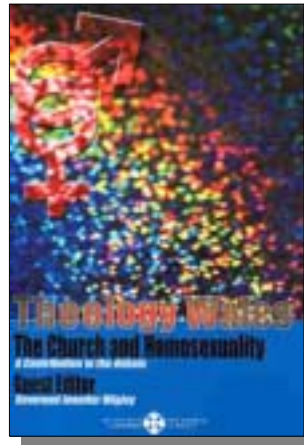
The Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic has now been operating for five years, completely funded by the Jubilee Fund. Constantine Dabbagh, executive secretary of the Near East Council of Churches, in a recent e-mail, described the situation in Gaza as being comparatively calm over the last month or so, but travel restrictions within the Gaza Strip and over its borders are still hampering the work of the Clinic.



The Fund helps provide the salaries of Hanna and Nisreen Ishaq, who run the Jerusalem Centre for Reconciliation as part of Coventry Cathedral's international work. It is hoped that two local centres will be established in Gaza and Ramallah; the centres would aim to address community, cultural and religious issues, and facilitate practical reconciliation projects that would work in five areas — humanitarian, religious, social, educational and women's issues.

The Jubilee Fund runs its course in 2007, ten years after it was set up as a result of the 1998 Lambeth Conference. "We will now be considering ways in which we as the Church in Wales can at least continue to fund the Mobile Dental Clinic, so important in bringing at least some hope to the people of that area," said Archdeacon Philip.

Human Sexuality



Archbishop Barry commended the *Theology Wales Study Guide on The Church and Homosexuality*, edited by the Revd. Jenny Wigley. To take the discussion further, a Study Day has been organised at St Michael's College, Llandaff, on 11th June, from 10.30a.m—5.00p.m. The cost of £12 includes lunch. For places, apply to Sheryl Williams, St Michael's College, 54 Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YJ.

Windsor Report

Archbishop Barry expressed his gratitude to the group convened by Dr Peter Sedgwick, the Principal of St Michael's College, Llandaff, for its response on behalf of the Church in Wales to the Lambeth Commission on Communion—the Windsor Report. "Since there was no Governing Body before the meeting of the Primates we felt as Bishops that this was the best way of dealing with that report."

The text of the Church in Wales response can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/windsorreport/response; and a summary at www.churchinwales.org.uk/press/0263e

Worship at the GB



The Diocese of Bangor led the worship at this meeting of the Governing Body. The Bible Study and Opening Prayers were given by the Venerable **Meurig Llwyd-Williams**. As we think of the fear of the disciples in the upper room on that first Easter Day, how do we face fear—especially fear of the future?

Israel Information Meeting

In September 2004, the GB approved a Private Members' Motion condemning the Separation Barrier being constructed by Israel around the Palestinian Territories. In response, the Israel Information Centre offered to send a speaker to inform GB members about the Israel Government's perspective.



Accordingly, Mr Dan Shacham, the Director of Public Affairs for the Israel Information Centre, addressed an evening meeting for those members of the GB who wished to attend.

The collection of £1073.94 before Gift Aid at the Governing Body Eucharist has been sent to Christian Aid to support projects in areas that do not receive media attention.

Christian Aid

The Governing Body next meets on 21st & 22nd September 2005, at the University of Wales, Lampeter.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

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MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY is a collection of nearly 300 UK charities, celebrities, faith groups and trade unions who are united in an effort to end world poverty. The campaign seeks a government commitment to increase aid and development, to remove unfair trading conditions, and to cancel international debt. The Governing Body enthusiastically supported a motion that the Church in Wales endorse the campaign, and encourage parishes to be involved in practical ways.



Proposing the motion, the Venerable **Philip Morris** (Llandaff), chairman of the Church in Wales International Group, commented on the overwhelming response to the appeal for the victims of the Indian Ocean Tsunami "for people who were left with nothing." "But we must remember that there are people around the world who are born to nothing and exist with nothing." The tsunami showed the vulnerability of the poor, but what is needed is real, deep, lasting change for the world's poorest people.



2005 offers an unprecedented opportunity for global change. The UK holds the presidency of the G8 summit and the European Union this year. Through the Commission on Africa, the Prime Minister has demonstrated his commitment to make Africa a priority. The UN is holding a special summit on its Millennium Development Goals in September to review progress in reducing world poverty by 2015.

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY has three aims:

Trade Justice—that the UK Government must fight to ensure poorer countries are free to choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment; that the UK must end export subsidies that damage poor communities; that the UK must make laws to prevent big

business profiting at the expense of people and the environment.



Drop the Debt—that the debts of the world's poorest countries should be cancelled in full, by fair and transparent means.

More and better aid—that international donors must deliver \$50 billion more in aid each year, and set out a timetable for providing 0.7% of national income for international aid, and that aid needs to be made to work more effectively for the world's poorest.

Archdeacon Philip stressed that these three aims are only part of a larger programme in a complex world, and that much more will be needed. The signs are that the UK government needs little persuading in all this. However, awareness still needs to be raised, and the issues brought into our liturgy, prayer and concerns in our parishes. The Jubilee 2000 campaign made a difference, as politicians have acknowledged—and showed that people power is effective.

In seconding the motion, Mrs **Lis Perkins** (Bangor) stressed that the **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY** campaign will last for only this one key year, so we do need to start campaigning now to put pressure on our political leaders to make the basic changes which will improve the lives of millions of people throughout the world.

The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- (i) commends to Parishes throughout the Church in Wales the importance of 2005 for prayer and action in relation to **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and its three goals—trade justice, the cancelling of debts, and more and better aid;
- (ii) associates itself with other churches and development agencies already involved in the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** coalition.

Lis highlighted some of the things people could do to support the campaign:

- € Buy and wear a white wristband;
- € Send a postcard to Tony Blair;
- € Arrange special services, hold a vigil, collect votes, hold a 12-hour fast;
- € Travel to Edinburgh on 2nd July for a peaceful protest at the time of the G8 summit.
- € Register your email address on the campaign website www.makepovertyhistory.org.

"The situation isn't hopeless—our actions can make a difference. What is the message of Easter if it isn't a message of hope," concluded Lis.

A number of speakers from the floor called on members to use the opportunity the General Election provides to put pressure on politicians through local meetings etc. "Go back to your constituencies and shake government," said the Revd **Edwin Counsell** (Llandaff). The Venerable **Alun Evans** (St Davids) said we must move from campaigning mode to conversion mode. "How does all this challenge my own lifestyle and that of my parish?"

When put, the motion was passed *nem. con.*



HIGHLIGHTS

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