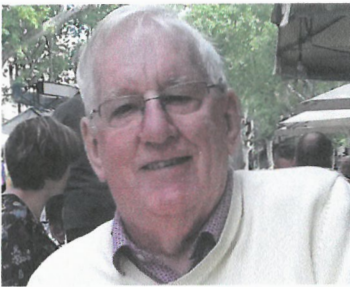


The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon



No. 89

Autumn 2020



From the Editor: Chancellor Brian H. Jones

My Dear Friends,

During my time as Vicar of Killay it was our custom during Lent to have a parish three day Retreat in Llangasty for members of the congregation. On one occasion Eunice Miron one of the retreatants asked if she might be allowed to bring her easel and paints for the free time during the three days. In periods of silence she painted in the garden. The result she brought framed for me to the eucharist on Easter Day.

I have reproduced it on this page as a gentle reminder of this place as we approach this year's Ordinations. For decades those to be ordained have come here in the final days of their preparation for ordination (my Deacon's was in 1961) and there had been a number of ordination retreats before that.

Llangasty became the launchpad for the beginning of our ministries, then and now. For most of my generation it was the culmination of five years of academic study and theological training. Alongside that it was the era of National Service which many of us chose to do, and most of us do not regret having had the experience. One of the privileges of my ministry was to be asked by Bishop Vaughan to conduct the Ordination Retreat. Some of the ordinands of that year had followed the same pattern of training as I had done. University and Theological training But there were others in the group who had come to ordination by a different route. Those who had a career in another



Discipline, followed a different course of training and in many ways prepared for a different kind of ministry. Both Archbishop John in his chapter in *'The History of the Church in Wales'*; and Ian Rees in *'Church Confident or Closing'* emphasise the need for us to come to terms with change and form new patterns of ministry in a Church that will have completely changed when we leave lockdown.

Having said all that, for those who will retreat in Llangasty for this year's Ordinations, they will be part of a ministry which to some extent will be non-stipendiary with lay participation an essential part of their ministry, which my generation will find difficult to comprehend, while at the

same time able to appreciate the need for such change. Nevertheless, those who will go to Llangasty days before their Ordination will go for the same reason as previous generations have gone, because God has called them to the Sacred ministry, by prayer and sacrament to care for God's people in those places where they have been sent. The Ordinal says to the Deacon *'May the Lord who has called you to this work, give you also the strength and power to perform it'* Regardless of a changing Church this charge by the Bishop will remain. The candidates for Ordinations are listed below I commend them and the Church in which they will minister to your prayers.

With best wishes to all who are or will be Ordained

Brian

FAMILY NEWS

We send our best wishes to those celebrating big birthdays:

- 90 Sybil Coleman
- 80 Bill Fillery
- 70 Norman Boakes

To those who are not well:

- Mair Mosford has been in hospital recently but is now at home.

Please include all who are ill in your prayers, praying for them, for those who look after them and for those who watch anxiously over them. I am always grateful for information on those who need our prayers which I can share through the medium of The Newsletter.

The Departed.

June David has recently died, we commend her to the care and mercy of God and send our condolences and prayers to Philip and her family.

John Thomas, Priest who retired to the parish of Llwynderw died recently. We send our condolences to his family and commend him to the care and mercy of God.

Katherine Morgan who has died this week was ordained in 1991 and served her title in the parish of Loughor to which she returned after her retirement. We send our prayers and condolences to her family and commend her to the care and mercy of God.

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In Memoriam Peter Dixon, Priest.

Peter Dixon who died recently had a distinguished academic career before Ordination having read English in Queen's College Oxford and B.D. and Ph.D in Queen's College Birmingham, he was ordained in the Diocese of Llandaff and served two curacies in the diocese. He was appointed vicar of Bronllys in 1970 when the then incumbent Elwyn Griffiths was elevated to the post of Archdeacon of Brecon.

Peter's ministry was very much centred on an academic ministry in the diocese as Bishop's Chaplain to Readers and also as Bishop's Chaplain for Theological Education. His syllabus for Readers was especially demanding encouraging candidates to read widely in theological elements of the course.

Alongside that ministry was his ministry as a parish priest and later as Rural Dean of Hay. He was appointed to the Cathedral Chapter in 1998 and brought to that body his theological thinking and discipline. In 1976 he published 'Freedom in Fetters' a book of Selected Poems.

We thank God for his ministry both in the parish and in the diocese. We commend him to the care and mercy of God and send our sympathy and prayers to his wife Aileen and family.

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Anniversaries of Ordination

We send our congratulations and prayers for their continuing ministries to those who are celebrating anniversaries of Ordination:

Deacon

- 55 years Bishop Anthony
- 40 years Peter Williams
- 30 years Eldon Phillips

Priest

- 60 years Geraint Hughes
- 50 years Alan Meats, Terry Evans
- 45 years Joe Morgan
- 40 years David Jenkins

Ordinations Please pray for those to be ordained at this time, especially those in the Diocese, for their families and the parishes in which they will serve.

Ordination of Deacons on July 17th at St. Michael's Chapel the St. Padarn Institute, Llandaff by Archbishop John:

James Page - Stipendiary Parish of Llansamlet
Lisa Morgan - Stipendiary Glan Ithon: the Ithon Valley, West Radnor Ministry Area.

In the Cathedral September 26th 2020

Priests

Meinir Ronicle NSM (Gwastedyn)
Peter Letson Stipendiary (Glan Ithon)
Sam Aldred Stipendiary (Swansea)
Janet Day Non Stipendiary Minister(L) (Buallt)
Gill Todd Non Stipendiary Minister (L) (Llanddew, St Mary's Brecon)
Sister Marian Thomas Non Stipendiary Minister (L) (Sketty)
Sally Rees Non Stipendiary Minister (Crickhowell)
Samuel Patterson (Monmouth) to be ordained Priest in Brecon.

In the Cathedral on September 27th 2020

Deacons

Sue Northcott (Non Stipendiary Minister(L))
Annabelle Elletson (Non Stipendiary Minister(L))
Jon Howard (Reader to Non Stipendiary Minister(L))
Sue Waite (Reader to Non Stipendiary Minister(L))
Biddy Wigley (Reader to Non Stipendiary Minister(L))
Lucy McKeown (Reader to Non Stipendiary Minister(L))

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THE RETIRED CLERGY GROUP.

The group has not met during the whole of the Pandemic lockdown and unfortunately the whole list of speakers for the second half of the year had to be set aside. We have been able to keep in touch in a variety of ways including the telephone, e mail and Facebook. *The Newsletter* continues to be available on the Diocesan website and by e mail to those who have registered their e mail address in the Diocesan Office. We were able to send hard copies to those who receive them by post when an opportunity came for the Diocesan Office to do so, for which we are very grateful.

I have today asked Llangasty whether we might be able to have a pre Lent Quiet Day on February 9th and would be glad to know people's reaction to the suggestion. More news of that when it becomes available. I feel a bit like Jeremiah when he bought a field in Jerusalem before being carted off into captivity, that things will return to normal!!

Llangasty have now confirmed that the pre Lent date is available. There is no news yet as to when the Eastmoor Resource Centre will reopen, when it does we will be able to look at the possibility of once more having our monthly meetings. Update as news becomes available. *Ed.*

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REFLECTION ON THE DIACONATE



The late A.A. Gill once opined that the problem with vegetarians was that they "are people who don't eat things. This is important. Vegetarians ask waiters if they have anything without meat, they don't ask if there is anything with vegetables." I fear that something similar often happens with deacons. Deacons are defined by what they cannot do – celebrate the holy mysteries, offer blessings and absolution – rather than what they can offer as a distinctive clerical order.

The situation is understandable. The great majority of clerics are transitional deacons, spending only a year in the role before they are ordained into the priesthood. In parts of the Anglican Communion outside of Britain the diaconal role is further minimised. In the Episcopal Church of the USA, for example, it is typical for seminarians to be ordained to the diaconate whilst still in clerical formation, and then priested a few months later. It is tempting therefore to view the diaconate as a temporary and anomalous; rather like the training wheels on a first bicycle which are discarded once sufficient proficiency is attained.

This is, on the whole, a shame. It is wrong to assume that all those who will make suitable deacons will also make suitable priests. (Just as it is wrong to assume that those who will make good readers and lay ministers will make suitable ordained clerics, but that is a thought for another time.) The diaconate should not be seen principally as a period of apprenticeship before elevation to the priesthood, but as a distinctive order of its own.

As this piece is addressed to retired clerics, I trust that you will all have had the benefit of a decent theological education. Forgive me then for patronising you with the reminder that the title "deacon" is derived from the Greek *διάκονος*, meaning servant, waiting-man, or perhaps messenger. A deacon serves. But whom do they serve, and where? In the old ordinal, the bishop describes the diaconal role thus:

"...to assist the Priest in Divine Service, and specially when he ministereth the Holy Communion, and to help him in the distribution thereof... And furthermore, it is his Office, where provision is so made, to search for the sick, poor, and impotent people of the Parish, that they may be relieved..."

Two distinct forms of service are met in the role of the deacon. Service at the altar, and service in the community.

I am writing this in the week when I should have been ordained priest, but because of the Corona-Virus pandemic I am still a deacon. Whilst frustrating in some ways, I do not feel that this is limiting my ministry. Instead it offers me an unexpected opportunity to think a little deeper about what I have done over the past year that is distinctly diaconal, and how I hope my priestly ministry shall be different.

The collapse in clerical vocations has changed the nature of priestly ministry. Most clerics have become "mass-priests"; what Protestants once derided as "mass-mongers". We are over-churched, and as parishioners – rightly – expect Holy Communion as their principal service, priests travel from church to church celebrating masses, often for tiny congregations, sometimes multiple times in one morning. Gone is the time to socialise after the service. Gone is the time to arrive an hour before worship begins to make sure everything is rightly ordered, and everyone rightly rehearsed. Gone is the luxury of tailoring sermons to different congregations.

As the deacon cannot celebrate the Eucharist, he is freed from this relentless conveyer belt of communion. He can arrive early to show a clerical presence and prepare the holy table. He can spend time after the service chatting to parishioners and, crucially, welcoming any newcomers. He can concentrate on the ministry of preaching and hospitality.

I am excited to celebrate Holy Communion. I believe this is the "source and summit" of the Christian life. But I am worried about being shoved on the conveyer belt, and sent to different churches as little more than a facilitator of worship. In my year as a deacon I have had the time to dig into the churches which I serve, and in my own little way to build up the congregation of St Mary's. I have been able to add to the younger members of our congregation by having the time to spend before and after services in conversation, greeting people and bringing them into our worshipping community

Sam Aldred

(Sam is currently on the staff of St. Mary's Swansea and will be ordained Priest on September 26th in the Cathedral. -Ed.)

A Lockdown Odyssey

Notes....from the one hundred and sixth day of total lockdown, and of the partial, the tenth. Well, on-line worship...I have enjoyed it. Must avoid the temptation to just muse on the background whether it is the study or kitchen or even a comfy chair. It is always pleasantly short and to the point no time for waffle...will we get used to hour long services again? I think it will remain as part of Parish life in the future, part of the 'new normal'. The services I have seen on my little I Pad have all been excellent.

Amazon has become my (expensive) Library. It seems to know what I want even before I do. Five Roman adventure novels....I am worn out with the exploits of soldiers Macro and Cato in the troubled times of Nero.

But theology has called too, Stephen Cottrell's book on priesthood...a good re - working of themes from the Ordinal. Also Canon Ian 's new book on the post COVID church...what will the future hold? Well worth pondering, change always comes and we are often not ready for it.

My monthly Bank statements have become dominated by all the daily take away coffees.. prices range from £2.40 to £3.20...and if you add a little chocolate cake to about £6.00.. the C in W pension is going fast.

Out and about is good!!!! so lots of walks and lots of social distancing waves to friends from St. Mary's who also enjoy Marina life

I do miss the trains and buses, I don't think a day went by in the far off olden pre lockdown world when I didn't pop on a bus with my old folks pass.

The TV. I don't have any of the subscription channels but Freeview has hosts of things to see...Startrek...MASH...repeats of the Magic Roundabout, would have been nostalgia heaven.

My favourite new programme was Grayson Perry's Art Club...I have always dabbled in and been fascinated by modern Art. In 1963 my art teacher said I should take it at O Level, and she was right...so ever since I think I have missed my vocation to be a flamboyant and crazy Artist.

As I put letter to screen(long gone are the days of pen to paper) lockdown begins to unwind, Today I had my first coffee out in a proper cup and saucer....£2.60 at Castellmare at Bracelet Bay...so

lots of thoughts about this new normal, but I am sure that we will 'muddle ' through as the Church seems to do.

Stephen Ryan

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Curates of St. Mary's 1959 -1970



Back row: David Isaac, Andrew Willis, Ted Hunt, Hugh Jones, Norman Boakes.

Front Row: Anthony Pierce, Brian Jones, David Walker, The Vicar, Robert Williams, David Davies, Ron Lloyd.

St. Mary's reopened after the rebuilding in 1959. From the time of the bombing until then, the daughter church of St. James had functioned as the parish church. The existing curates all had preferment and a new staff of three was appointed myself, Derrick Walters and Hugh Jones.

I was ordained in 1954 and served two happy years as curate of Manselton before moving across Swansea to be curate of Sketty and later of St. Mary's with St. James, St. Mary's the Parish Church of Swansea. My new Vicar was Canon Harry Williams, a Swansea man born and bred, educated at Dynevor School and read Philosophy at Swansea University. He was an accomplished athlete, his record for the 100 and 400 yards in the AAA stood for a number of years. He also played on the wing for Swansea All Whites Rugby Club.

After two years in St. Michael's College, Llandaff he was ordained and had his title in St. Mary's. At the outbreak of war he joined as an Army chaplain and served in the far East and the Middle East. He established a Church in Alexandria for which he was awarded the M.B.E. (Mil Div.) His time in the Middle East also gave him opportunity to explore the Holy Land.

Harry Williams had many attributes including being very industrious and a sound administrator. He was a fine preacher. He took to heart St. Matthew's description of Jesus' preaching ' *but without parables he spoke not unto them*' (Matt 13:24). Part of his preaching was as a story teller he seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of them, many of which I memorised and used them later as a parish priest, school chaplain and also chaplain of various Oxford Colleges.

He organised his parishes and his curates with military precision and discipline with almost total emphasis on parish visiting. Every road, every street and almost every house was visited in constant rotation. The Daily Offices were rigorously kept Matins at 8.0a.m. (later 7.30a.m) and Evensong at 6.0p.m. no matter what we were engaged in or where we were, we had to be back by 6.0p.m. We had to visit 40 families a week recorded on a specially printed visiting sheet with 40 lines, to be scrutinised in detail at the Staff Meeting on Monday morning (if we were short in numbers on Friday afternoon outside Wayne's in the Uplands was a good place to be to add names to the list -Ed.)

Evening activities were the usual menu for most parishes the various societies, Ladies Groups, Choir Practices in both churches and Drama Society. There was also a Discussion Group which went on for years discussing the main topics of the day!! The Vicar paid particular attention to Choir Practices and Drama Groups both had potential explosive differences of opinion!

The PCC which met for the most part every quarter was carefully nurtured so that members would be on-side before the meeting. The Agenda would have already been discussed at a meeting of Wardens and others in the Vicarage the week before.

Friday mornings were devoted to the Swansea General Hospital with each of the curates (usually three) having four wards each. Every bed visited and the sacrament taken to the wards at 6.45a.m. the following Thursday. I can still hear the clip-clop of the milkman's horse as it made its way along King Edward Road.

All this vigour bore results. We always had well attended services in both churches. I should add that Harry Williams worked as hard as any of his

curates. His teaching and example have stood me in good stead throughout my ministry.

(The photograph at the head of the article was the Vicar's last service in St. Mary's when he was appointed Archdeacon of Gower. Many of us had left the parish by then and came back for the service. On the Monday the Churchwardens had a farewell lunch in the University to which curates and their wives were invited.

When Ron left for the Diocese of Worcester I followed him in the parish of Swansea as curate in charge of St. James. He left me his Visiting Book containing a beautiful handwritten comment on every house which was on his list. I never divulged it to anyone but made a type written list minus the comments for his protection!! I can include one such comment which was mild compared to some! - Hillside Crescent, the Vicar of St. Jude's lives here, he goes to St. Jude's!! Ed.)

Ron Lloyd

David Rees Davies B.A. (Dai Fags)

(In the lockdown while sorting out, I came across an article I wrote for Welsh Church Life, August 2000, which I include here. -Ed)

David Davies' monograph of around a dozen or so typewritten pages of foolscap, covers his early life in the Rhondda until he entered St. David's College Lampeter. He was one of a number of priests in the Church in Wales who began their working life in the mines. Among others whom I knew, was Archdeacon Gilbert Wright of Bangor, Canon John Davies sometime Rector of Llandrindod and Canon T.C. Bowen sometime Rector of Loughor. Their length of time in the mines varied certainly for David Davies and Gilbert Wright it was in excess of ten years, beginning at the age of fourteen.

The introduction to the monograph concentrates on the background to his early life in the Rhondda and particularly in the parish of Ystradyfodwg. For one who later became a member of the Gorsedd of Bards by examination, he looks at the industrialization of the Rhondda valley through the eyes of its poets. Coal dominates the landscape and the lives of its people.

***Mae cyfoeth mawr ei fynwes
wedi duo'i wyneb lan
A nerth ei galon gynnes
Wedi mynd yn defnydd tan
(Bryn Fab 1848 – 1927)***

(the wealth of the heart of the valley has blackened its pure face and the strength of its warm heart has become fuel for the fire.)

Against this background Davies began his pilgrimage, which eventually brought him to the priesthood. His spiritual home was the parish of Ystradyfodwg, the oldest place of worship in the Rhondda Valley. Originally the foundation of the Celtic Saint Tyfodwg, who together with Illtyd and Gwynno also established the church in Llantrisant (the church of the three saints.)

At the age of fourteen like all young boys in the village he went down the mine. He caught the train at 5.30a.m. every morning with his father, to take them to Tydraw. There his father worked a five foot seam on his knees and David filled the drams. Later his father was to move to Ynysfeio to open a new seam there and David went with him. This was a daily routine for six days a week, incredible physical demands on someone so young, yet it was the norm for the day.

He left the pit at around 2.30p.m. to go home for a bath and a meal. Then in the evening he went to evening classes sponsored by the Workers Educational Movement, which Aneurin Bevan described in one of his unpublished papers 'had taken over from the Sunday Schools.'



The five foot seam in Tydraw Colliery

This was the pattern in all the South Wales valleys, the Workers Educational Movement provided opportunity for learning and provided the key of the door to life outside the mines. Many went on from there to Ruskin College, Oxford and distinguished themselves in the academic and political life of their own areas. A contemporary of Davies was S. O. Davies who went to the same evening classes before going to Cardiff University where he graduated in science and was subsequently for many years, M.P. for Merthyr. When he was eventually deselected he stood in the next election and served as an Independent.

The Workers Educational Movement sponsored Summer Schools very year in the University of Bangor at 12/6d which made it financially difficult but he persisted. There he learned not only the political philosophy of the day but also the secrets of *cynghanedd* and Welsh poetic idiom. Later he became a member of the Gorsedd of bards by examination. He and some of his friends as a literary activity following on from the summer schools founded a Group where they came together to share their poetry and other literary activity.

Despite all this activity his ultimate aim was ordination. He had begun a Correspondence Course in 1921 through which he studied for the School Certificate in Latin and Greek. In tandem with this he prepared for the entrance exam into St. David's College Lampeter, where he began his degree course in 1925, graduated in 1928 and was ordained in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon the following year. He served his title in St. Teilo's, Pontarddulais.

The remainder of the monograph is more like an entry in *Crockford's Clerical Directory* listing his appointments up to his final appointment as Vicar of Llanwrtyd and Rural Dean of Builth, almost as if the appointments were secondary to the initial achievement his arrival at Ordination. I remember him in retirement in Llandrindod in the early 70s when I was Rector of the New Radnor Group of parishes, always with a cigarette (hence the nickname) recalling his ministry but never, as I remember, mentioning the difficulties he had faced getting there.

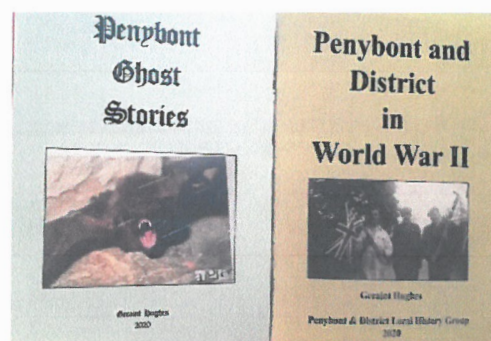
I found the whole experience of reading the monograph very humbling. I arrived at ordination following the usual path for those of my generation – school – university – National Service – theological college – funded by State Scholarship – parents' generosity and Church in Wales Bursaries, having little or no idea until much later, how so many of the senior clergy of my day, like Dai Fags, had arrived at the point of ordination. The monograph at the time of writing was kept in the Cathedral Library and an hour's reading of it was a most moving experience. It is surprising sometimes, how little we know of people whom we thought we knew well. For me Dai Fags was one.

Brian Jones

For the Bookshelf.

Three recent publications of interest to both ends of the Diocese have appeared recently with contributions from three priests, two of whom were ordained and served in the diocese, the third a native of Sketty who was ordained in the Diocese of Llandaff and served in that diocese and the diocese of St. Asaph before his retirement.

During lockdown Dean Geraint has published four booklets of local history from the area around Llandrindod. In the last issue of *The Newsletter* I reviewed two publications of 'The Life of a Signaller on the Central Wales Line'. He has recently published two further volumes



The World War II volume is a wide ranging account life in the village of Penybont and the surrounding parishes during the period. Preparations had been in hand in the village to celebrate V.E Day in May of this year. The Penybont Local History Group had prepared a Display for the event, and Geraint was to speak at a local celebration of the end of the war. In the event the Pandemic intervened and the prepared talk became an historical booklet instead.

Things soon began to change after war was declared. The WI set up a working group to discuss 'war work' Because of the black out schools finished early, shops closed early, and church services were held in the afternoons.

War work soon became Comforts for the Troops - a fund was set up to buy wool for members engaged in knitting for the troops. In the first year 395 items of warm clothing were sent to the W.V.S. in Llandrindod to be sent on to the troops. Also a further gift of £1 at Christmas for each of the 51 local men and women serving in H.M. Forces. A number of men and women from around the area had volunteered and served in the Army, Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

The farm workers who joined the Armed Forces were replaced by a group of Land Girls who settled in to the village and into the farms in which they lived and worked. At the same time child evacuees from Liverpool arrived and were welcome in the local community. Some children stayed for a year others for the whole period of the war.

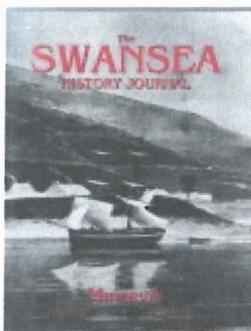
The booklet ends with the recording of those from the village who lost their lives during the conflict. On V.E. Day the village celebrated with church services, the ringing of bells and gatherings of the community.

Penybont Ghost Stories.

An amusing collection of Ghost Stories which have appeared on the Penybont Facebook page including one from Geraint with the story of the Ghost of Llanbadarn Rectory during his time as Rector.

Two lovely booklets of local interest from Geraint that match previous publications of the history of the area. Copies are available from Geraint, Data Protection prohibits my publishing his address but Crockford's have it!!

The Swansea History Journal



This is edition No 28 of *Minerva – the Swansea History Journal* edited by Gerald Gabb and published by the Royal Institution of South Wales,

The Journal includes every time historical articles of Swansea and the surrounding contributed by local people many of whom are writing from their own experience and interests, many of them from research the Glamorgan County Archives.

I include the Journal here because two of the articles in the current issue are written by two priests who are native of Swansea.

John Andrew was ordained in the Diocese and now lives in retirement in the Mumbles. His article 'Our Daily Bread – 'A Century of Andrew Family Baking in Mount Pleasant (part two)' continues the story of his grandparents Charles and Mary Andrew who established the bakery in Norfolk Street which they ran from 1892 to 1905.

When Charles died **Mary** continued the work of the bakery now trading as **Mary Andrew and Son**, and they entered baking competitions all over the United kingdom. John continues to trace the history of the family through to 1924 with the birth of his father John and two years his uncle Gerald who eventually would take over the business.

At this point in his article John says 'that the family embraced Anglicanism' and became active church members over the years.

The article ends with the retirement of the two brothers and gratitude to Michael Evans now owner of the bakery.

A glimpse of Swansea in 1902 – Roger Brown.

Roger was born in Sketty but was ordained in the Diocese of Llandaff and then moved to the diocese of St. Asaph and retired as Rector of Welshpool.

In what will be the first of a series of articles Roger looks at the life of the churches in what is now the city the county of Swansea. The article begins with the *Swansea Parish Magazine*, several runs of which are available in the County Archives and the Swansea Museum. The magazine was produced monthly and bound every year. Included in the parish magazine was

the Parish Magazine Inset *Home Words*. The twenty pages of the parish section of the Magazine was bound around the inset. Five parishes are included in the Swansea parish magazine. The reason for this was that St Mary's was the mother church from which a number of district churches had been formed and all of these were under the same patronage, *The Church Patronage Society*, who had the right of appointing incumbents, at a time when churches around the town were being established amongst them St. Mark and St. Matthew. The number of clergy working in the parishes covered by this magazine was fifteen, five incumbents, two curates in charge, seven curates and one chaplain. The situation of the churches in Swansea was led by Prebendary Allan Smith, Vicar of St. Mary's who resigned in 1902 and was replaced by Talbot Rice the son of Lord Dynevor.

Under Talbot Rice great attention was given to the buildings, including a fund to replace the temporary church in St. Jude's with a stone building. The new church was consecrated in 1915. During his ministry the emphasis was on the evangelical wing of the church and St. Gabriel's would later withdraw from the group of Swansea churches. The story will be continued in the next issue of *Minerva*.

It is impossible in such a short space to really do justice to the article and the fascination of church life in Swansea during the period. The only real justification is to read the article and all the other fascinating articles included in this issue of *Minerva*. Copies may be obtained from the Royal Institution of South Wales., Swansea

+ *Ed.*

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Our contributors

Once again I am grateful to all who have contributed to *The Newsletter* which in current circumstances enables us to keep in touch with Family News and with the variety of activities in which then Retireds are engaged. I am also very grateful to the Diocesan Office Staff who are engaged in the distribution via e mail and the Diocesan website and when possible the mailing of the hard copy. *Ed.*

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The Retired Clergy Newsletter

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Please send suggestions, comments, items of news by December 1st for the Christmas issue.