

HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE CHURCH IN WALES GOVERNING BODY SEPTEMBER 2008

The Lambeth Conference 2008

Archbishop Barry's Presidential Address to the Governing Body

While 200 bishops (mainly from Africa) were absent, the GAFCON meeting had been held in Jerusalem beforehand, and everyone knew that there were different views on human sexuality, at the 14th Lambeth Conference "there seemed to be a genuine desire on the part of everyone to engage constructively with those holding different views," said Archbishop Barry in his presidential address to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales. The Conference Retreat, the worship, the Indaba Bible Study Groups, the conversations — "all of this helped us to see how much we have in common, the things that hold us together, and the breadth and the richness of the Communion."



Respect
 "It is difficult to convey an experience to people who weren't there because it's all so personal," but the Conference enabled bishops to experience the reality of what it is to belong to the Anglican Communion. Here were "bishops from the Arctic to the Equator, from mountainous regions to Pacific islands, from shanty towns to wealthy cities, from centuries old dioceses to the newly planted - that is the nature of the universal church". They could appreciate what it is, in the words of Archbishop Rowan, to have "new habits of respect, patience and understanding".



The Welsh Bishops at the Lambeth Conference: (from left to right): John Davies (St Asaph); David Yeoman (assistant bishop, Llandaff); Dominic Walker (Monmouth); John Davies (Swansea and Brecon); Barry Morgan (Archbishop and Llandaff)

Mission
 The discussions about equipping bishops for mission shows the many things on which there is agreement. "God is a God of mission and we are called to engage in His mission...Mission has to be carried out in the context of the culture of the country in which it operates and so what may be positive, acceptable and fitting in one culture, can be negative, harmful and adversely affect the witness and proclamation of the Gospel in another."

Anglican identity
 During the last week of the Conference, the Bishops discussed the authority of Scripture, the issue

of human sexuality, the Anglican Covenant and the Windsor process. "Scripture shapes our doctrine, worship and community life," said the Reflections Group. "The Scriptures are primary but we read them informed by reason, tradition and from our cultural context as others read them from the perspective of their culture." "Whilst Anglicans honour Scripture as inspired and revealed by God, we are also invited to use the resources of the human intellect to interpret texts." Moreover, said Archbishop Barry, the Conference declared "for Anglicans, the Apostles and Nicene Creeds are understood to be faithful and sufficient statements of the essentials of biblical witness as revealed by the power of the Holy

Spirit to us and to the whole church in every generation". "One is then left wondering, in the light of a statement such as this on the Bible, how the Communion has got itself into the mess it has on the issue of sexuality. Sexuality may be a doctrinal issue but it is not a credal issue as this statement makes clear. Why is it that as far as Anglicanism is concerned, we do not interpret the Scriptures literally when it comes to issues such as usury or marriage and divorce to name but two, but insist on a literal interpretation of texts that allegedly deal with homosexuality." "Why cannot there be diversity on this issue as on so many other moral issues?"

Human sexuality
 The discussions enabled many different viewpoints to be aired in the final Reflections paper. "One ought not to underestimate the frustration felt by those who wanted a much clearer Resolution since homosexual activity is regarded as sinful by the Bible and many come from cultures where there is denial that there are homosexuals in their midst and criminal action is taken against homosexuals in many parts of the world. There is no doubt as well that the consecration of a Bishop living in a same gender union has caused

The Governing Body met at the University of Wales, Lampeter, on 17th and 18th September 2008

deep upset and outrage and questions both the view of Scripture and tradition, has hampered mission in some parts of the Communion and led to the persecution of Christians in others, and has impaired ecumenical relationships as our Roman Catholic observers told us. On the other hand, in other places, it has sent positive messages about the place of homosexuals in God's church."

A moratorium has been called on the blessing of same sex unions across the Anglican Communion, and a moratorium on the consecration of bishops in same sex unions. "What will happen next depends on whether these moratoria will be observed by provinces. The Communion at the minute is deeply divided. As the Reflection Groups noted, for some the way ahead is prohibition and no legalisation or endorsement of homosexual relationships. For others, the Gamaliel principle is at work. Let's just wait and see what happens. Let's listen more, let's study the Scriptures theology and other disciplines more carefully and let's agree to differ in the meantime."

The Covenant

The GB considered a first draft last year, and was not impressed with many of the details. A second draft has been produced, was discussed at Lambeth 08, and will have to be responded to by the Church in Wales by March 2009. "This second attempt at drafting a Covenant is excellent in many ways. It bases the Covenant on the biblical concept of God's Covenant with us and on classical beliefs about the Scriptures, creeds, sacraments and ministry that bind Anglicans together. It sets out the commitments needed to care for the common good, the respect needed for one another's autonomy but also too acknowledges the inter-dependent life of the Communion." However, there were reservations and concerns voiced, particularly in the way matters of dispute would be dealt with through the 'Instruments of Communion'.

Difficulties

In the meantime, the difficulties remain, because GAFCON has happened. "GAFCON members do not believe in engaging in dialogue with people with whom they disagree

on human sexuality because it means being open to the possibility that the position of one's opponent might be true when the plain sense reading of Scripture shows in their view that it is not." Several African provinces have excommunicated the Episcopal Church of America, and GAFCON is seeking the formation of a new province in North America. "Who decides the way ahead for the Communion—the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Anglican Consultative Council, the Primates, or the Lambeth Conference? "It is all terribly untidy," said Archbishop Barry.

Relationship building "I believe Lambeth '08 has shown us the way forward," concluded Archbishop Barry. "The real value of the Communion lies in deepening person to person relationships, diocesan partnerships and a sense of mutual affection." "I wish that we could now sit still and do nothing. The Bishops who were at Lambeth 2008 need time to let the nature of that conference sink into their bones. Sometimes in the Church of God, we want to rush into making decisions. We would do well just to stop and reflect. My sense is that most people want a Communion and want to make it work. If however we decide things too quickly and attempt to force Provinces to make decisions, to decide where they stand on various matters when they are not ready to decide, it will all end in tears. We just need at the moment to live with matters being unresolved. Relationship building has to be the way forward."

The pre-Lambeth Bishops' Visits

"A life-changing experience—some thing the diocese could connect with rather than hear about."

- Bishop John, St Asaph



The Indaba Groups

"Some bishops found it difficult to listen intently to other people...but once they fell into that, there was much reconciliation and healing. They were an incredible experience—how can we use the process and experience in Church life outside the Lambeth Conference?"

- Bishop Dominic, Monmouth



March of Witness



Archbishop Barry highlighted the bishops' march of witness through central London to draw attention to the Millennium Development Goals to tackle world poverty.

They were addressed by the Prime Minister, who, in an impassioned speech, said "that it was one of the greatest public demonstrations of faith that London had ever seen." He acknowledged that the eradication of world poverty is not down to lack of resources but of global political will, a matter to be addressed in this month by the United Nations in New York. Archbishop Barry said that he is left wondering that had we spent our energy on promoting these goals, rather than on debating sexuality over the last ten years, how different things might be now. "As the Prime Minister reminded us, ten million children each year die avoidable deaths from TB, polio, diphtheria and malaria. 77 million children have no schools to attend and 100 million people face starvation in our world today."

The full text of Archbishop Barry's speech can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/bishops/sermons/b33.html

The March of Witness

"An extraordinary experience, a demonstration of the Church seeking to proclaim what its there for—the cry for justice, freedom, equality. Archbishop Rowan was eclipsed by the zeal and sheer love of what the Prime Minister said."

- Bishop John, Swansea and Brecon



Archbishop Rowan

"He received standing ovation after standing ovation. Rowan set the tone of Lambeth 08 – a deep sense of listening, affirmation and holding one another in prayer."

- Bishop David, Llandaff



BISHOPS' STATEMENT

Bishops pledge pastoral care for those unable to accept the ordination of women



In a statement read to the GB, Archbishop **Barry** promised that the bishops would provide continuing care for those opposed to the ordination of women, following a decision not to appoint a new assistant bishop.

They stressed there was still a place in the church for those unable in conscience to accept the ordination of women and emphasised their commitment to sensitive pastoral care for all people and parishes in each diocese.

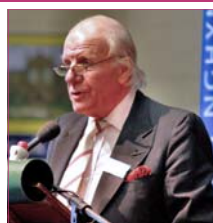
The announcement follows the retirement last June of Bishop David Thomas, the Provincial Assistant Bishop. While acknowledging Bishop David's faithful ministry, Archbishop Barry said that after 12 years of women ordained as priests the Bishops had decided not to appoint a successor.

"We reaffirm as Diocesan Bishops our commitment to securing a continuing place in the life of the Church in Wales for those who cannot in conscience accept the ordination of women to the priesthood. However, we no longer consider that the continuation of additional episcopal provision for one part of the Church on grounds of belief or doctrine on one particular issue is either necessary or consistent with Anglican ecclesiology. All Church in Wales clergy and parishes are in communion with their respective Diocesan Bishop, regardless of whether or not they agree on every issue. Episcopal oversight and care for all within each Diocese is the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop."

"Whilst bringing a particular arrangement to an end, we remain committed to serving every person and every parish within our respective Dioceses and we will continue to be sensitive in our appointments, both in terms of the views of parishes and in ensuring that clergy from different parts of the Church are given the opportunity to progress in their ministry."

REPRESENTATIVE BODY REPORT

"Whilst the primary purpose of the RB has always been to provide support for the mission and work of the Church in Wales, its priority in recent years has been focussed on ensuring the long-term security and stability of the Church's finances," said Lord **David Rowe-Beddoe**, its chairman.



Investment

The Fund outperformed the All Charity Fund index in 2007, but after four years of significant growth, now values have fallen because of the volatility of the markets. The returns on commercial properties held by the RB has dropped. The consensus of advisers is that there will be continuing volatility and reduction in property values, so a cautious approach to investments will be taken.

Clergy Stipends and Pensions

There will be a 4% increase in clergy stipends in January 2009. An actuarial review of the Clergy Pension Scheme has taken place; in the light of the review, it is possible to handle additional annual expenditure without affecting the pension liability on the General Funds. The Pension Scheme will not be separated as a stand-alone fund, as there is no financial risk to it in the current arrangements. The new Clergy Retirement Housing Loan Scheme will continue to make loans available at half the base rate (currently 2.75%).

Grants to Dioceses

An additional amount is to be allocated to the total Block Grant per annum from 2009, and there would be a guaranteed increase until 2014. £10,000 per annum would be committed to the Emergency Aid Fund to finance emergency works to property such as churchyard boundary walls.

The RB continues to provide significant funding —over 34p in every pound spent by the Church in Wales.

Elections to the RB

The RB enters a new triennium in 2009. There is a need for elected members who are closely involved with the life of the dioceses at their centres, and who can bring their expertise to the RB to enable the RB to manage the Church's finances. Lord Rowe Beddoe concluded his report by thanking all RB members for their work in the past triennium.

The Cathedrals and Churches Commission

The Cathedrals and Churches Commission forms part of the Church's faculty procedure, one of the reasons why the Church is exempt from secular consent procedures in respect of its church buildings. It was originally established to be the decision making body for all faculties for Cathedrals. The RB believes the Commission can be a source of advice and help on heritage building issues to the Church as a whole, and so proposed amended purposes in its Rules:

- a. To advise Chancellors on all petitions for faculty relating to Cathedrals;
- b. To advise Chancellors when requested on any faculty relating to other churches, especially Grade 1 Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments;



Ewenny Priory Church — a Grade 1 listed building in the Vale of Glamorgan

- c. To monitor the operation of the faculty system including the operation of Diocesan Advisory Committees, faculty procedures and the ecclesiastical exemption process;
- d. To act as the voice of the Church in Wales on all matters relating to the built heritage;
- e. To advise the Representative Body on its built heritage.

There would be seven members supported by a group of advisors in specialist areas.

The GB passed the motion that the Cathedrals and Churches Commission rules be amended.

Redundant Churches Fund

The GB agreed that when a redundant church is sold, instead of all the proceeds going to the parish, that 10% of the proceeds of sale are retained by the RB to meet the costs of the redundant churches that are retained; and that all remaining proceeds of sale are available to the parish for providing or adapting other places of worship that remain. Parishes will have 18 months to decide how to use the money.

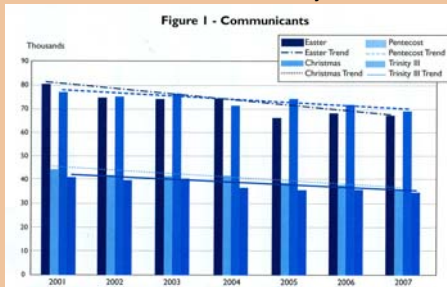
Each year, parishes complete a questionnaire to provide information on key trends in attendance, income and expenditure across the Church in Wales. The proportion of parishes responding to this annual survey is high—94% this year—and as a result it is possible for the Church to rely on this data for its planning both at provincial and diocesan level.



Membership

The figures for 2007 show:

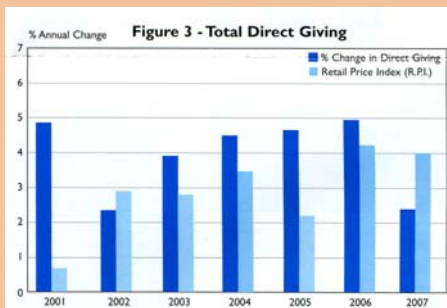
- A continuation of the general trend of decline in average attendance, with fluctuations in the number of communicants for the major festivals.



- A disappointing fall in the average attendance among young people.
- A small increase in baptisms and confirmations.

Finance

- Parish income through direct giving and income tax refunds has increased by 2.4%.



- However, for the first time since 2002, the increase in direct giving did not beat Retail Price Inflation (4%). This is one illustration of the difficulties parishes face in meeting increasing costs with a falling membership base.
- Weekly direct giving per Sunday attendee increased from £6.86 in 2006 to £7.23 in 2007.
- Parishes spent more on ministry costs in 2007 than in 2006. The proportion of expenditure on buildings and other running costs fell.
- The proportion of the Church's total income provided by the Representative Body rose in 2007. Just over 34 pence in every pound spent by the Church in Wales continues to be met from provincial investment income.

In presenting the Report, Bishop **David Yeoman** (Llandaff) thanked Glenda Edwards and Jean Gorey of the RB for all their hard work in compiling the membership and financial statistics, and to those responsible for the new database, which provides a detailed analysis of every parish, deanery and diocese, together with the trends they indicate. "For bishops and archdeacons to have access to these detailed statistics is invaluable in helping us to discern where parishes are growing, where the challenges lie, and what help is needed to provide for them."

However, statistics are not the only indicator of the life of the Church in Wales—"the stories behind the statistics often reveal more than the statistics themselves." Bishop David felt that as parishes have responded to the financial challenge facing the Church by increasing their giving year by year, so too have many parishes responded to the membership figures by engaging in mission outreach, more flexible patterns of ministry, and the rediscovery of the ministry of all the baptised. "It may be sometime before we see these initiatives translated into increased membership, but where they are happening they are changing the nature of the Church."

Bishop David highlighted some of the projects that have impacted not only on the parishes concerned, but on the local and wider communities they serve—"Good News stories that show the Church being the Church not for its own sake but for the sake of regenerating the communities it serves, and in the process witnessing to the Gospel." He also pointed to diocesan initiatives in developing new patterns of ministry that are flexible, collaborative and pioneering and which have the ability to go where people are. "So many of these are a response to the challenge presented to us by the kind of statistics we find in this and previous reports."

The Church in Wales accepted the Welsh Language Scheme at the April 2007 GB; the Scheme provides for monitoring at provincial, diocesan and parish levels. The Language Officer's monitoring report was presented as part of the Standing Committee's Report:

- Minutes of the GB and RB are now produced bilingually, and simultaneous translation is provided at both meetings.
- Most of the material on the Church in Wales Website is bilingual.
- Four of the dioceses have reviewed their arrangements for bilingual provision; four include Welsh on letterheads etc.; three have provision to reply to correspondence in Welsh; four include some Welsh in their magazine/newsletter.
- Some provision for Welsh is available in 75% of the 48 (63%) deaneries that responded to a questionnaire. In 72% of the deaneries that responded, there was provision for baptism, marriage and burial services in Welsh.

Further work is needed to persuade those parishes and deaneries where there is a perceived lack of demand for Welsh that this cannot justify ignoring the Language Scheme—this will be the challenge over the next year.

Archbishop Barry paid tribute to Bishop **Anthony Crockett** (Bishop of Bangor since 2004) who died on 30 June; and Bishop **George Noakes** (Bishop of St Davids 1982-1991; Archbishop of Wales 1987-1991) who died on 15 July.



Bishop **John Davies** (St Asaph) will be retiring at the end of the year; Archbishop Barry praised his work as bishop over the last nine years—his wisdom and friendship, and the insights he gave to the Bench.

The Very Revd **Wyn Evans** will be consecrated Bishop of St Davids on 29th November at Llandaff. He was warmly congratulated by the GB.



The Governing Body next meets on 21st and 22nd April 2008 at Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Dignity, respect, fairness and equality for in the Church

The Motion

That the Governing Body

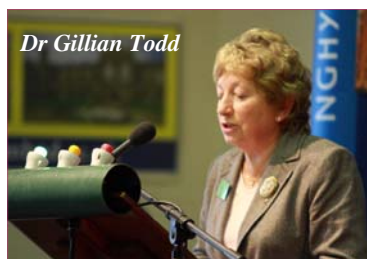
- (i) receive and welcome the Report on the Working Group on Representation of Women in the Church in Wales and endorse the recommendations therein;
- (ii) commend the Report to the Province, dioceses, deaneries and parishes for study and action;
- (iii) request the Standing Committee to allocate the recommendations in the Report to the appropriate bodies for action;
- (iv) request the Standing Committee to report back on progress in implementing the recommendations within three years.

Recommendations

1. Aim for lay representation on all committees of at least 30% women by 2011 and 50% women by 2013.
2. Aim for a gender mix of senior clergy post holders which reflects the existing gender mix in ordained ministry.
3. All church committees should ensure people are appointed because of their skills and the contribution they can make.
4. A set of equality policies is produced and approved by the GB.
5. Training sessions focused on the importance of equality of opportunity and experience be provided.
6. Church people are made aware of the statistics and facts about equality of representation.
7. On-going support for those in positions of authority within the Church to enable and support them in fully empowering men and women in the church.
8. Gender equality understanding provided in clergy training.
9. All in authority in the Church support the achievement of the core values of respect, dignity, fairness and equality in the Church in Wales and are unequivocal in their condemnation of discrimination by gender and its associated behaviour.
10. The recruitment of ordinands takes account of their commitment to gender equality, and their training incorporates specific gender equality awareness.
11. The use of inclusive language in worship is endorsed and encouraged.

In September 2006, the GB passed a resolution that a working group should review the representation of women in the work and structures of the Church in Wales, in light of the commitment of the Anglican Consultative Council to strive towards equal representation of women in decision making at all levels in all Anglican Provinces.

In presenting the Report of the Working Group, and proposing the acceptance of its recommendations, Dr **Gillian Todd** (Swansea and Brecon), its chair, said that while there



Dr Gillian Todd

were exciting initiatives taking place within the Church which enabled men and women to work together, there was also discrimination and bullying. "This is an opportunity to act. Church members must reflect the expectations of society—and society is used to dignity, respect, fairness and equality." Legislation in the UK requires all institutions to look at gender equality; for the Church there are issues of care and best practice.

Dr Todd identified opportunities for gender equality to be addressed—in the equality of representation on committees, by setting realistic targets as benchmarks; increasing the need for awareness in equality in church life, through policies, training, and making facts and statistics available; and raising awareness of bullying and discrimination. "The Report is only as good as the action it generates. The measure of its success will be what takes place as a result."

Mr **Sandy Blair** (Monmouth), a member of the committee, said that in other institutions and establishments, the balance between men and women holding senior posts was better than the Church in Wales. The principle of equality is rarely questioned; appointments are made of the best person for the job based on experience and ability. "The Report is not suggesting a quick fix, but the Church needs to change, through strong leadership, an open culture

and good role models. The Report is offering a comprehensive approach through appointment frameworks, training, the expectation on leadership at all levels, and taking into account the special needs of the ordained clergy."

Canon **Peter Williams** (Swansea and Brecon) proposed an amendment that the GB simply

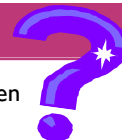
receive and welcome the Report, as he felt that while the principles behind it were fine, the wording needed clarification, otherwise this could be 'political correctness gone

mad'. Archbishop **Barry** responded, "Unless we put some measures in place, we will be guilty of institutional inequality". When put, the amendment was defeated.

Discussion centred on the recommendation of a 'quota system' for membership of elected bodies, which some found problematic. However, the Very Revd. **Alun Hawkins** (Bangor) did not see the recommendations as prescriptive, rather indicating a direction of travel.

The motion was carried.

QUESTION TIME



Q Small 'historical' legacies given to individual parishes, with no provision for use after the original purpose has disappeared, are being amalgamated into Diocesan Trusts for use within the diocese. Should changes be made to the terms by which legacies to parishes are left?
- Dr Peter Padley (Swansea and Brecon)

A The legal department of the RB will give advice on terms of legacies as requested.

- Lord Rowe-Beedoe

Q In the light of the Church in Wales Welsh Language Scheme, has any thought been given to the creation of a small anthology of bilingual terms for use in the Church in Wales to help those who are translating Welsh correspondence?
- Mr Adrian Morgan (co-opted under 30)

A It is important for consistency in terms used across the Province—the matter will be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Provincial Language Committee.

Employment Rights

While the Church in Wales has sought to provide for its clergy many of the benefits which employees enjoy as a result of secular employment legislation, clergy are 'office-holders' rather than employees. Currently they do not benefit from all the protections and rights provided by the statutory legislative framework that exists within the UK and Europe.

Faith communities have been required by the former Department for Trade and Industry (Dti) to produce their schemes for conferring employment rights on ministers of religion. A Church in Wales Working Group was set up four years ago to advise on this; it made a first report to the GB in September 2005; circulated draft proposals to clergy in 2006, along with a questionnaire; held consultation meetings; produced draft Clergy Terms of Service in July 2007 and made an interim report to the September 2007 GB; and now presented the draft guidelines and proposals for Disciplinary Policy and Procedures for endorsement by the GB before further consultation with clergy and the presentation of a Bill to implement all the proposals for 'Common tenure'.

Disciplinary Procedures

The proposed policy identifies two categories of complaints against clergy:

1. "Neglect of the duties of office, or persistent carelessness or gross inefficiency in the discharge of such duties." The Bishop will deal with such 'capability' matters, and has the power to issue sanctions up to the level of a 'final written warning'.
2. Other complaints which would be brought to the Disciplinary Tribunal, such as "conduct giving just cause for scandal or offence", would, as now, be dealt with by the Disciplinary Tribunal.

Common Tenure

All new clergy would be appointed on the basis of "Common Tenure". This would confer Section 23 of the Employment Relations Act 1999 rights for clergy, particularly giving terms and conditions of work, procedures for resolving disputes,

The Motion

That the Governing Body:

- (i) take note of the report entitled 'Review of Clergy Terms of Service – Autumn 2008';
- (ii) endorse:
 - (a) the Draft Guidelines for the Professional Conduct of the Clergy and the Draft Statement of Terms of Service for Clergy Appointments; and
 - (b) the new proposals for Disciplinary Policy and Procedures;
- (iii) invite the Working Group to consult widely with Church in Wales clergy on the proposals for a Disciplinary Policy and Procedure;
- (iv) invite the Standing Committee to bring forward a Bill to implement all the proposals for 'Common Tenure'.

and development and personnel support. Serving clergy will be given the choice of remaining in their current office on the basis of the existing provisions (without the additional rights and protections arising from Section 23) or electing to transfer to the new basis of Common Tenure. The objective is to provide better protection for clergy in their ministries.

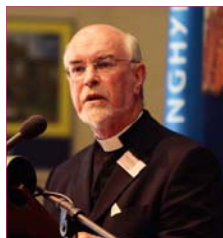
Human Resources Support

To provide the necessary level of support to implement the new arrangements will mean the establishment of two or three additional human resources posts in the Province. The Representative Body has made provisions for this development in its financial projections.

Archdeacon

Malcolm Squires

(St Asaph), in seconding the motion said, "You have before you the complete package of proposals we would like the Church in Wales to offer to its clergy in response to the original request by the Department for Trade and Industry. There will be a further round of consultation with the clergy, as it is vital we bring these proposals forward at Bill stage in the knowledge that we have substantial support from the clergy."



Alternative Funeral Services GB agreed to the experimental use for a period not exceeding ten years of *Alternative Funeral Services for the Church in Wales*. These include, in addition to an Order for the Funeral Service, resources for the minister such as a service at home before and after the funeral, a memorial service, prayers and readings and hymn suggestions.

Proposals for the Reform of the Courts of the Church in Wales

GB had before it proposals to simplify the court structure of the Church in Wales. At present there are six courts, each having its own rules and dealing with similar misdemeanours or offences, but having jurisdiction only over one 'tier' of personnel within the Church. The number of courts would be reduced to three—the Diocesan Court, the Disciplinary Tribunal and the Provincial Court. Simplifying the structure would bring a modern, more responsive and equal system for all, with speedier justice and easier administration of the system without any diminution in the rights of those affected by it.

GB welcomed a simplification of the court structure and invited the Standing Committee to bring forward a Bill to implement the proposals in due course.

Electoral College Procedure

The Constitution requires the Electoral College to meet within 30 days of a Bishop resigning his See. In situations where the vacancy has arisen without prior notices, there is a slightly longer period allowed before the College meets, but in any case within three months of the vacancy. In the recent cases of St Davids and Bangor, it has been difficult to meet the three-month deadline for the election of new bishops. The election of the Bishop of St Davids took place on 1 September; the election of the Bishop of Bangor will take place on 7-10 October. GB was asked to give its formal agreement to the calling of the two Electoral Colleges outside the required timetable—which it readily agreed to do.

Parish Website Scheme

Since its launch at the April 2008 GB, 106 parishes have registered, and 72 of those parish now have a website. See www.churchinwales.org.uk/parishholding. To register, email resources@churchinwales.org.uk.

IN BRIEF

Parish Green Guide

A draft of a guide to assist parishes in considering green issues was provided for GB members for their endorsement. The final version will be circulated to parishes in due course, and training in green issues will be offered to accompany the guide. The guide includes a statement of principles to raise awareness of the importance of the issues; a checklist for action; sources of help; and ideas for prayers and worship.

Gaza Dental Project



It was at the GB ten years ago that the suggestion of a special Church in Wales fund to support overseas development projects was first made in response to a resolution of the 1998 Lambeth Conference. As a result, the Jubilee Fund was set up, and over the last eight years, 11 projects have been supported through donations totalling nearly £250,000. The co-ordinator of the Fund, Archdeacon **Philip Morris**, gave a brief history of the Jubilee Fund, and up-to-date information on the Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic, solely funded by donations from Church in Wales parishes through the Jubilee Fund's successor, the Gaza Dental Project.

Overseas Mission Fund

This investment fund, which produces an annual income of £13,000, aids churches overseas that have sustained damage through natural disasters, helps the missionary agencies in specific projects, and supports the theological training of clerics and ordinands from Third World provinces. An update on recent donations was given to the GB—recent grants have helped in reconstruction and teaching in the Butwal area of Nepal, and the Burma Cyclone appeal.

Widows, Orphans and Dependants Society

GB received the annual report of the Society; in 2007 £82,737 was given in grants to widows, orphans and dependants of deceased clergy who had served in the Church in Wales.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTION

An Anglican List of 'Highly Commended' Writings?



In a Private Members' Motion, Dr **Peter Padley** (Swansea and Brecon) proposed that all members of the Governing Body should submit a list of up to five works that they have found to be a particular value in their spiritual lives. Dr Padley felt that all members of the GB would surely have at least their own clear memories of some work or other that has special Christian meaning for them—apart, of course, from the Bible. The list could be held on a computer file, accessible through the Church in Wales website, with the books categorised in various sections according to subject and age. A one sentence description could be appended as to the perceived usefulness of the work submitted.

The Bishop of Cashel and Ossory, **Michael Burrows**, representing the Church of Ireland, suggested the list should also include music and art. GB agreed—and passed the motion with that proviso.

TRINITY COLLEGE

Mr **Gwilym Dyfri Jones**, head of the Faculty of Education and Training, reflected on a busy and successful year for Trinity College, Carmarthen.



It has been a year of celebration—the College received the highest commendation available from the Quality Assurance Agency and is now applying to the Privy Council for Taught Degree Awarding powers. It has been a year of reflection—the College has shown its strategic importance in delivering the Welsh Assembly Government's vision and priorities for higher education in Wales. It was a year of external relationships—it has secured £7.5million for a partnership with Swansea University and Swansea Metropolitan University.

CHURCH ARMY

The guest speaker at Evensong at the GB was **Mark Russell**, the Chief Executive of the Church Army.



Mark also gave a presentation on the work of the Church Army to the GB, as an organisation that 'goes beyond the church walls to meet people.'



The Church Army runs a number of projects in Wales, including *Valley of Hope* in the Rhondda, reaching out to those with drug and drink dependency; and in Cardiff, *Solace* working in the night clubs, *Ty Bronna*, a hostel for homeless young people, and the *Amber Project* providing a counselling and drop-in service for 16 to 25 year olds who have experience of self-harm.

Mark challenged parishes in Wales to think about what projects could take place to make a difference in their communities. He appealed for Welsh-speaking evangelists to work with the Church Army, as there are none at the present. In thanking the Church in Wales for its support, funding and prayer, he called on the Church, in the words of a 16 year old to whom he talked in a school, "to stop arguing about stuff and give hope and love."

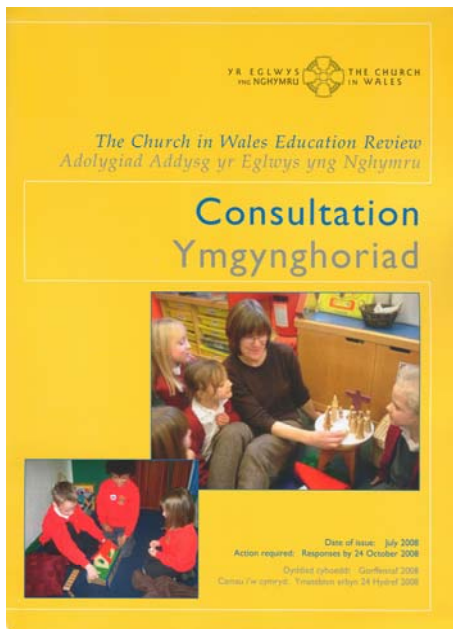
WORSHIP AT THE GOVERNING BODY

It was the Diocese of Bangor's turn to lead the worship at the GB.

Canon **Madalaine Brady** gave the Bible Study, with a reflection on the Epistle of St James—seeing ourselves as 'God's slaves'.



The total collection at the GB for The Church Army was £863 before Gift Aid tax recovery.



The Church in Wales Education Review

To review the contribution of the Church in Wales to the education of our nation, making proposals for the further development of this role and relationship with Wales as a learning country.

In assessing the contribution to lifelong learning in Wales today, the Review Group will consider...

1. The role of the Church in Wales as a stakeholder in education in Wales, including the dioceses and their use of Diocesan Trust funds.
2. The impact, standards and effectiveness of Church in Wales schools in serving the children and young people of Wales and their communities.
3. The impact of Church in Wales schools on the Church in Wales.
4. The personal and professional development of teachers and school leaders.
5. Structures of training, pastoral care, support and nurture in further and higher education.



Mr Ian Miller, Chief Executive of Denbighshire County Council, Chair of the Education Review Group, with the Revd Edwin Counsell, Church in Wales Education Officer

“Serving Christ through the provision of education in Wales”

In 2006, the Church in Wales began a major review of its education work, looking at both its provision and also the impact of this work on the children and young people of Wales. A Review Group was established and the work so far has identified many examples of outstanding practice, with dedicated teachers and support staff working hand in hand with committed local communities, to ensure the highest standards for learners in a climate of commitment and shared exploration.

The initial findings and emerging recommendations of the consultation were presented to the GB. The final report will be published in 2009, the Year of the Child. This report will provide an open and honest appraisal of the Church's involvement in statutory education in Wales, not only in its 168 maintained schools, but also its wider work in non-Church schools and colleges. There will be clear recommendations to strengthen that provision, develop better models of partnership at every level, and enhance the impact of education with a distinctive Christian character across Wales.

The emerging recommendations include:

- The setting up of a working group in every area deanery to co-ordinate the Church's ministry to secondary schools and Further and Higher Education institutions in the deanery;
- Provincial guidance on the admission process for Church in Wales schools;
- Church schools policies on such matters as additional learning needs and 'looked after' children;
- Training provided on worship in church schools;
- Guidance on reflecting the distinctive character of a Church school in its brochures;
- The review of policies and arrangements for pastoral care within Church schools;
- A consideration of how distinctive leadership is exercised in the context of a church school within the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers programme;
- Professional development for staff involved in delivering RE and worship;
- PCCs review the pastoral care and support they offer to parishioners who work in schools, and the staff of schools in the parish;
- An Asset Management Plan for Church school buildings in every diocese;
- Talks held with the Welsh Assembly Government about the level of capital allocation to the Voluntary Aided sector;
- An increase of resources available

to Diocesan Education teams.

The Review Group has been concerned that the proposals it puts forward in the context of its recommendations should be practical and achievable within a five-year timescale.

The **Bishop of St Asaph** told members of GB: "Your involvement is crucial. An acknowledged gap in the Report are the good news stories we know are out there. We need to hear these."

The Revd **Edwin Counsell** (Provincial Education Officer) said "At the heart of the work is listening, consultation and reflection, which will result in a set of recommendations to help at the sharp end. Please engage with the consultation and look forward to the strategy that emerges."

The Report and recommendations can be downloaded from
www.churchinwales.org.uk/life/schools

Responses to the Consultation can be submitted in writing to The Church in Wales Education Review (Consultation), Diocesan Education Office, The Court, Coychurch, Bridgend, CF35 5HF; or by email to
pennysnowden@churchinwales.org.uk.

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