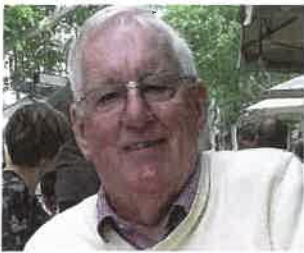


The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon



No. 96

Summer 2022



From the Editor: Chancellor Brian H. Jones

Dear Friends

I am preparing the Summer Newsletter over the week leading to Pentecost. The icon shows the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Having been told their mission by the Risen Lord on the Feast of the Ascension ***'go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every nation, beginning in Jerusalem'*** - in other words where you are. There has followed ten days of waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The Waiting Church contemplates its mission.

The icon shows the Apostles gathered together in the Upper Room on the Feast of Pentecost. The way they are seated with no one having precedence, reflecting the harmony amongst them. Included amongst them is the Apostle Paul, not an original Apostle, but included for his future contribution to the mission of the Church as the apostle to the Gentiles. At the top of the group one empty seat, for the Lord Jesus, founder of the faith and now present in the Holy Spirit.

From the centre above their heads, the twelve

flashes of fire descending on each one of them -the Holy Spirit their motivation. At the bottom of the icon against the dark background representing the Cosmos and the darkness of the world before the coming of Christ and the light of the Gospel. The King representing the new kingdom holding a white sheet holding the twelve scrolls of the Apostles, which bring light to the world through the Apostles' teaching.



On June 25 in Brecon Cathedral those to be Ordained as Deacon or Priest will be given the same charge as was given to the Apostles at the Ascension ***'take the Gospel; to God's people, beginning where you are'***

As they begin their, ministry as Deacon or Priest having been Ordained through the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Holy Oil, they go motivated by the Holy Spirit to care for God's people in their respective Ministry Areas pastorally, in their teaching and preaching and in their faithful sacramental ministry. As did the Apostles they bring the light of the gospel to the darkness of the world.

With best wishes and prayers.

Brian

FAMILY NEWS

We send our congratulations and best wishes to those celebrating anniversaries of Ordination in the coming months

- 75 years of Priesthood Douglas Davies
- 60 years of Priesthood Brian H. Jones and Michael Short
- 60 years as Deacon Bryan M. Jones, also his 90th birthday
- 45 years of Priesthood George Bennett and David Lloyd
- To the Priesthood Dewi Roberts (37). Keith Evans (36) and Philip Gwynn (32)

Details of this year's Ordination, those being ordained to the Priesthood or Diaconate and the Ministry Areas in which they will serve are on the opposite page

We send our good wishes and prayers to those who are unwell at the moment. We are always glad to have their names to include them on our Intercession lists.

In Memoriam David Evans



We were saddened to hear that David had died in April. After graduating in theology Oxford and then in London for the B.D. and training in Wells, David was ordained Deacon in Brecon Cathedral in 1964 and Priest the following year. He served as Minor Canon of the Cathedral and curate in the Brecon Group of parishes until 1968. In 1968 he was appointed a curate in St. Mary's Swansea and Chaplain to University College Swansea. During that period the Chaplaincies to the

Hospital and the University were based in the parish. He and Jenny joined us and Tony in the Clergy House.

During his time in Swansea he was a Listener in the Swansea Branch of the Samaritans before moving in 1971 to Birmingham as the Bishop's Chaplain to the Samaritans and to Social Work in the Diocese. He then moved in 1975 to be Joint Secretary of the Samaritans and later Chief Executive based in Slough until 1989.

In 1989 he returned to the Parochial Ministry in Northamptonshire, later Rural Dean of Daventry and Canon of Peterborough in 1997. In 2001 He and Jenny retired to Exeter where he was a Listener for the Samaritans and involved as a Welcomer in the Cathedral. More recently for health reasons they moved to near Chepstow to be nearer their family.

The details of David's ministry reflect not only his priesthood but also his intense care for people, the more especially for those who needed the guidance and support of the Samaritans even in his retirement.

Many of his former colleagues (especially those who shared the Clergy House with the Evans family) have kept in touch over the years. We thank God for his friendship, his devotion to his ministry, that of a caring Priest, and we commend him to the care and mercy of God as he continues his onward journey.

To Jenny and the boys and their families we send our condolences, love and prayers. *Ed.*

In Memoriam Magdalene Vaughan

When Bishop Benjamin came to the Diocese, the previous Secretary had retired and Magdalen Reynolds became the new Secretary. A regular worshipper in the Cathedral she was absolutely suitable. She was at all times very helpful to clergy who rang Ely Tower, very often a calming influence on clergy if requests from the Bishop would seem to be unreasonable. From my own experience of such an occasion amicable agreement was always reached. This was at all times due to Magdalene quiet, persuasive attitude to everyone.

After her marriage to Bishop Benjamin they settled in Swansea, and made their home in All Saints Oystermouth. Many of us will remember her as the hostess in Caswell Avenue when she and BNY welcomed guests to their home and shared their hospitality.

We were saddened to hear of her death and remember her as a very gracious and sweet lady. We commend her to the care and mercy of God, as she moves on to the life of God. To her family we send our sympathy and prayers.

Ordination Brecon Cathedral June 25, at 2.0p.m.

Please pray for those to be ordained and for the Ministry Areas in which they will serve

Deacons

Richard Wootten serving as stipendiary curate in the Brecon Ministry Area.

Ben Jones serving as stipendiary curate in the Penderi Ministry Area.

Priests

Revd Sarah Harris serving as stipendiary curate in the Central Swansea Ministry Area.

Revd Anna Bessant serving as stipendiary curate in the Brecon Ministry Area.

Revd Carol Jones serving as non-stipendiary (local) curate in the Irfon, Wye and Edw Ministry Area.

Bishops' Platinum Jubilee Statement

As Her Majesty the Queen celebrates the remarkable achievement of reaching her Platinum Jubilee we send our heartiest congratulations. We give thanks for her long reign and the dedicated service to the U.K. and to the Commonwealth over seven decades, fulfilling the promise she made on her succession to the throne. Throughout her reign Her Majesty has been guided by her Christian faith and has won the hearts of people through a life dignity, respect and commitment to them.

We particularly appreciate the Queen's fondness for Wales and remember with gratitude her many visits here, whether they were to celebrate with us or to share our times of grief and sadness. Her presence has so often been a source of comfort, reassurance and steadfastness to many as the years have gone by.

We continue to pray for Her Majesty that she shall be guided and comforted by her faith and love of God for the rest of her life.

God and the Pear Tree



The privately published collection of essays written by Robert Bevan, a Lay Reader, former Churchwarden and Pastoral Assistant in the parish of Llandrindod, explores his deep Christian faith and his search for a greater understanding of the nature of God. Robert is a true son of our diocese. Brought up in the Swansea parish of St Augustine's, he is a former pupil of Bishop Gore Grammar School and studied at Swansea University and the University of London. He was for twenty-four years Director of Education for Powys, a County Councillor, and for many years a member of the Governing Body.

Archbishop John Davies in an introduction to the book speaks of Robert as one "who has a deep and burning desire to help others develop their faith organically and not simply accept what they have come to think and know." Just as the four sons in the story which gives its name to this book sought out and found one and the same pear tree but, because they saw it at different seasons of the year, had radically different experiences of it, so it can be with our understanding and experience of God.

The book is wide ranging with some fifty short essays on such topics as "the Incarnation", "saints", "anger", "prophecy", "prayer", "hope", "peace", "worry", "kindness", "fellowship", "mission", and "Christian education".

We find in this collection of essays the gentle thoughts of an ordered mind elegantly expressed and in a form ready accessible to a wide readership. Robert has for many years given encouragement to many by his wisdom and quiet leadership in the field of education and through his ministry in our Church. This collection of essays adds something new to his influence among us.

Robert has decided to distribute the book among his friends asking only that they consider giving a gift to Llandrindod's Day Hospice "The Bracken Trust". Copies may be obtained by contacting him on 01597 824041.

Geraint Hughes

The Retired Clergy Group

After the long period of the Pandemic the Group will begin its activities again September. Until now we have been able to meet in the Eastmoor Resource Centre but that is not possible at the moment.

Fortunately we now have the opportunity to meet in St. James Church Hall in Walter Road, thanks to the support of the Vicar and the people of St. James. We have arranged to meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10.0a.m. and finish with midday prayers. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday September 13th.

In the event of a clash with other occasions (e.g. the Tuesday in Holy Week and the Christm Eucharist) we shall make another arrangement as we have done previously.

We hope that we shall be able to have as successful a year as we have had previously and look forward to welcoming the newly retired clergy.

In the past we have had a series of excellent# speakers and we hope this will be the case in the future. I would be grateful for suggestions of speakers and dates when they would be available.

In previous years we have had a Quiet Day in Llangasty which has given opportunity for Retired Clergy in the Archdeaconry of Brecon to join us. Hopefully we shall be able to do once again. I would appreciate thoughts on that whether a pre Advent Quiet Day or as we have done previously between Easter and the Ascension. Such occasions have also been on a Tuesday where the date is suitable for Llangasty. **B.H.J**

FROM PRISON TO HOME -THE STORY OF ELY TOWER



Map of Ely Tower

By the end of the eighteenth century, the castle that Bernard de Neufmarché had begun building in Brecon in 1093 had become a ruin. All that was left standing was a small section of the Keep, known for centuries as Ely Tower, and the remains of what had been the great Hall. The Keep became known as Ely Tower after John Morton, the Bishop of Ely was held prisoner there by Henry Stafford Duke of Buckingham and Lord of Brecon from August to October 1483. The castle site itself had been in the ownership of the Morgan family of Tredegar

House since the middle of the seventeenth century and formed part of their extensive estate of land, property, mining, quarrying and forestry rights in South Wales.

In 1809 Sir Charles Morgan began developing Castle House, an existing property on the castle site, as a hotel and coaching Inn and by 1814. more than £7,000 had been spent by him on the rebuilding. By the 1830's the hotel had become a regular stopping place for travellers.

The Tredegar family papers at the National Library in Aberystwyth contain an Account Book for the years 1825-6 of the family's agent in Brecon, Thomas Bold, respecting the building of a house (the 'New House') and outbuildings at the Castle, Brecon. The house was begun by a Captain Rathbone and completed after his decease by Sir Charles Morgan.

This, I surmise, was the Ely Cottage of which, by 1834, Thomas Bold himself was the tenant as is indicated on a map of that time with Sir Charles Morgan cited as the owner of the property. The footprint of the site as depicted is the one that has remained its boundary ever since.

Thomas Bold died at Ely Cottage in February 1842.

The *Silurian* Newspaper for the 16th July 1842 contains this advert.

To be let for a term of 7 or 14 years and entered upon immediately

ELY COTTAGE

Delightfully and pleasantly situated within the Castle of Brecon in the extra parochial part of the Borough. Together with convenient Offices, Stable, Coach House. Pleasure Grounds, Garden and small field adjoining.

The whole of the premises are exonerated from Parochial Rates and taxes. For further particulars apply to Messrs Vaughan, Bevan and Langford Brecon

The next tenant was Philip Vaughan, also a Solicitor and Agent for Sir Charles Morgan, and prominent in the life of Brecon. He's certainly resident there in 1845 as that is the address recorded in the announcement of the birth of his daughter.

By 1848 Henry Mayberry, another solicitor and again amongst other things an Agent for the Tredegar Estate, is in occupation of Ely Cottage. This is recorded in the announcement of his

marriage in October of that year to Eliza Marian Aveline. He died at the property in October 1867 aged 61 years.

Two years later the Tenancy had been taken up by D W J Thomas. Both he and his family were much involved in the social and cultural life of Brecon and he is described in his death notice in March 1899 as 'a solicitor and Coroner for Brecon'.

The start of the twentieth century marks the beginning of the Latham Bevan family's association with the property. Archdeacon William Latham Bevan retired as Vicar of Hay in November 1901 after 56 years but retained the Archdeaconry of Brecon to which he had been appointed in 1895. By 1902 he is recorded as living at Ely Tower. Perhaps moving in to a mere Cottage, albeit one of twenty rooms, didn't have quite the same kudos as residing at Hay Castle had conferred – hence the change of name.

His son Edward Latham Bevan was already living nearby. He had been appointed to the living of St John's and St Mary's Brecon in 1897. Edward was using a house at Ely Place at the Postern end of the Ely Tower site as his Vicarage, cared for there by a resident Housekeeper and Valet.

William Latham Bevan relinquished the Archdeaconry of Brecon 1907. His son Edward was his successor. William died at Ely Tower on 24th August 1908 and his widow Louisa on 28th October a year later. Both were buried at Hay.

Their daughter Ellen, who had been living with them at Ely Tower, retained the tenancy. There are numerous references in the press, especially during the First World War, to her support of charitable causes in Brecon as well as using the grounds of Ely Tower to host Garden Fetes and other fund raising events. A report the Brecon & Radnor Express of 17th August 1916 testifies

'Soldiers from the Barracks and Penoyre Hospital were entertained to a Garden Party at Ely Tower by Miss Bevan. Among those present were the Bishop of Swansea and Lady Glanusk.'

She died at Ely Cottage on 15th April 1921 at the age of 63.

In 1915 Edward Latham Bevan had been appointed as the suffragan Bishop of Swansea within the Diocese of St David's, exercising a delegated Episcopal authority within the Archdeaconry of Brecon.

During this time he continued in post as the Vicar of Brecon finally resigning from the incumbency in October 1921 and, following his sister's death, took up residence at Ely Tower.

As the discussions for the formation of the new Diocese of Swansea and Brecon continued the provision of a suitable house for the first Bishop was one of the questions to be answered. It was resolved when Lord Tredegar gifted Ely Tower to the Church in Wales. It had been retained by the Morgan family in 1914 when the bulk of their Breconshire properties had to be sold to meet Death Duties. *'The Castle of Brecon, the Castle Hotel and Ely Cottage will be retained by his Lordship.'* BRECON COUNTY TIMES 19th February 1914.

The following description of Ely Tower is given in a later article in The BRECON COUNTY TIMES for Thursday 28th June 1923 celebrating the creation of the Diocese.

'Ely Tower, Brecon which has been given for a residence for the bishop of the new diocese, is neither a large or pretentious structure, but is large enough for the purpose and is pleasantly situated. A plain, square Georgian building, it has nevertheless, a dignity of form, its rooms are spacious and comfortable, and it is set in the midst of delightful grounds, with the distinct advantage in these days of not being so big as to be very expensive to keep in order. Ely Tower has historic associations. It lies within the precincts of the old Castle of Brecknock and takes its name from the ruins of a tower in the grounds where a Bishop of Ely was once imprisoned.'

The late Archdeacon William Bevan (father of the Bishop of Swansea) resided at Ely Tower for a number of years, and there a daughter, Miss Ellen Bevan – (whose name is revered in Brecon) lived and died. Since he has given up the living of Brecon, the Bishop of Swansea has also made Ely Tower his home.

It is now undergoing some repairs and alterations in readiness for its new dignity'

Bishop Bevan had himself raised a sum of £8,000 to help fund the new Diocese some of which, it was recorded, would be needed to adapt Ely Tower as a bishop's residence.

Some improvements were made to the house when Bishop Glyn Simon and his young family moved there on his election as Bishop in 1954. When clergy and their wives were invited to Ely Tower

Mrs Sheila Simon often took the wives to ‘see what had been done about the kitchen.’

However, by the mid 1960’s, Ely Tower was showing its age. Some of those who were Junior Clergy then recall being invited with their wives by Bishop Jack and Mrs Thomas for tea. When the connecting doors between the lounge and the dining room were opened for tea part of the dining room ceiling collapsed. It was eventually decided that the old house should be demolished and a new house built on the site. It was designed by Cyril Hughes & Son Architects of Swansea, who were the Diocesan Parsonage Inspectors. It was at this time that some of the outbuildings and the cottage garden belonging to the old house were sold and the proceeds used to defray some of the cost of the new building.

Whilst I was Bishop some further adaptations and alterations were made. Now, sadly, the present Ely Tower has developed some major structural faults that necessitate that it too must be demolished and replaced by a new building thankfully still within the existing grounds.

Given that all the first occupants of the first Ely Tower house were solicitors ,it’s interesting to note, that the last bishop to occupy the present property had been a solicitor before he took Holy Orders, eventually of course becoming the first Bishop of Swansea and Brecon to also serve as Archbishop of Wales.

My thanks to Andrew Dully and Paul Murray for their assistance in the research for this article

+Anthony Pierce

A distinguished visitor



Archbishop Tutu’s visit to the Royal Welsh Showground in May 1986 at the invitation from the Council of Churches in Wales God’s Family Festival

Developing Anna Chaplaincy in Wales



My journey to Anna Chaplaincy really started when, under my then Rector, Rev Barry Letson, we set up a Pastoral Visiting Team in St Edmunds, Crickhowell, in 2005. In time I was asked to coordinate the team and this when my passion for ministry to older people really came into fruition. As a nurse and as a nurse lecturer, my heart was always in the sitting and listening to patients (although the time in a busy shift did not often allow) as much as to the necessary nursing tasks. In the NHS any kind of spiritual and religious care is reserved for the Hospital Chaplain and it was very difficult to share faith with vulnerable patients, who were real need. In the Pastoral Visiting team I was able to share faith when appropriate with those I visited (and perhaps in some cases, expected to) as it was clear that I was licensed and ‘sent’ from my local church into the Parish to those in need.

When I retired in 2011 I knew that I was going to be doing more pastoral care but I thought that it would be in a lay capacity and it was with some reluctance that I put myself forward for ordained ministry, but this was clearly what God wanted and as a Non Stipendiary Minister I have been able to lead the way in Swansea and Brecon Diocese in responding to growing needs of older people in the community as the numbers of those over the age of 60 years increases beyond imagination. It’s a long story! (that I won’t tell here) but in 2014 I was ordained as a Distinctive Deacon with a specific remit to develop Older People’s Ministry in our ‘new’ Ministry Area. ¹

Lay Pastoral Visiting in our Parish was already expanding beyond the church congregation and family into the community reaching out to those in need; particularly those who were housebound, who wanted to be visited and befriended; to those our Care Home (visiting individuals and taking services of worship and home communions); our retirements housing complex, helping with their weekly Saturday coffee morning; activity groups (coffee mornings, Read and Remember [a group for those living with dementia] and other support groups. The church was also instrumental in partnering with ‘Living with Dementia’ a local charity

and the Alzheimer's Society to help set up their dementia friendly café 'Caffi Croeso'. Before lockdown we also had a homegroup fortnightly and a 'Messy Vintage'² session once a month.

Once ordained, I set about training for licensing others in the ministry area with the Swansea and Brecon Diocese Pastoral Visiting course which laid a good foundation to develop ministry into the community. We now have three teams who visit older people in their locality and also provide teams to support and provide spiritual and religious care to care homes in their area and also support other events in their communities.

The model that emerged in our Ministry Area was very similar to the Anna Chaplaincy for Older People³ model that has been pioneered by Debbie Thrower in England since 2010 starting in Alton, Hampshire when she became the first recognised Anna chaplain to older people. Debbie as Anna Chaplain Pioneer with the Bible Reading Fellowship [BRF] has grown into a huge movement of Christians of all denominations, mainly in England, being commissioned as Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends (more than two hundred presently as Chaplains or in equivalent roles) who offer spiritual and religious care to people who would like this in their community whether the older person is of faith, little faith or no faith.

Anna Chaplaincy is one of four ministries that are trademarked, developed and resource with training material and publications at the Bible Reading Fellowship⁴. The model is sound and because it is resourced by BRF, there is no need to 'reinvent the wheel'. The materials are all there for you to use and draw on.

Anna Chaplains meet older people wherever they might gather and focus attention to individuals, listening to their stories, the issues they are facing, making relationships and friendships and being guided by that person's agenda. Once individuals know that they are loved unconditionally and the visitor or Anna Chaplain can be trusted, then sometimes we are asked about the deep questions that many older people reflect on; What has it all been for? Have I lived a good life? Who will remember me when I am gone? Is there anything after I die? This is the kind of spiritual work that many older people want someone to accompany them explore. Of course, many also want to share religious experience too, e.g. reading a Psalm, saying a prayer together, having times of worship and communion together.

Before lockdown, and the COVID pandemic, people would ask me 'why do we need ministry to older people? We already have older people in our churches! But since the pandemic, people really do understand just how many people live alone, need company and may need help and that those in churches can befriend and

offer time to just 'be' with someone, enjoy their company, do a jigsaw together or just have a good old natter over a cup of tea.

In Wales Older People's Ministry, pastoral care and Anna Chaplaincy ministry is also growing. I, Rev Sally Rees was asked by Bishop John Davies in 2018 to become the first Bishops Officer for Older people in the Swansea and Brecon Diocese. Since then interest in Anna Chaplaincy has been highlighted and in 2020 I, Rev Trina Lodge and Rev Sue Rumbelow were commissioned by Bishop John (Davies) as the first Anna Chaplains in Wales. Sister Marian was commissioned as Anna Chaplain in January this year. We had a lovely service in Sketty. Archdeacon Jonathan commissioned her and I preached. As well as becoming an Anna Chaplain for my ministry area, I also took on the role of Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Wales. In this role I take enquiries about Anna Chaplaincy, respond to request to talk and take presentations explaining this model of ministry. I have been fortunate enough to speak at vocations days e.g. Llandaff Diocese Ministries Fair at Margam Abbey in May this year. Mothers Union conferences and to several groups e.g. Abergavenny Council of Churches. I also lead the Anna Chaplaincy Training course here in Wales.

We now have Anna Chaplaincy ministry in Bridgend (An Anna Chaplain and two Anna Friends) with the Assemblies of God church and also a Baptist Anna Chaplain in Radnorshire and Montgomery Baptist Association. I am also following up interest in St David's Diocese, where there will soon be a commissioning, a Baptist Association in Pontypridd and the Methodist Circuit of Holyhead and Bangor.

My vision (just like that of the UK Anna Chaplains) is to have Anna Chaplains throughout Wales serving older people where they are. If you are interested in finding out more please visit the Anna Chaplaincy website <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk>, the Swansea and Brecon Diocese web pages on Anna Chaplaincy or contact me, Rev Sally Rees at sallyrees50@gmail.com.

Sally Rees

The Showground Chaplaincy

Many years ago I started assisting the churches tent with the Venerable Elwyn John who was the chaplain to the show and rural life officer for the diocese of Swansea and Brecon. Over the years Elwyn had a dream that the tent would become an ecumenical tent and his vision came to fruition when Cytun became involved in the churches tent.

We moved away from selling to being a tent of welcome to all who wished to stop for a rest with us having tables and chairs and many displays around the tent. The highlight of the year is of course the RWAS Summer

show a four day event. This show is I believe the largest show of its type in Europe. There are two other shows held during the year by the RWAS, the Winter Fair held in November/December over two days and the second being the Smallholders Show held over two days in May.



I have been involved on the showground now for approximately 25 years since 1997. The work has developed from being a tent work, into chaplaincy on the showground, this covers some 42 event days in the year. Some examples are as follows, antiques fairs, championship dog shows, horse shows and sales ram and sheep sales, wonderwool to name but a few plus of course the major events.



The work has developed and we are now classed as Stewards with free entry for those involved in chaplaincy on the duty days. There is a written agreement through the sponsoring body Cytun and the RWAS. We are an ecumenical chaplaincy, all of our chaplains have to be in good standing within their own denomination and we are not meant to attempt to convert people while we work on the showground. We are for people of no faith, other faiths and of course the Christian faith. We normally carry information giving useful telephone numbers of people from different faiths.

If anyone is interested in becoming a chaplain you will need an up to date DBS complete a safeguarding course and be able to walk about 15,000 steps a day if you are interested give me a call and we can give you a taster

session with an experienced chaplain during one of the Major shows.

Timothy Williams

One Hundred Years later



Christ Church in Swansea celebrates its Centenary this year built soon after the end of W.W.1 to accommodate the influx of people into the town, as it was then. We send our Congratulations and Good Wishes to Ian Folks, the Parish Priest, the Church Wardens and the congregation in their celebrations. We shall feature the history of the church in the Autumn issue of *The Newsletter Ed.*

+++++

Our Contributors Once again I am so grateful to all our contributors to this issue of *The Newsletter*. It is available to retired clergy by e mail or hardcopy, recently retired should request the Diocesan centre to make it available to them, Data protection means that the request must be personal. Each issue is available on the Diocesan website and past issues on *Retired Clergy News – Ed.*

Retired Clergy Newsletter

Editor Chancellor Brian Jones, M.Phil.
125, Homeowner House, St. Helen's Road.
Swansea SA1 4DW
e mail b.h.jones@outlook.com

Please send suggestions, comments, items of news by September 1st for the Autumn issue.

Published at the Diocesan centre, Cathedral Close, Brecon LD3 9DP