

Clychau'r Cwm



Indian Journal Continued. The vicar's visit to Mysore.



Editor's Letter

Before I was ordained I did research into long-term climate change. Recently one of my ex-colleagues was telling me of the warming he saw while working in the Arctic. He described it as 'unprecedented'. Reports of global warming are more than just anecdotal; there is sound evidence from temperature measurements around the world and from melting of glaciers and the polar ice caps. Climate scientists are very concerned about what they see. Most lay the blame for warming climates on human produced greenhouse gases such as the Carbon dioxide produced by burning oil, gas and coal. Some scientists disagree and claim some of the change is be-



Climate change has caused a large part of the Upsala glacier to melt.

cause of natural changes in the earth's climate.

Politicians and businesses also have differing ideas about climate change and especially about what we can, or should, do about it. Some say that the scientists are conning everyone in order to get more grants to continue their work. They say that agreements like Kyoto are aimed at increasing the power of bureaucracies like the EEC and the United Nations and damaging free trade. They also point out a number of flaws in the run-

ning of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that stifle dissenting views.

The other side argues that some politicians, especially the Bush administration, are too closely connected with multinational companies to be unbiased. They also think that governments, particularly the USA, are suppressing research into, and information about, climate change.

The stakes are very high. There could be an environmental disaster of huge proportions, but we don't know. Even if some global warming were due to a natural change, it would be wise to cut greenhouse gas production. In the words of the climate scientist Wally Broecker - climate is like an angry beast and it is unwise to provoke it with additional Carbon dioxide. If we do not alter the way we live what does it say about our Christian stewardship of this planet? Care of the earth is part of our God given responsibility. The church should be doing things. Our churches nearly all have south facing roofs; we could use them to generate solar power. Many vicarages are energy inefficient, we ought to invest in insulation, double-glazing and renewable energy. It is not just the church; all Christians should consider reducing the amount of Carbon dioxide they produce.

Climate change is likely to hit world's poorest countries hardest. Parts of the world could become impossible to live in if they get hotter or drier. Sea level rise will affect poor countries like Bangladesh. Christians have a duty to the poorest people of the world. We cannot claim to love others if we are not prepared to make small sacrifices to help them. We need to help developing countries prepare for difficult times. These hard times will come even if we reduce greenhouse gases. So, in addition to cutting our greenhouse gas emissions we need to support charities that will help countries to prepare for global warming.

Our church life also needs to reflect concern about global warming. Harvest services could be a particularly good time to reflect on how global warming could affect food supplies. In Wales we can buy food from the rest elsewhere if our harvests fail. Christians need to think about those who can't afford to buy food.

This is not just about energy but using our churches to help wildlife when the environment is getting more difficult. Churchyards are a great place for fungi and Abergorlech is one of the best, with a wide variety of dif-

ferent species. In Llanfihangel we are hoping to make use of the church field in a way that increases the diversity of habitats for plants and animals. This will involve cutting some of the field, leaving some as scrub, and creating a labyrinth that will have different heights of plants within it. We need to think about the needs of birds that could nest in our church yards and even our churches. As Psalm 84:3 says 'Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God'. If we don't take the planet's problems seriously we will be judged for our lack of love and stewardship. God will judge each of us, but the church will be judged by society. That makes the environment a missionary issue.

The Vicar



Diary

Mehefin 11 June

Pentecost 1

Sul Y Drindod / Trinity Sunday

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 9:45am | Abergorlech | Cymun/Communion |
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun/Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Gosber/Evening Prayer |
| 4:00pm | The Rectory | Confirmation group |
| Nos Fawrth/Tuesday 13 | | |
| 7:30pm | Llandeilo | Archdeacon's Visitation |

Mehefin 18 June

Pentecost 2

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun Y Teulu/Family Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Cymun/Communion |
| 4:00pm | The Rectory | Confirmation group |
| 6:30pm | Abergorlech | Cymun/Communion |

Nos Fawrth/Tuesday 20

7:00pm Christ Church Carmarthen Present Action Plans for
the three churches.

Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday

10:30am St Davids Cathedral Lynn Chambers' Ordination

Mehedin 25 June

Pentecost 3

9:45am Abergorlech Cymun/Communion

11:00am Brechfa Cymun/Communion

2:30pm Llanfihangel Lynn Chambers will be celebrating
communion for the first time.

6:30pm Pontargothi Youth service

Nos Fawrth/Tuesday
Abergorlech Hall meeting.

Gorffennaf 2 July

Pentecost 4

9:30am Llanfihangel Cymun/Communion

11:00pm Brechfa Cymun/Communion

2:00pm Llansawel Cymanfa Plant

6:30pm Llansawel Cymanfa

4:00pm The Rectory Confirmation class and young people
meet to think about a video project

Dydd Llun/Monday
Clergy Chapter Llandeilo

Gorffennaf 9 July

Pentecost 5

9:45am Abergorlech Cymun/Communion

11:00am Brechfa Cymun/Communion

2:30pm Llanfihangel Gosber/Evening Prayer

Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday 15

Brechfa Carnival

I hope there will be a Solemn Eucharist in one of the churches....to be arranged.

Gorffennaf 16 July
Pentecost 6

11:00am Brechfa

Cymun a bedydd
Communion and Baptism

All are invited from the church and community. This will be followed by a buffet lunch in Brechfa Church hall. If you want to stay for lunch please let the vicar know so that we can cater for the right numbers.

Nos Fawrth/Tuesday 18

7:30pm The Rectory Llanfihangel Event Planning Meeting

Dydd Gwener-Sadwrn/Friday-Saturday

CMS Conference

Gorffennaf 30 July
Pentecost 8

9:45am Abergorlech

Cymun/Communion

11:00am Brechfa

Cymun/Communion

2:00pm Abergorlech

Sponsored walk

2:30pm Llanfihangel

Gosber/Evening Prayer

Awst 6 August

Gweddnewidiad ein Harglwydd/The Transfiguration of our Lord

9:30am Llanfihangel

Cymun/Communion

11:00am Brechfa

Cymun/Communion

2:30pm Llanfihangel

Myfyrdod/Meditation

6:30pm Abergorlech

Gosber

Dydd Gwener-Llun/Friday-Sunday

Abergorlech raft race on the 12th of August.

Awst 13 August
Pentecost 10

9:45am Abergorlech

Cymun/Communion

11:00am Brechfa

Cymun/Communion

2:30pm Llanfihangel

Gosber/Evening Prayer

***Awst 20 August
Pentecost 11***

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun Y Teulu/Family Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Cymun/Communion |
| 6:30pm | Abergorlech | Cymun |

***Awst 27 August
Pentecost 12***

| | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 9:45am | Abergorlech | Cymun/Communion |
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun/Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Gosber/Evening Prayer |

Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday
Concert in Llanfihangel Church

***Medi 3 September
Pentecost 13***

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 9:30am | Llanfihangel | Cymun/Communion |
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun/Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Myfyrdod/Meditation |
| 6:30pm | Abergorlech | Gosber |
| Nos Fercher/Wednesday 6 | | |
| 7:00pm | The Old Taylor's | Jim's Hymns |

***Medi 10 September
Pentecost 14***

| | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 9:45am | Abergorlech | Cymun/Communion |
| 11:00am | Brechfa | Cymun/Communion |
| 2:30pm | Llanfihangel | Gosber/Evening Prayer |

Ystlysywyr/Sidespersons

- 11-Jun Jeannette Nock and Joan Jones
18-Jun Lillian Jones and Rosie Carmichael
25-Jun Iris Lenny and Ceinwen Johnson
02-Jul John Price and Clive Hoare
09-Jul Roger Nock and Dilwyn Davies
16-Jul Rosie Carmichael, John Price,
 Roger Nock and Peter Winchester (extra for Baptism)
23-Jul Christine Hoare and Mary Jones
30-Jul Helen Daniels and Audrey Dyer
06-Aug Ian Phillips and Domenic Carmichael
13-Aug Meuris Thomas and Aeres Lewis
20-Aug Nancy Davies and Christine Hoare
27-Aug Anita Davies and Isabel Philips
03-Sep Jeannette Nock and Joan Jones
10-Sep Lillian Jones and Rosie Carmichael
17-Sep Iris Lenny and Ceinwen Johnson
24-Sep John Price and Isabel Phillips

St Teilo's Flowers Cleaning rota

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| June | Mrs Mary Price |
| July | Miss I. Lenny and Mrs A. Sykes |
| August | Mrs Jeanette Nock |
| September | Mrs Christine Hoare |
| October | Mrs I Phillips and Mrs L. Harris |
| November | Mrs A. Lewis and Mrs Helen Daniels |
| December | Mrs Anita Davies |

Contacts
Church Officers

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Priest in Charge | Gerry Sykes | 01267 202389 |
| Deacon | Lynn Chambers | 01267 223052 |
| Reader | Clive Hoare | 01267 202479 |

Abergorlech

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Church Wardens | Betty Thomas Nadine Shepherd |
| Secretary | Arwyn Thomas |
| Treasurer | D. Haydn Davies |

Brechfa

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Church Wardens | Roger Nock Ceinwen Johnson |
| Secretary | Ian Phillips |
| Treasurer | Ceinwen Johnson |

Llanfihangel

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Church Wardens | John Jones Caroline Evans |
| Secretary | Sheila Joynson |
| Treasurer | Iris Adamson |

Clychau'r Cwm News

Please contact Yvonne Thomas (01267 202216) with Gwernogle and Llanfihangel News and David Haydn Davies (01558 685649) with Abergorlech News.

Other contacts

If there are other contact details or numbers people would like included in Clychau'r Cwm please let me know.

The Vicar

I have equipment for photocopying and laser printing (10p), colour laser printing (75p), spiral binding (50p) and laminating (A4 50p, A3 £1.00).



Community News

Obituaries

Caradog Morgan Jones

Ganed Caradog yn y flwyddyn mil, naw, un, saith, y pedwerydd o chwech o blant Elizabeth a Morgan Jones, Bwlch Gwyn, a'r trydydd mab.

Yr oedd y rhyfel mawr yn dirwyn i ben a byw yng nghefn gwlad bryd hynny yn galed iawn; serch hynny roedd yr aelwyd yn un hapus ac yn llawn cariad a gofal. Bu'n ddisgybl yn Ysgol Brechfa hyd at bedair ar ddeg oed a mynd wedyn i wasanaethu ar ffarm fel llawer un arall y dyddie hynny. Bu'n gweithio ar ffermydd Ffos Helyg, Peniel, ac yna gyda'i Wncwl Harri-brawd i'w fam- yn Lan Cwm Brawd, Brechfa, ac wedyn ym Mhenllwyne, Nantgaredig, ac yr oedd ganddo hanesion di-ri' am y dyddiau hyn. Roedd y diwrnod gwaith yn hir, yn gweithio gyda cheffylau am gyflog bach, ond cafodd amser hapus a chwmmi' aeth dda ac fe ddysgodd lawer am sut i amaethu.

Bu cyfnod wedyn pan oedd yn yrrwr lori, yn cario bwyd anifeiliaid ac yn y blaen i ffermydd yr ardal, i gwmni Bryn Stores. Erbyn i'r ail ryfel byd ddechrau, cawsai waith gyda'r Weinyddiaeth Gyflenwi - y Ministry of Supply, yn cario coed a hefyd yn cludo carcharorion rhyfel o'r Almaen ac o'r Eidal i weithio ar y tir i lawr yn Sir Benfro. Bu'n aelod o'r Home Guard yn Brechfa trwy gydol y rhyfel.

Yn 1942, fe briododd â Nellie Davies, Felin Marles ac ymgartrefu yn y Felin, gan rannu'n ddiddig aelwyd ei dad yng nghyfraith John Davies, a Harold, ei frawd yng nghyfraith - y ddau yn seiri coed crefftus, a chan ffermio'r tyddyn ar ôl ei ddiwrnod gwaith arferol ac ar y penwythnosau. Yn 1943 ganed eu merch, Delyth. Yn nes ymlaen wedyn

aeth i weithio gydag adran adeiladu a chynnal a chadw Y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth - y Forestry Commission - fel masiwn, ac roedd yn grefftwr ar waith plastro.

Yn 1953 symudodd Caradog, Nellie a Delyth i íyw ym Mryn Felin, tyddyn oedd yn berchen i'r Comisiwn, a dechrau ffermio yno, a Caradog ar yr un pryd yn gwneud ei waith beunyddiol fel masiwn. Roedd hwn yn gyfnod hapus iawn ond daeth tro ar íyd gyda salwch Nellie, a bu hithau farw yn 1960, yn hanner cant oed. Newidiodd Caradog ei waith eto er mwyn bod yn nes adre ac wrth law yn ystod cystudd ei wraig, a bu'n gweithio fel postmon rhan amser. Bu'n gefnogol i Delyth yn ystod ei dyddiau coleg a'i gwaith fel athrawes er y bu'n rhaid iddi hithau symud o'i sir enedigol.

Ymhen saith mlynedd, ailbriododd Caradog, - â Mabel Phillips o Dafen, Felinfoel a symud i dre Caerfyrddin lle buon nhw'n byw am dros ugain mlynedd. Fe fu'n gweithio yn ffatri Cow & Gate yn ystod y blynyddoedd cyntaf cyn ymddeol yn gynnar; doedd y math yma o waith ddim wrth fodd un o fechgyn y tir. Ar ôl ymddeol, treuliai ei amser yn gweithio kennels cwn, yn atgyweirio hen geir ac yn gwneud mân jobs adeiladu, Roedd hefyd yn cadw gardd daclus. Ond fe fu farw Mabel o'r un cleíyd â'i wraig gyntaf. Ar ôl ychydig, symudodd yn ôl i Brechfa ac i Fro Marles, lle bu farw fore dydd Gwener diwethaf, bron yn bedwar ugain a naw. Daeth y diwedd yn ddisymwth iawn, yn annisgwyl; ond chafodd e ddim salwch hir a chystudd blin a chafodd ei ddymuniad o beidio â bod yn faich ar neb a chael aros yn ei gartref ei hun tan y diwedd.

Dyna ddim ond braslun o'i fywyd. Ond sut un oedd e? Wel o 'mhrofiad personol i, roedd yn gymeriad hynaws, ffeind, yn weithiwr caled, gonest, wastad yn daclus ei wisg, wastad yn barod i helpu, yn grefftwr, a digon o sbri ynddo. Yn hoff o focsio, motobeics, loris a cheir, a phob peth y mae a wnelo â chefn gwlad. Roedd symud yn ôl i íyw yn Brechfa, i fod ym mysg pobol roedd e wedi eu nabod ers ei ieuentid, yn beth da tros ben a bu'r cymdogion, ac eraill, yn dda iawn iddo fe; hoffwn ddiolch o galon iddyn nhw yn gyhoeddus yn awr.

Barry

Heulwen Mair Jennison

Heulwen was a local girl, born in Troed Y Bryn and spent her life in this area, 12 or 13 months in Llanllawddog and then in Horeb for 39 years before going a little further a field to Llangunnor. Heulwen went to school here in Brechfa when G. K. Williams was vicar.

Heulwen was a good Samaritan, finding time for everybody else right until the day she died, always smiling, always asking about others.

Heulwen treated the whole family the same, cousins, grandchildren, in laws; she always provided a home for them when they visited. She has left her best friends Mair and Sal from the wedding, which was 50 years ago on April 3rd. She also leaves many friends from the Brechfa Area and elsewhere.

Her children remember that they knew when they were told off; she wasn't a redhead for nothing. She was, though, a good mother to Glenville, Ralph and Caroline. She was also a dedicated wife and best friend to John, who was her childhood sweetheart. They were separated by his time in National service spent in the Far East. John changed a lot while he was away so when he came back they weren't sure they recognised each other. It wasn't long before they sorted that out, picked up from where they left and got married.

We all extend our sympathy to Heulwen's family, her Husband John, to her siblings Howell and Elfryn, to her children Glen, Ralph and Caroline and grandchildren, John, Emily, Wesley, Anabel, Veronica, Paul and Lorraine. The parting of death is a hard thing, and I know you are going through a lot of pain now, but the Christian hope is that we won't be separated forever, but that in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be restored to one another in the fullness of God's Kingdom.

The Vicar

Brechfa News

Llongyfarchiadau

Congratulations to Elfed Daniels and Aled Johnson on gaining third prize for the Dyffryn Tywi Y.F.C. at the Carmarthenshire Y.F.C. Rally held recently.

Llongyfarchiadau i Aled Johnson am ennill y wobr gyntaf am yr actor mwyaf addawol o dan 18 yng ngystadleuaeth Hanner Awr Adloniant Clwbiau Ffermwyr Ifanc Sir Gar. Aled was also a

member of the winning junior English Public Speaking Team in Carmarthenshire.



Brechfa Carnival

This year the carnival will be on the 15th of July in Victoria Park.

Abergorlech News

Since I last wrote in these columns we have had our Bingo Evening and though a large number of village folk did not come along we nevertheless had a good crowd. We had a very enjoyable evening which was a change from watching the 'Box'.

Then came the evening of the year, the Comedy Plays which were performed by "Party y Cudyll Coch", which translated is "The Red Kite Party". The hall was packed out, and our thanks go to Mr. Arwyn Thomas our popular Church Secretary, and his willing band of workers for organising the evening.

It was a delight to have Mrs. May Rogers, Banc-y- Glyn chairing the evening. Now in her 80's, but as if yesterday to some of us in our local school, we knew that we would have an orator of the highest calibre, who spoke her words immaculately and precisely.

Thanks to the support of the audience who came from far and wide (even from Llanblethian near Cowbridge) and a special thanks to the Party for giving us an excellent performance. Diolch yn fawr.

Ie, noson iw chofio oedd Mai 12ed 2006 pan y cyflwynodd cwmni drama "Y Cudyll Coch" ddwy gomedi o waith Ifan Gryffudd i Neuadd a oedd yn orlawn, gyda phobol wedi dod o bell ffordd i'r noson arbennig yma yng ngalendar yr ardal. Mae ein diolchiadau yn fawr i Arwyn Thomas am drefnu y noson.

Hyfryd dros ben oedd presenoldeb Mrs. May Rogers, Banc-y-Glyn yn y gadair, ac er yn awr dros e wythdeg fe draddododd araith a oedd yn llawn cywirdeb ac o safon uchel iawn. Pleser oedd gwrando ar lais hyfryd un o blant y fro, 'ai gwreiddiau yn ddofn yn yr ardal. Diolch yn fawr i gwmni "Y Cudyll Coch" am ei cyflwyniad ai perfformiad ardderchog. Diolch i'r gwrandawyr am ei presenoldeb. Ac fel dywedodd Arwyn "Na'r noson orau eto". Mae hynny yn dweud y cyfan.

D.Haydn Davies

The Church Festival

We look forward to this year's Cymanfa which is to be held at Llan-sawel Church of July 2nd at 2.30pm. and at 6.30pm. Of course the Chapel Festival was held on June 4th at Abergorlech . It is great that these events are kept up in our Churches and Chapels.

I remember the days when it was a must for the girls to have a new dress and the lads a new trousers and jacket (or a Blazer if Mam and Dad had the money) for these special occasions, and the generous neighbour who would put a sixpenny piece in my pocket, for luck. I felt a rich person.

D. Haydn Davies

Flower Festival

Will be next year over the spring bank holiday.

D. Haydn Davies

Dyweddiad

Ein plaser or mwyaf oedd clywed bod Dylan Thomas, Penybanc ac Ann Williams o Llandeilo wedi dyweddi yn ystod yr wythnosau diwetha yma. Mae'r ddau yn boblogaidd iawn ym myd amaethyddiaeth a dy ni yn edrych mlaen yn fawr i'r diwrnod mawr. Pob bendith ar y ddau berson hyfryd yma yn y dyfodol.

D. Haydn Davies

Genedigaeth

Hyfryd oedd clywed am enedigaeth Bachgen Bach i Joyce ac Eirian, Fferm Llwynceilyn. Deallir fod Joyce a'i baban "Glasnant" yn dod ymlaen yn dda. Pob bendith ar y teulu yma. Danfoner ein llongyfarchiadau iddynt oddi wrth drigolion y gymdeithas yma ar rodd hyfryd o law Duw.

D. Haydn Davies

Annual Vestry

The Annual Vestry (the Church's Annual General Meeting) was held on April 25th. A very important meeting in the Church Calendar. People often say after the event "I could do that". Well why do you not try? We need enthusiastic members. Yes get onto the Parochial Church Council. Mind you, there may be some difficulty getting off again, but not to worry. Do you have a particular talent that we could use? Do you even know if you have such talent? Have you ever thought of trying to find out? Consult our Elected wardens Mrs. Betty Thomas and Mrs. Nadine Sheppard, that's enthusiasm for you. Mr. Arwyn Thomas was re-elected as secretary and Mr. D. Haydn Davies was re-elected as treasurer of the P.C.C. Whether in Business or Church it is wonderful to be re-elected. It proves that you must be playing a good part in society.

"See you all in Church next Sunday". We are a friendly crowd, and what better as you begin another week. Come on, come and join us.

D. Haydn Davies

Our Best Wishes go to Mrs. Edith Rees, Ty Clyd, Pontarogothi, who celebrated her 107th Birthday on April 24th. She goes to St. John's Church, Carmarthen regularly, where she has been a member for some 80 years, since coming to live in Carmarthen from North Pembrokeshire. She is a lovely lady, a great honour to know and have conversations with. God Bless you Mrs. Rees.

D. Haydn Davies

Yr Athletwr Dewi Griffiths

Athletwr a'i fry ar ennill ac y sydd nid yn unig yn ennill rhedfaon ledled Prydain Fawr, ond yn rhedeg i fyny pob gornest a ddaw o'i flaen yr un mor gyflym, a meddwl mai dim ond pedair-ar-ddeg yw ein cyfaill ieuanc.

Mae Dewi yn mynychu ysgol Tregib ac yn aelod o glwb athletau Harriers Caerfyrddin a'r Cylch, ac yn fawr ei barch gan bob un sydd ym myd athletaidd naill yn swyddog neu yn gyd gystadleuwr. Dewi ydi yr un sydd yn gosod y safon y dyddiau rhain ac fe ddaeth ir bri yn ras mini marathon Adidas yn Llundain ychydig wythnosau yn ôl i fechgyn 13 - 14 oed ag er ei bod yn fore gwlyb roedd Dewi yn croesi y llinell derfynol bron i hanner minud o flaen ei gydymgeisydd agosaf, bron y medir dweud, amser i gael cwpanaid bach cyn "croesawu y lleill adref".

Hyfryd oedd gweld y cwpanau mae eisioes wedi ennill, y llythyron o wahannol fannau o Brydain Fawr, yn llawn o gyflenwadau o'i gamp ym myd athletau. Cofiwch mae dim ond ugain oed fydd Dewi yn 2012 pan fydd y byd yn dod i Brydain Fawr, ie y byd Olympaidd. Bydd Dewi wedi rhedeg miloedd o filltiroedd cyn hynny rwyn siwr i fyny ac i lawr dros y brynau sydd rhwng Abergorlech a LLanfynydd yn ei gais i berffeithio ar yr nod mae eisioes wedi gyrraedd. Ie un fel yna ydi Dewi. Beth ydi y safon? Ie ennill cystadleyaeth or brig uchaf sef y 4,500m mewn 15 minud a 2 eiliad, ac fe gyflwynwyd iddo gwpan sialens a medal ac mi gafodd ei goroni'n bencampwr traws gwlad gwledydd

Prydain 2006 dan 15 oed. Dyna'r safon. Gellir mynd ymlaen am y pencampwr nodedig yma, a dy ni fel cymdeithas yn ei longyfarch yn fawr iawn, oherwydd un bach ydi Dewi ond mae yna beirant neilltuol ym meddiant y corff yma. Peiriant rwyn siwr y carai ei gyd gystadleuwyr fod yn feddiannol o hono. Edrychwn ymlaen at frig bywyd athletaidd, sef y byd Olympaidd 2012. Mae Dewi mewn dwylo da rwyn siwr sef yn ysgol Tregib, y Clwb Athletaidd Caerfyrddin ac yn nwylo un sydd wedi bod yn gefn mawr iddo sef Dr. Hedydd Davies. Ie, un o Abergorlech ar Cylch eto, a wnaeth ei farc yntau ym myd athletic ein gwlad ni. Byddwn yn dilyn dy yrfa Dewi, a phob llwyddiant i ti a phob Bendith.

D. Haydn Davies



Articles

The Vicar's Indian Journal

27/6 Friday to Sun 29

Today I went on a trip with the guys from the US who were staying at the college in Bangalore. We went to Mysore, Gumbaz, Svivanyapatan, Ooty and Nanjandug. I was up early because departure was at 7:15, we didn't have breakfast, then there was lots of arguing with auto drivers. The problem for me is that dealing with auto drivers is a complete mystery, I don't know the rules. When we arrived the procedure was to take our tickets to the counter and have them endorsed and only, then we could get on the bus. The people on the bus were very friendly, I was next to a Mr Aris and he let me sit by the window. One thing they all find surprising is that I am 38 and not married yet.

I guess the main thing that struck me was the inequality in Indian society. The fabulous wealth that built the Mysore palace contrasts with those who have nothing. There is also quite a large class of peo-

ple, well off by Indian standards, with a living standard similar to E. Europe in the communist era. That is what most people dream of I suppose. Below that level in society there are a variety of different sorts of accommodation from concrete rectangular shacks with flat roofs to mud walled huts with leaf roofs or just sacking and plastic thrown over a frame. It makes me think of the story of Lazarus the beggar. The crumbs from our table would go a long way to helping the poor in the developing world.

The trip took us to Gumbaz, the tomb of Tipu Sultan who fought the British. The Sri Chamundeswari temple on Chamundi hill and the Nandi bulls on the way up. Then to the Mysore palace. This was completed in 1912 after the original palace



Mysore Street

burnt down in 1897. It has some beautiful wooden and silver doors, carved ceilings and mosaics. There are some historically interesting pictures showing life in the Edwardian Raj. One strange feature is the way the troops and horses are always facing you, no matter what angle you view them from.

We stopped the night in Brindavan Gardens to see the illuminated water park. It was quite something. I got bitten 7 or 8 times on the knee by something, my India companions say it looks more like a bed bug than mosquitoes. I had used my mosquito net for the first time that night.

The next day we went through the Banndupura national park to Ooty and stayed the night in a hill station. The Eucalyptus forest and tea gardens were very interesting. The hill station was freezing cold and smelt musty and damp. 4 of us had to share 1 and a half rooms. There

was a power cut for most of the time we were there. Even so it was better than the previous hotel.



Nanjandug temple

The next day we went to the Svivanyapatan and Nanjandug temples. These were very old, built of massive stone pillars. I felt disoriented by the stone, the darkness and the mixtures of smells. There was the sweetness of joss sticks and a rather unpleasant smell, probably rotting vegetation from the offerings. The temples felt very primal with their darkness and the stone floor in contact with my bare feet. A priest put something on my forehead but I am not sure what it was or why. At another temple a liquid was put in your hand which you drank and then wiped your hand on your hair.

Returning to Bangalore we went through some obviously very poor areas both in the country and Bangalore. Some areas did smell but on the whole they didn't which surprised me. People are actually remarkably clean considering the condition that they live under in villages.

Another thing that occurred to me was that bad as the trunk roads were, they were nearly all tarmac (or were at some stage).

Back in Bangalore we were cheated again by the rickshaw driver going all over the place. Then the day was finished with pizza American style from Pizza Hut.

Mon 30 June

The principle got up after chapel to talk about people coming into the college to take drugs. It seems that a used packet of spasmoproxamol had been found. Others felt that there was a different agenda and it was more to do with control of students (and staff). There are clearly a lot of tensions at UTC.

Monday's lecture was very interesting, about high and low traditions and their anthropology. It was particularly in respect of Dalit (a word than means oppressed, what used to be called untouchable) theology. The class also suggested that I join the students in their mess for dinner as it was the end of the month and there was a celebration. Each month a new team looks after the mess, at the end of their term they spend any money they have saved on a special meal. After the lecture I went to the Jonty Bazaar with Randy and his kids, so now I know where it is. I got a steel cup, some washing powder and a line so I can now make tea and wash my cloths.

The Hinduism lecture didn't happen, but I did get an unscheduled trip to Asha deep (light hope). It is a Catholic institution that works with rag picker children. This is the lowest group in society- only the dead have less. They live by collecting fragments of cloth from rubbish. It is very difficult for the sisters because the children find it difficult not to steal and they don't look after their things. The parents don't really like their children getting an education because it deprives them of income. Those who do go are given a school uniform and sent to school. The uniform and tiffin (lunch boxes) are kept by the sisters. Hard as it is the work obviously has its rewards.

This afternoon I tried some basketball with Avi and Ashwen and later played volleyball with a group of security staff and students. The security staff are all Nepalese and with a couple of exceptions don't

speak any English. They are fairly low down in the UTC social scale. Many of the college staff and students regard them as drunkards who do not do their job properly. It is certainly true that they gamble because money exchanged hands on the outcome of the game. Yet if they are not treated well, how the gospel ever be extended to them? I find there are serious class problems in UTC. It may not be Caste/Dalit division but it exists. Socially UTC is far more integrated than general Indian society but it gives some indication of how divided India is.



Security guards playing volleyball



Lamboi, Ekie and myself

There was just time to shower and get to dinner which was noisy and good humoured. In the west we would need a lot of alcohol before we indulged in so much plate banging and stamping. There was plenty of food but I had to steel myself to eat chicken which was mainly skin, fat and bone. But it was really enjoyable despite my fastidiousness. After dinner my friend Ekie and I took a few turns round the lawn. This is a common thing to do as exercise after dinner. Then he came to my room. We discussed differences between India and the UK especially financial ones. The riches of the west, including my own are a real source of embarrassment to me here. In comparison to students here I am fabulously wealthy and lucky. There is a lot to pray about and reflect on. I am sure the answer is not to give up everything but to be good stewards of our wealth and gifts.

**In the fight against torture...
anyone can make a difference**

"In prison, your cards and letters fed me." With those words, Kurdish politician Mehdi Zana, tortured brutally by the Turkish authorities, thanked Christians in Wales who had supported him during his years of detention. Years later, his wife Leyla, who was also jailed and ill-treated, sent a similar message after her release.

Their greetings illustrate a simple truth in the work of Christians Against Torture: anyone can make a difference. Anyone can send a card or a letter. Anyone can offer prayers. And from Guatemala to Tibet, from Kuwait to the former Soviet Union, have come messages confirming that even if our appeals do not take a single day off a prisoner's sentence, it means an immense amount to them to know that others far way are concerned for them.

The writing is one part of our commitment to working for the abolition of torture, which is still employed by a hundred or so governments - despite that fact that it is outlawed by many international agreements. Some have argued that after 9/11, the rules should be changed. Christians Against Torture rejects these arguments, convinced that torture is a practice incompatible with the values of Christ's Kingdom. Christians Against Torture began its life 25 years ago as a campaign of

the Council of Churches for Wales, working with the Welsh section of Amnesty International. It is founded on the conviction that standing alongside the powerless is a responsibility for all who affirm that every human being is created in the image of God and the object of his love in Christ.

We invite supporters to pray regularly for both tortured and torturers; to work for the release of individual prisoners; and to campaign for international agreements on torture to be used fully. We also encourage support for organisations which care for those who have survived torture; and try to increase awareness of the facts of torture, and the reasons why Christians in particular should fight it.

Churches or groups engage in a range of activities to support these aims. One of the most popular in recent years has been the Freedom Feast. This is for anyone prepared to share a meal - simple or lavish - both with friends, and with an unseen prisoner of conscience or victim of torture. In some places, members of churches eat together after a service. One parish regularly takes over the village pub. A youth group has met in a pizza restaurant. A high school has held a frugal lunch. Friends gather in homes, families arrange a special meal. What makes the event distinctive is that an empty chair is always kept for the unseen prisoner; a candle is lit, prayers are offered, and cards written. And from the simplest of Freedom Feasts in Wales, thousands of miles away, that prisoner can be fed by the knowledge that there are friends remembering and praying.

Roy Jenkins, Christians against Torture

We are setting up a Christians against Torture Group here. For more information ask Iris Adamson or the Vicar.

On a lighter note

A young boy had just passed his Driving Test. He asked his father, who was the Vicar of.....if they could discuss the use of the family car. His father took him to the study and said to him. "I'll make a deal with you. You do your Course Work on time, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we will talk about it".

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father

the Rev.....if they could discuss the use of the family car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Well lad. I have been really proud of you. You have done your Course Work on time, you have studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut".

The young lad waited a moment then replied "You know dad, I've been thinking about that! You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and indeed Jesus had long hair....."

To which his father The Rev.....replied. "Yes and they WALKED everywhere they went".

D. Haydn Davies

On a much lighter note

As Elizabeth made pancakes for her sons David (7) and Peter (5) the boys began to squabble about who was going to have the first pancake from the pan.

Seeing an opportunity for some moral teaching Elizabeth said "If Jesus' Mum had ever made pancakes, I am sure Jesus would always say, "Give my brother James the first one".

David (7) turned to his little brother with a gleam in his eye and said, "Peter you can be Jesus, and I'll be James".

D. Haydn Davies