



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES

ADNEWYDDIAD EGLWYSWYR CYMRU

Issue 41 October 2005

Contents

A Message from our Chairman Nick Jones.....	2
We believe in a Trinitarian God.....	4
A Vicar's Vision for A.R.M.(Wales) Bob Pitcher	6
A Vision for A.R.M.(Wales)	7
A Word of Encouragement from a fellow Christian Annette Masters	8
Report on the Aberystwyth Academy of Christian Discipleship 2004-5 Jo Harbidge..	11
S.O.M.A. Report Sheila Griffiths	14
IGNITE - Youth Report from Flames of Fire by Team Leader - Tamara Dyer.....	15
News from our Members.....	16
Hallelujah!	18



A Message from our Chairman Nick Jones



Dear Friends.

This year, my wife Chris and I made a change to our usual camping trip to France in favour of a greater certainty of warmth and sunshine. The Internet provided the answer to our search for a holiday and so we ended up with a fortnight on the Greek island of Cephalonia. We hired a car for two separate days in order to see the sights and then there was no pressure to do anything else for the remaining twelve days except to eat, sleep, read, walk and swim. Just what we

needed!

The way of life in our part of the island, at least, was so laid back and easy going. Even the church seemed to slip easily into that way of life. There were a number of churches (Greek Orthodox) near where we stayed, two in the small coastal village of Aghia Ephemina, but no signs to say when services took place. So we made enquiries about service times with the small, local holiday company we had travelled with and were told: "When the bell rings there is a service, when it doesn't, there isn't!" I don't recall hearing the bell ring once. We did get to a celebration of the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We were told it started at 8.00pm and so arrived at 9.00pm whereupon it started around 10.00pm when the crowds of people eventually arrived. Then began the fellowship, food, music and dancing.

It seems a far cry from our experience of church here in Wales. I have been ordained for 23 years and have served in this Diocese of Llandaff for all of that time, and in my present parish for nearly 10 years. Before I was ordained, I had been brought up to worship in the Church in Wales, being baptised as an infant in Haverfordwest, and confirmed in Whitchurch, Cardiff. One of the first things that Chris and I did when we were married was to seek out an Anglican Church near our new home at which to worship together. We have chosen to remain within the Church in Wales because this is where we feel God has called us to be. It can seem very different from other denominations, but within the Church in Wales there is such a wealth of spiritual heritage that is precious to me.

Our holiday in Cephalonia was made a few days after the end of the Flames of Fire conference this year. I really enjoy going the conference to participate in the worship and fellowship, and receive good quality teaching. I never cease to be amazed at the way God seems so present, so gracious and so powerful. But again it is so very different from what we might experience within the ordinary parish church here in Wales. It is different, but I value it and want to see more of what we experience at the conference present in the life of the ordinary local church. But that can be a source of tension. The conference life can be so different that it hardly seems to relate to the life of the Anglican Church at all.



I think of the parish of Pencoed where I am at this time. It is actually two parishes with two P.C.C.s, we have three church buildings one at Llanilid, one in Pencoed and one in Heol Y Cyw. They serve three different kinds of community, one rural, one town and one former mining village. The congregations are generally small, elderly and traditional but friendly and open. They are really lovely people here, but life is very different from Flames of Fire. The contrast between the larger gathering and the small local church can be like that of being compared to a church in a foreign land.

So how can we see renewal in the Church in Wales without making it seem so foreign that the distinctive spiritual heritage is lost? Other parishes may have found their answer to that question, but here we seek to run both the traditional and renewal side by side. We have ministry time at evensong, Praise & Worship as well as the traditional 'Green Book' Eucharist. Greeting people at the door following a service can lead to ministry for healing more dramatic than that during the ministry time. I am reminded of an illustration I once heard, of two rivers, one whose waters were full of silt was brown and murky, whilst the other, a tributary which had joined it, had waters which were clear. The clear and murky waters flowed side by side for miles before finally merging. The Lord is at work here and we are seeing people transformed by the working of the Holy Spirit, but it is not like Flames of Fire and many people here would not feel at home with the conference.

So Anglican Renewal Ministries has a particular work to do, which is about Renewal in the Anglican Church here in Wales. There is a hunger and a thirst for the Holy Spirit to renew the church that is not being satisfied through the conference alone. In September the ARM Executive committee met for the first time since the extraordinary general meeting in June. There was a sense of loss regarding the conference but it was good to be together. Looking to the future was hard, but inviting the Holy Spirit and waiting on Him led to a really positive time of sharing what we felt He had shown. It was about getting alongside the church in parish, deanery and diocese. Such was the enthusiasm that was generated that one committee member said, "I came here intending to resign, but now I am too excited to do so!" The Holy Spirit had given vision and vision generated hope.

As we look forward to the Annual General Meeting in November it is in this spirit of hope and expectation of the Lord leading ARM (Wales) forward to see renewal in the Anglican Church in this nation. A renewal that is not creating a church foreign and strange, but of realising, renewing and releasing the gracious gifts that God has bestowed. Jesus said to His disciples, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the Kingdom of Heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." (Matthew 13 v 52)

I close with this prayer from St Paul:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Yours in Christ, Nicholas



We believe in a Trinitarian God.....

God taught me that the Holy Spirit is God but that He is One with the Father and the Son and that I must not separate Him out from the Trinity.

I feel that this is an important statement to make at this time. We in A.R.M.(Wales) are now seeking what God wants of us and how we can share our experiences with the Church in Wales. If we look at the various Anglican churches we see that there are definitely different emphases on the approach to God. Some seem to focus more on God the Father, some on the Son and others on the Holy Spirit. Churches in Renewal can frighten off other more traditional worshippers because of a focus on things charismatic, and that is a word that immediately meets resistance. God taught me that the Holy Spirit is God but that He is one with the Father and the Son and that I must not separate Him out from the Trinity. I had prayed for five months to receive the gift of tongues. At Easter 1984 I knew that I had been given this gift, but I still could not speak in tongues. When Pentecost came I was sure that I would be able to use the gift, I really wanted it to praise God. But Pentecost came and went. The following Sunday the Lord woke me early to go downstairs and pray. I knelt down and said, Abba. Out it tipped I was amazed, having lived with this desire for so long I could hardly believe it. I stopped and started again several times to be sure that it was real. Anglicans of course know that it was Trinity Sunday. To this day I marvel at this lesson, but I soon discovered that at that stage, the gift was not for praise but for intercession. I didn't understand it but felt sure that as I prayed in tongues it was what God wanted the prayer to be. Praying for different people bought different tongues, what could this mean? Truth is it doesn't immediately matter, what does matter is that we can have a relationship with each member of the Trinity and we should experience each of them because we will then get greater insights into the nature of God.

So I believe that we are called to reflect on our spirituality, looking at our relationship with the Father will bring us to the realisation that being His children is crucially important. We must come to God *as a little child* (Luke 18:17). We must then consider our relationship to Jesus, first as Saviour and then as King. We need to understand what it means to be *in Christ*, (e.g. Rom.8:1, 2 Cor.5:17) and learn how to live in His kingdom. But such understanding is impossible without the help of the Holy Spirit, all three persons are essential for us to grow as Christians, and become as Christ to the world. If we are to be ready to help others we need this insight because many people have no idea that Christianity is a relationship rather than a religion. Members of the Church have got to get this relationship sorted out before they can speak to the world. Too many of us within the Church in Wales think we have it sorted but where is the evidence?

It needs a change of heart for most. Several times recently God has reminded me of the need for a pure heart that only Jesus can give. He has in fact already given it when we acknowledge what it means to be justified and receive His righteousness.

We must think about why we haven't received what we know God has given. This was my problem when speaking in tongues was so long in coming, it is also true of healing and other



gifts. There has to be reasons why we don't receive, look at James Chapter 4. Think of the number of times we have sung *Purify my heart* if we had all been granted that then surely A.R.M.(Wales) would have already impacted Wales, because it would mean that we could see God and know exactly what He is doing.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. □ (Matt. 5:8)

So we want to move on but I fear that we are not ready, not until we have those pure hearts. The vision has been given but God has work to do on us, are we willing? See Bob Pitcher's article and for some thoughts from the Executive.

Amongst my A.R.M.(Wales) papers I found a sheet dated April 29th 1997 and written following a Vision Meeting at an Executive retreat. It spelled out what I felt then to be the aim of A.R.M.(Wales):

To see the Church in Wales changed through the Power of God. Allowing the Holy Spirit freedom in our churches so that God alone is glorified

And the means/methods of promoting this aim:

- 1) To encourage those already in Renewal through conferences etc.
- 2) To bring together the prophetic and intercession, allowing God's revelation to lead the way and acknowledging that we can do nothing in our own strength. He alone will change the Church but we must cooperate through intercession and then obedience.
- 3) This means repentance and must lead to a willingness to change - to be made holy.

So we might be searching for something fresh but God's word is constant. He is drawing us into His presence to hear and receive His purification and anointing for His work.

From the beginning of A.R.M.(Wales), God has shown us that we must be concerned with the Anglican Church in Wales, this was particularly evident with the Welsh name **Adnewyddiad Eglwyswyr Cymru** given in 1985. This is not to say that we are not concerned about other denominations but we must look to God to teach us the way to be one with other Christians. If there is to be Revival in Wales we shall come together in a way as yet unimaginable.

Mary Newsom



A Vicar's Vision for A.R.M.(Wales) Bob Pitcher

"O Vicar, we've just been away on a holiday conference, with the Kids, and it was great!!! People were falling over when they were prayed for, and lifting up their hands when they were singing, some of them were talking in strange languages. The children, well, they were just going 'whoop, whoop!' and flying round like aeroplanes. It was just amazing. We must have it here at St. Mary's. It'll solve all of our problems. Call a P.C.C. right away and we'll start doing it!!!"

How many church leaders over the last few decades have heard this sort of story and been frightened stiff by some of their more keen families. Perhaps even those who could have been persuaded to run the Sunday School or youth group, come back with this sort of story. With diminishing congregations, financial worries, and growing guilt over their inability to be the sort of vicar they dreamed of being in the halcyon days of theological college, the last thing they want is wide eyed extremists coming from some sort of fundamentalist jamboree wanting people rolling about on the floor, foaming at the mouth telling everyone that Jesus is coming back next Thursday.

This is the problem in the Church in Wales. In so many, if not the majority of places, we have to find a way of converting the vision and experience we have from the Holy Spirit, from our conferences and other sources, into the life of our local church. There seems to be far too many churches with members with vision having vicars who resist it; and far too many vicars with vision whose members resist it. Somehow the vision, reality, and life-giving vibrancy of the Holy Spirit has to be translated into parish life. We must avoid at all cost being seen as a group of people who disappear with caravans and tents once a year to the National Showground and reappear in our parishes a week later as discontented and fanatical non-Anglicans: being part of the problem rather than part of the answer.

Resolving this problem has to be the mission of A.R.M.(Wales). But how can it be done? My prayer is that those of us who have a vision for the renewal of our church might pray for, or be part of, or even take a leading role in **teams** who are willing to go to parishes where the idea of renewal is at least a possibility. In those communities, with sensitivity and with God's grace, life may well emerge to transform that parish. This of course is not a new idea. David Watson, 'The Fisherfolk' and others were doing it in the 70's with great success.

So my personal heartache, at the present time, is that so little of what has been received at 'Flames' has actually been translated into parishes in Wales. Perhaps with the freedom we have been given from having to organise the annual conference, we might now give ourselves to the task of translating the dream into reality.

What about practicalities. Where are these teams? How will it happen? It seems to me that one of the major doorways for Renewal, and also one of the major battles at a local level, is the transformation of worship. To this end we will be running a day seminar at Llanidloes in

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



the new year to encourage musicians singers and others to come for a day of teaching and practical participation. This will be a day which is definitely for those who want a taste of what it means to worship in Spirit and Truth. For so many of our members in the Church in Wales, to engage with God in worship in a real and experiential way is something which has not really been thought of as a possibility, let alone the norm. At this day we pray that the Lord in his grace will open people's hearts to the reality of His immanence, His loving presence.

Later in the year we (James and Bob Pitcher) will be leading a day for those who may feel that God is leading them into some kind of worship leading. This will be for those who have some experience in playing or singing worship songs and want to move more fully into their ministry as leaders.

In A.R.M., I know we will also be wanting to gather together communicators as well who will be able to take to fragile, yet committed, parishes the Good News of the New and Living way which Jesus has given us. This means encouraging able Bible teachers, but it also means releasing those who have a testimony of what God has done for them. Many people may not be able to give an inspiring exegesis of 1 Cor.14, but they are able to share with a group, in simple and sincere language, what God has done for them through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that those people will stand up and be counted in these days and join a team, especially when so much of the church seems to doubt the intervention or involvement of God into ordinary lives.

At the present time the future is delicate, but the purpose of God often is. 2000 years ago the destiny of the world lay in a new born baby, in a feeding trough, the child of a refugee family. But from that weak and vulnerable state came the greatest victory the world has ever seen; the victory over evil, sin and death. So it will be then when we, with our sails set to the moving of the wind of the Spirit, remain open to the vision of translating His life giving purposes into our local communities, that this New Life will come into view and New Wineskins will emerge. Two and a half thousand years ago the prophet Ezekiel gazed over a valley of dry bones and was asked, 'Can these bones live?' After some persuasion from One who loved him, and the bones, he was able to speak to them with authority, and they did live. May we have the faith of Ezekiel, because like him, we do have God's Word, and be able to say with authority in these days **'Bones, come to Life, Church in Wales ...LIVE!!'**

A Vision for A.R.M.(Wales)

The A.R.M.(Wales) Executive have always committed this to prayer but especially over the last year. At our most recent meeting we were very aware that we must seek the way forward to support the Church in Wales. When we drew up our Statement we stressed that we were not a fringe group of the Anglican Church but were very much mainstream. Our support for Charismatic Renewal is because we believe it is biblical and we know that it can be acceptable to Anglicans. We have very much appreciated the support given to us by Archbishop Rowan

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



who has encouraged us greatly. We want to see the whole of the Anglican Church embrace Renewal because we are certain that our churches will come alive when we give them to God and allow Him to rule as King.

Charismatic Renewal has been misunderstood and judged on the basis of activities and experiences which have upset people. But God Himself never upsets or disappoints us and we have to learn to discern who is really listening to God and who is doing things in his/her own strength. The enemy is always prowling around and seeks to confuse us, but we know that '...the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world'.(1John 4:4) Meditate on the words in this chapter for they will bless your heart and become a foundation for our actions.

So we can either go into churches or get people to come to us.

- 1) One idea is to form teams of people willing to share what we know and go out into our towns and villages as a 'Renewal Road Show'.
- 2) We can run mini conferences in different parts of Wales.
- 3) We can use the experience of those who have been on S.O.M.A. missions, giving them an opportunity to share and inspire us.
- 4) We can find ways of supporting the Diocesan Renewal Teams, perhaps with special retreats and speakers for them.
- 5) We can look at new ways of 'Being Church'
- 6) We can plan evangelism events, something discussed whilst we were doing Cathedral Praise in 1997.
- 7) We can meet for prayer and listen as a group for God to speak.

We need your support, we need to catch the fire of God's love and we need to know what the parishes want.

Please help us too to increase our membership base. We need to test our vision by looking for more who will support it. We always send out a number of complimentary copies of the magazine and this time we are sending out more with a letter of introduction. Please let us know names of those you know who could be included.

A Word of Encouragement from a fellow Christian Annette Masters

When I was asked to contribute something to the magazine either concerning the *Flames of Fire* Conference or the future of ARM Wales I was delighted.

I feel that I must combine the two if I am to do any justice to this article at all. But first a small potted history of my own involvement with it. Having kept a Journal for many years, I can look back and see the work that A.R.M.(Wales) has done at *Flames of Fire* every year.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



The Conference has been very important for me; it is a place where my belief in A.R.M. (Wales) and its principles, have been encouraged. Where I have seen God at work in amazing ways, not least in myself, but also in the thousands who have come each year.

I have been privileged in taking an active role within the Conference every year so I feel I can speak about it with some confidence. During this time I have seen God challenging His Church to wake up to maturity to throw off things that are holding them back and get on with Kingdom building. Now I believe New Wine is the way forward for us, and for this generation we need to see more new wine skins filled with New Wine - REVIVAL.

Flames of Fire is a place where clergy and laity alike work together in love, teaching, encouraging, lifting up and ministering to the tired, worn out, rejected, persecuted, abused, and bound. It is the Lord Jesus at work in His imitable, awesome ways.

The years have not been without their problems, as in any situation like this, but through a leadership team in constant prayer, asking for Godly Wisdom, problems have been resolved or overcome.

This after all is how God shapes His children to work together. I truly believe that those who have been willing to be humbled and have survived the tests, have been enriched, growing in strength in God's service back in their own communities as well as at **Flames of Fire**. This will surely stand A.R.M.(Wales) in very good stead in its future.

During the years more and more people have been drawn to **Flames of Fire** from other denominations and in this unity God has blessed us, and it can be seen. Very many have taken up the banner for Him in exceptional ways, teaching, staffing, intercession, counselling, prayer, worship, prayer ministry counselling and many, many other ways. I believe the reason for this is the way that the whole Worship theme of the Conference is focused on Christ and Him alone (Psalm 50:23). Everything else falls out of this Worship and obedience to His Will for His people. I see **Flames of Fire** as a place where people come and meet with God and are refreshed. Where clergy and laity can be themselves, in a safe environment. It is a place where leaders are born as they begin to recognise what God has given them; where they can be equipped through the sound teaching and the practical Seminars.

I have met so many who are constant at **Flames of Fire** who witness to the outworking of God's Love through them in their Parishes, Churches, places of work, and families, as they persevere and make a difference. Many who do not experience the freedom in their home churches have been encouraged to use their gifts at Builth and have seen with their own eyes only what God Himself could do through them. One dear couple said to me that when they ministered for the Lord at **Flames of Fire** this kept them going for a whole year. What a sad reflection on churches that refuse to keep Christ at the centre of their worship, and are concerned only with traditions that focus on men and not on the Lord Jesus (Matthew 15:6-9) Jesus says we have to be careful we do not nullify the Word of God for the sake of tradition. If we put tradition above God's Truth we can kill true faith and quench the Holy Spirit, Heaven help us all.



This I believe is where A.R.M.(Wales) can now be used in greater measure back in the community. A.R.M.(Wales) has done so well, Jesus through His people has built a solid foundation for the future at Builth and we need New Wine now to take us forward.

Now God is directing A.R.M.'s ministry out to Dioceses and Parishes. I believe this was the original Vision, but we also need to remember our Lord's timing is perfect and these years have, I believe, been a training ground for us all.

This brings me to New Wine Cymru. I have been blessed in my relationship to both A.R.M. and New Wine, having spent ten years with A.R.M. and been involved with New Wine for two. Earlier this year the decision was made to let New Wine Cymru take over the running of the conference each year. I don't have to say much here New Wine can speak for itself we know the wonderful growth that is taking place in England and in Scotland through New Wine Ministries. We want Wales to continue to bear good fruit for Jesus, I and the rest of the members of A.R.M. who voted for them at the meeting believe they are right for this new season.

We all know that sometimes in God's Kingdom, something has to die before a New Birth comes, could this be what God is doing here? It is a new season and we can only wait with eager anticipation for what God has in store for us again at next year's conference.

To those who are not sure and have a few doubts I would say look at New Wine's Vision, which is 'To equip and encourage churches throughout the nation to reach their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, by being continuously renewed by the Holy Spirit'.

It is excellent, and so are the core values on Local Church life - Intimate Worship - Anointed Leadership - Strategic Mission, - Orthodox Theology-based Teaching - Committed Discipleship - Every member ministry. Please look for yourselves you will find them on the [New Wine website](#) with much more information.

As a small testimony, this is one of several I could give:

Last year on a New Wine Retreat I received healing and prophecy over my life and clear vision for the future it was a time of great personal joy. I would recommend those retreats to anyone in a leadership position, it has made all the difference to me, and my walk with the Lord.

These retreats are a time of truly knowing God's will for your life, receiving excellent teaching and having fellowship with others who are seeking God to see Him at work in their lives and ministries in greater measure.

As I continue to work in the Diocese of Monmouth and in the Parish of Pontnewydd helping in the ministry team to bring Renewal to both, and working alongside A.R.M.(Wales) and New Wine in so many ventures including the *Flames of Fire* conference all I can say is, "Thank you," to all I have ever had the privilege of working with.

May God, The Father Son and Holy Spirit, Bless us all as we continue to receive fresh Revelation from Him spurring one another on. Let us pray that as His labourers, we will continue to re-new His Church and reach this generation for His Glory. Amen.



Report on the Aberystwyth Academy of Christian Discipleship 2004-5 Jo Harbidge

As I neared the end of my time at Aberystwyth University, where I studied English and Fine Art, I began to look to the future along with thousands of other final year students and consider my next step. Unlike more vocational degrees such as medicine or teaching, arts courses such as my own are rather renowned for leading to nothing in particular in the sense that they do not point to any one career path but leave many (rather vague) options open. At the back of my mind I had several ideas about what I would like to do in life, however nothing clear came to mind at all as I considered what to do the year after my graduation. There is a lot of pressure on young people to make the right decisions in their early twenties – decisions that will lead hopefully to the most successful and well paid careers, to company cars and an early footing in the housing market. As a Christian however, I had something else driving me as I looked to the future. How did God want to use me? What were his purposes for my life and how would I find the answers to these questions?

One thing I was convinced of was that I wanted to know what was right to do next and I felt sure that I had some exploring to do in the area of church work and ministry. I had been actively involved in church life as a student, helping to lead cell groups and volunteering with the youth and children's work in St Michael's Aberystwyth. I had a growing sense that God might want to use me in the future through some kind of full time church work. I did consider going to study theology but instead I began to be drawn towards a course that my church had been running for two years – the Academy of Christian Discipleship.

I really enjoyed the academic and creative aspects of my degree and in some ways would have liked to continue my education in my degree subjects, but my academic work also proved frustrating at times. I loved to argue my case over literary interpretations, but I think deep down I was looking for a chance to grapple with issues of deeper significance, the spiritual answers that underpin the whole of human life and existence. One of the things that attracted me to the Academy course was the way in which it covered a lot academically including the Bible, doctrine, church history and the study of pastoral issues and spiritual development. Yet the course was not just about learning intellectually in the classroom – it also stressed a hands-on approach, where what we talked and heard about in lectures became real in our placement work. The ultimate goal was to grow each student in their discipleship through learning, serving and mentoring.

When I embarked on the course in September 2004 I did have some idea what to expect through the feedback I'd heard from former Academy students, and I was already familiar with the values and outlook of the church where the course was based. Nothing can quite prepare one however for the personal impact that it has on an individual to become completely submerged in all things 'church' for nine months! The course is very intensive and there is a lot to take on spiritually, practically and intellectually from the beginning. The six of us on the



2004 intake began our year with an outward bounds week at Min-Y-Don Christian activity centre in mid-North Wales. The centre is based on a small promontory sticking out into an estuary in beautiful surroundings and we were all excited to be away together for the first time as well as apprehensive about the coming challenges of the week. Students before us had told horror stories of swimming the freezing cold estuary, sleeping alone in the dark, and climbing with blindfolds on... and the nightmare reports turned out to be not far from the truth! In every way we were stretched to our limits with activities that challenged us physically and emotionally and tested our ability to work as a team. Needless to say we survived and in the process became a very close team with a reputation for bouts of hysterical laughter.

In many ways the challenges of that first week were a mini picture of the year to come. One of the best things about the year was the close friendship and spiritual fellowship, not to mention the continued laughter, which we shared as a group. We were a diverse bunch with ages spanning decades and experiences so wide it seemed that if it weren't for the course we would never in a million years have met. Early on in the course we looked at different personality types, exploring the potential impact of our individual make-up on how we would relate to others and to God. Even in a small group we represented a diverse range of 'introverts' and 'extroverts', 'thinkers' and 'feelers' and so on. I found this area of the work fascinating and constructive. On a personal level it helped to explain my own personal preferences and better understand my own reactions in certain situations. But this area of study went further than individual self-analysis that some might term 'navel gazing'. We began to think through the implications of different personality types for the church, asking how can we be united as a body as well as reflecting diversity. And how can we relate better to those we work with as a result of understanding our similarities and differences?

Over the duration of the course we covered a lot of material. Our time each week was split between two days of lectures in the classroom and the rest of the week serving and learning through practical placements and personal study. At first we were placed within different areas of St Michael's ministry – the children's, youth and student work, the Alpha course, work with the elderly, parish visiting, and the church office – the administrative centre of church life. As we rotated the placements we were encouraged to think widely about the theological implications of our work and were challenged to draw links between what we were learning in the classroom and what we experienced on placements. This was not always easy because of the energy and focus required to process all that we were learning in the classroom and apply it in the midst of a hectic schedule. One of the biggest challenges for us during the first part of the year was learning how to preserve and cherish our own spiritual lives in the midst of all our church involvement – perhaps ironically this is no simple task at times when true discipleship threatens to become buried under responsibilities and meetings. One of the positive outcomes from this was I think a realistic glimpse into the challenge of full time Christian ministry. I needed to begin learning early on to keep on pursuing Jesus above all else and to resist losing sight of Him amidst the work we try to do for Him, something I still have much to learn about.

The area where I most obviously felt God at work in my life through the year was through the Bible module which ran the full nine months and took us through the Bible from start to finish. The idea was to get an overall look at the Bible as a coherent whole with a single overriding



theme – that of Jesus Christ. Our one, main lecturer Peter Phipps, and various visiting lecturers including Will Strange and Dick France, helped us to break down each book, understanding its place in the whole and how its message is relevant in pastoral ministry today. The teaching we received was often profound and inspiring and I felt my own understanding and faith grow as a result of the time dedicated to the Bible. The Tuesday morning Bible lectures went far beyond intellectual study and became times of spiritual nourishment, which helped each one of us to grow, even when we had to cover three or four books in one morning! The growing feeling I had was that the more the Bible is studied and explained the more it really does hang together. People who wish to criticise Christianity often say that the Bible is full of contradictions yet while questions were raised in our lectures that could not be easily answered, it continually amazed me as we studied at a deeper level than I had done before, the cohesiveness, truth and logic of God's Word.

During the year we had the chance to be involved in many, special church events including going away as part of a mission team to another Welsh parish, joining the church Easter mission to the Penparcau area of Aberystwyth and attending conferences including a 'dynamic prayer' conference led by Holy Trinity Brompton Church at St Michael's Aberystwyth and the annual EFCW (Evangelical Fellowship of the Church in Wales) conference on 'Fresh expressions of Church' in Builth Wells. Our experiences on mission varied from helping to make tea and coffee and talking with elderly parishioners to knocking on doors to carry out a 'personal beliefs survey' and getting involved with children's holiday clubs. One of my memories of the Penparcau mission week is of being asked to be a guest speaker at the children's holiday club and having to prepare an entertaining talk that would explain to a group of four to eleven year olds the death and resurrection of Jesus! Although I was comfortable with speaking publicly, doing it in front of children required a completely different approach which I found really hard. The result eventually involved keeping the children's attention by rewarding them with chocolate Easter eggs and using a real egg (with the contents 'blown' out of a tiny hole unbeknown to the children who believed it was full) to demonstrate the surprise of the disciples at finding an empty tomb! As a whole experience the Academy required a similar approach – one that combined resourcefulness, flexibility and good humour. In any given week I could well have combined learning about several books of the Bible and a new aspect of doctrine or church history with an array of church commitments, prayer meetings, putting out chairs, tea making, essay writing, child entertaining and more. In one placement I even learned some new skills as a 'handyman' helping to fit several shower units and using various power tools in the process with a Christian-run company called 'St Michael's services'!

Exciting things are happening countrywide as Christians of all ages are refreshed and renewed in their faith and are seeking to renew the faith of the Church as a whole and impact an increasingly pagan nation. For me, joining and completing the Academy was a way of saying that I want to engage with the issues facing contemporary Christians and be as empowered as possible in helping to reach out to others. It was not an easy year and not something I would recommend stepping into lightly, but undoubtedly it has helped me to grow in my faith and relationships. One of the things I most desired from the year was direction for the future yet during the year I felt God changing my perspective. I entered the course wanting to know what



God had in mind for me to 'do', but have left the course with a clearer picture of who he wants me to 'be'. I still do not know the next step in terms of my career or ministry but am currently in the midst of waiting to hear whether I shall be joining a team working with young adults in North London or whether I shall be staying in Wales to help set up and run a Christian Café in Aberystwyth. Ultimately I think I have been learning on a deeper level that God has plans for transforming us in our inner selves. He is interested in who we are above what we can do for him. Discipleship begins and ends with adoring Jesus, loving him more deeply and following him wherever he leads as a result.

(Jo was in receipt of an A.R.M.(Wales) bursary during her studies.)

S.O.M.A. Report Sheila Griffiths

Have you ever considered being part of mission team? Let me share with you my experience. In August 2004 I had the privilege of being part of a large international group who visited Kenya at the invitation of Archbishop Nzimbi.

The theme of the mission was 'Repent and return to your first Love' and the aim was that this message would be shared with Church leaders and representatives throughout Kenya. Eventually 13 teams were set up and sent out – I was part a team of eight made up of two from England, one from Rwanda and four Kenyan pastors. Our destination was a school in Mount Kenya West where 280 brothers and sisters from Churches in the Mount Kenya West and Mount Kenya South Region came to join us for six days.

A programme had been agreed beforehand which consisted of worship, teaching, and evening celebrations. Each member of the team took an active role in the programme and I had the responsibility of teaching and sharing on the theme of worship, and being single for the Lord, also to lead an evening of Celebration. It was such a joy to be part of this Mission and to feel the genuine love and acceptance of my Kenyan brothers and sisters. Every morning I woke up to hear these dear ones praising God as they waited for their breakfast of bread and hot tea, and then to see them turned out in their 'Sunday Best' sitting on low benches in the canteen hall of the School, waiting for us to share with such open and responsive hearts. I witnessed such loving trust in our Saviour as they were taught to pray for the lost and for each other. Did God answer some of their prayers? Yes – one in particular – a young lady by the name of Priscilla had come to the conference and had decided to go for a walk on that day and as her Aunt and others prayed for her she gave her heart to the Lord – what a celebration we had that evening. There are many more precious things that I could share with you regarding my visit to Kenya – but one thing that has stayed with me, we in Wales are so blessed with our homes etc. but in comparison to our Kenyan family we are so poor in the things of the Kingdom of God. If there is a need for the Kenyan Church to 'Repent and return to their first Love' (when many of their Churches are full very Sunday) how much more do we in this land need to cry to God to have mercy on us and send renewal and revival.

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the "Contact Us" page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



IGNITE - Youth Report from Flames of Fire by Team Leader - Tamara Dyer

In my opinion, *Flames of Fire* 2005 was a particularly amazing year, where it seemed that God just kept on pouring and pouring out His blessings on everyone willing to receive. This was manifested in the youth venue in so many different ways and it was such a privilege to be able to serve the young people and observe the difference God was making in their lives.

It was late nights and early mornings all week that were needed to accommodate the action-packed programme we all enjoyed. First of all we were lucky enough to be rocking out with the 'Sonflowerz' who flew in from Colorado to be with us at the beginning of the week. The 'Sporting Marvels' also paid us a flying visit, challenging us to a few games of extreme frisbee, dodge-ball and footie!

Each day we also enjoyed a variety of workshops, giving us the opportunity to try our hands at everything from drama with the 'Revolution Theatre Company' to cocktail making, treasure hunting and loads more!

Each morning 'Ted and Gareth' were faced with the impossible task of waking up the youth in the breakfast show – as I said, impossible, but they didn't half try! Everything ranging from an awesome Amarillo spoof; Ted and Gareth's tips for life and an insight into what goes on in the Ignite office when Gary and Nigel are not around. They even managed to introduce us to some very early morning aerobics!

The afternoons were when the army truck-loads of hair straighteners and nail polish were wheeled out when we launched the first ever Ignite Salon, making the girls (and some of the guys) even more gorgeously beautiful!! – Who says you can't look good and camp? Following the conference harvest theme, we spent the mornings in teaching and small group sessions, exploring our roles in reaping God's harvest. The worship, as always, was amazing, giving us great opportunities to connect with God and learn more about His plan for our lives. In the small group sessions we set a new challenge every day, and on day three, the challenge was set for each young person to tell three people they didn't know that Jesus loved them. One of the most encouraging success stories featured a guy called Stephen, who we heard, was more than incredibly touched by two people sharing the gospel with him in Builth High Street.

All in all I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that we had an amazing time! Bring on New Wine Cymru 2006!



News from our Members

The Practical Power of Prayer from Dick Shenton

Six to eight hours of surgery and 16 hours of intensive care.....

I am certain that I have never been so close to death before, however I am equally sure that the Lord has not ever manifested himself to me for such a continuous length of time. As I drifted in and out of consciousness and was roused to wakefulness at regular intervals by the nurse, I came face to face with Jesus and was aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. He was so real that I wanted to reach out and touch Him. The experience was so uplifting that I was able to join in the unformed prayers with some of my own. At other times I was sustained by the firm, soft support that the Lord provided. It made the whole experience both joyful and relaxed. Retrospectively I pondered briefly whether the anaesthetic caused my mind to hallucinate, but it was no figment of my imagination it was God, in His grace, sharing His wonderful love.

“So what’s so special about you”, you may ask. “Why did you get all this attention from God?” The answer is - I don’t know. Certainly I had been prepared with prayer and put my whole trust in God for I am a consummate coward, terrified at the thought of pain and what “they might be doing with my heart. However God, using the skills of the surgeons and nurses, took my heart and refashioned it, taking away my fear. I was wrapped in prayer.

So where did all this prayer come from? (for whilst I was unconscious I was incapable of doing anything for myself). Well it came from anyone who was aware of my operation and just thought about me, spoke briefly to God, prayed more intensively - all those fragments powered through to God for my benefit. But it wasn’t just for me. They affected those who surrounded me, my family, surgeons, anaesthetists, clinicians, care-workers, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists, administrators and so many more. All these and others were sustained and driven by a tidal wave of people speaking to God.

And prayers were answered thank you and thank you Lord.

And from David Bell

Dear Friends

I have read and re-read many times, Mary’s editorial ‘Faith for the Future’ and I agree wholeheartedly with every word.

I look at the new front cover and I think, “Yes” we’re looking out on a broken and divided world and the question comes to mind, “and where are we?” We are ‘*standing in the gap*’,

All material is copyright of its creator and permission must be sought before it is reproduced. Please use the “Contact Us” page on our website www.anglicanrenewalministries-wales.org.uk in order to gain such permission.



looking out with spiritual eyes on a nation that has largely lost its faith in Christ Jesus and in doing so has lost its direction and first love.

I wish with all my heart I could say, "God has revealed this to me", but no I sit at His feet, my Jesus, day and night and wait on Him. I cannot do more at this stage. We who have such a knowledge of His love, forgiveness and power are like the soldiers in Ephesians 6. We are equipped and we await orders.

It was through my brothers' constant prayers for my conversion that I came to know Jesus as my personal Saviour and know the value of prayer. The power of prayer and the direction that prayer gives.

I, at this moment in time uphold the members of A.R.M.(Wales) – I wish I knew all their names, but the Lord rejoices in them all.

"Enlighten us O Lord, show us the way forward. You are glorious, you are breathtaking, you are majestic. Come among us, we welcome you, we would embrace you and all that you have for us – not for ourselves but to give away. Even so, come among us Lord Jesus. Amen."

Grace and peace be with you and yours in Christ Jesus.

And Brian Favell speaking about the E.G.M. assured us of the rightness of the decisions taken. He writes,

"I am glad about the decisions of that meeting: I am sure they are right. The magazine now has a different feel about it, as if you are all gathering yourself together for the next leap into God's will. I had never been totally convinced that the Builth Wells conferences as they have been constituted were exactly what A.R.M.(Wales) should have been about. I am sure that that wing of activity was and is right, but is not primarily what we were for. The redirection specifically towards the C. in W. I believe is God's will, particularly in the present circumstances where the Anglican Communion is being broken in half."

Please give my love and good wishes to all my old friends who are still active.



Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glorious, Glorious, Glorious Lord!
Praises, glory, honour, blessing!
To our reigning King adored!
Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus!
Lord of Lords and King of kings!
None too loathsome for protection
'Neath the shadow of His wings.
High in splendour! High in splendour!
Seated on His Throne above,
Yet He stoops in conquering wonder
Drawing sinners by His love.
Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise Him!
Now and through eternity;
Saints and angels join in chorus
Worshipping the Trinity.

Pam Worsey