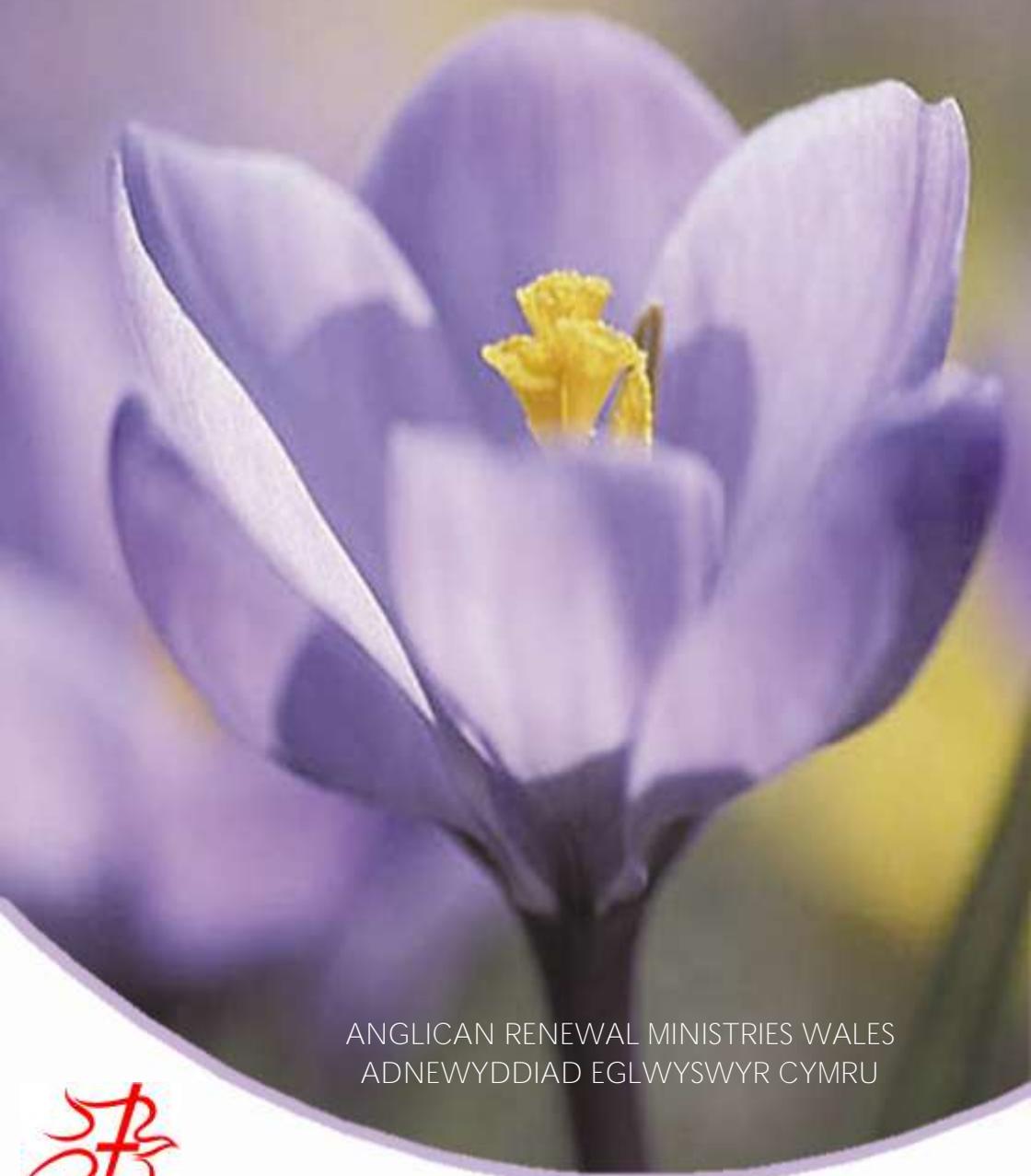


A RM (Wales) Magazine

Spring 2008 Issue 49



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES
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Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

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LATEST DATE for copy for the Summer edition – June 28th 2008

We welcome articles, letters and news of your Renewal events

Please send to me at: 5 Gwelfryn, Llanymynech, Powys SY22 6 LJ

I am the
Resurrection
and
The Life.....

These words from St. John's Gospel were my starting point for a sermon on Passion Sunday. However before focusing on what I believe God wanted me to say about the Power of God, I found myself asking the question:

“What is Life?”

It seemed to have a bearing on everything that was happening, for life has not been easy in recent months and there have been a number of things that I had almost wished I had not got so involved in. There have been so many commitments that I want to see come to a fruitful conclusion but there is little energy to do the tasks as well as I would normally feel able. I confess that the magazine and web-site fall into this category, becoming just another chore that has to be done. But at the same time there is excitement because both the magazine and web-site are taking on a new look thanks to the new Executive. Yes I am getting older and in spite of my continuing enthusiasm for A.R.M.(Wales) the time is coming to bow out. I indicated at the last A.G.M. that both Brian and I would go together and we must look for replacements for us.

Brian's health has taken a turn for the worse and we do so appreciate all the prayers that have been offered for us. I am able to say that he is now much stronger than he was at Christmas and in the early part of January, but we have to take one day at a time. We have been blessed so much by the Lord since the diagnosis of cancer back in 1999 and we say thank you for the support that we have had from our friends. Now I believe that we have a team able to take over what we have held on to in the three years since we gave *Flames of Fire* to *New Wine Cymru*.

I hope to edit just one more issue after this magazine, 50 seems a good number for my final one. Suggestions or offers for a successor will be welcomed. As we work to improve the layout and the *life* of the magazine we believe that A.R.M.(Wales) will be in a better position to encourage Renewal into the land.

I will not be leaving a dying organisation but one about to



Have I
become
the
person
God
intended
me to
become?

gain a new **life** blessed by our Lord who is the **Resurrection and the Life**. I rejoice in that.

But my thoughts about **Life** stemmed from the fact that I, along with Robert our second son, have been researching our family tree. I found myself wishing that I had asked more questions of my parents and others in the family whilst they were still with us and so have made an effort to get information that will help Robert in his quest. But the truth is I have got somewhat addicted to the search. The internet is a tremendous help and we no longer have to trek to remote parts of the country.

As more and more names have appeared and been linked into this complex tree I have thought about these boxes, they have to be more than names and dates. I asked, "Is this all that remains of a life lived a hundred or so years ago?" These were real people who somehow or other have affected me and my being here now. Where are they now? Did they know our Lord whilst on earth? Am I just going to become a box on that tree?

Each person who lives has an effect on the lives of those around them. Some make wider contributions and we might say affect the world. But an important question to ask is, "Have I become the person God intended me to become?" Another might be, "Have I still got time?"

What I do know is that without Jesus as my Lord then there is no way that my life will approach what God wants. Jesus is One with the Father and with the Holy Spirit and yet he wants each of us to be one with him and as a result one with each other. He is the **Life** and he came to give us that **Life** in abundance (John 10:10)

So my thoughts of a tree of ancestors has been transformed into the **Tree of Life** with all of our lives becoming more than little boxes as we are connected together in our **Resurrection Life** which began when we started on the path of Salvation. Those who have gone before us are more alive than we can imagine. I pray now that we shall bear the fruit that brings Glory to our Lord.

But let us within A.R.M.(Wales) rejoice as we start a new phase of our **Life**.

May the Lord Bless you abundantly this Eastertide.

One of the most incredibly wonderful things about the God we worship is that having lived on earth amongst us as a real person, he knows very well what it is like to be human. Amongst his own followers he witnessed the emotions of elation and depression. He saw his disciples experience fear and security, amazement and awe. He watched them pledge to defend him with their lives one day, and desert him the next. He even saw one of his own betray him, so it is safe to say that any emotion that we experience during our walk with God will come as no surprise to him because he has literally seen it all before. Like Jesus' followers we too will experience fear and security, elation and depression, amazement and awe in turn as we go through our Christian lives, that's the way it always has been and it's the way it always will be.

A
Letter
from
Steve

As Christians we welcome feeling elated, amazed, awestruck and secure but we shy away from feeling depressed and fearful, deeming ourselves a failure if we get into such a state. The truth however is we should embrace all of these emotions, the bad as well as the good, because they are all necessary in shaping us into the kind of person God wants us to be. You cannot paint a picture with only bright colours you need dark colours as well and so it is with emotions. By all means allow the good emotions to take you to the heights that God wants us to attain in our relationship with him, but instead of allowing the bad emotions to have a negative effect on you pray through them and ask God to show you what you can learn from them to make you a better person. But don't for one moment though think that when you are depressed, fearful or insecure that you are all alone because you are not. Not only are there thousands of other people in the world feeling the same way as you at the same time, but God promises us that he will not take us where we cannot go, and that where we go he will be with us always. And that includes in the middle of negative emotions.

So, are you feeling like a failure at the moment? Are you wondering why God would want to bother with someone like you? Does everyone else seem to be a better Christian than you? If this is where you are at the moment then this prayer could be for you.

"Lord, you ask so much. There was a time when I offered you everything. In the rosy glow of commitment nothing was too

much, nothing too good for you. I thought that once the decision was made, once I put myself in your hands then I could float, buoyed up, soothed, comforted in the warmth of your love.

But I've gone a long way since then Lord. There have been times, strong times when I've rejoiced in you, but there have also been times when the water is cold and the swimming is hard. It takes all my strength and I get tired, weary, exhausted. I'd like a rest. You ask so much that I'm tempted to run away Lord, to go into a corner and hide, but I know you'll still be there, and afterwards will come the sour taste of failure.

So I turn and face you again Lord, braced for your look of disappointment, accusation, questioning, and I find instead love. Not soothing softness and comfort, but strength and healing and life.

Lord, forgive me for making the same mistakes again and again. Help me to remember that when I turn to face you I shall see your arms, open in love. Thank you Lord."

Who We Are

This is
Steve
Waters

So that you might get to know who the Executive are this year we have decided that each member should write a short profile for the magazine. We start here with Steve. Others are to be found on pages, 7, 8, 13 and 14.



Chairman
Since
November
2005

Steve Waters—Chairman

I am 51 years old, the eldest of four boys, and have been married to my wife Cherie for 30 years. I have 2 sons and 4 grandsons, and I work for the Welsh Ambulance Service as a state registered Paramedic, a job I have been doing for 28 years.

I was born into the Anglican church and have worshiped within it all my life, but it wasn't until 1988 that I gave my life to Jesus. I was licensed as a lay reader to the parish of All Saints Newport in 1998.

I took on the Job of Chairman of A.R.M (Wales) in obedience to God's calling and will serve in this position until God moves me on.

Who We Are continues on page 7...

Brian Waters, as most of you know, is one on the **three Brians** who did so much to set ARM(Wales) on the road to encourage Renewal in Wales. We owe much to him and to Brian Jones and Brian Favell.

It is a pleasure to review his book, "**Called into God's Service**".

This is his personal story and it is most appropriate that it coincides with the theme of this issue which seems to be a consideration of who we are. As always the theme was not planned it has just happened and I rejoice that there is a guiding hand over what goes into the magazine. Brian, I know, would have been reluctant to write about himself just to tell the world but he has graciously spoken of what a life can become when it is lived under the power of God.

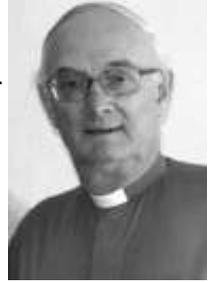
His book is a joy to read. His is an example of a committed Christian who some 10 years after being ordained discovered that God wanted to do things differently. I was moved as I read of the words he was given:

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Peter 1:3)

It doesn't matter how close we have been to the Lord there is more for us to receive and understand. But Brian had a problem, he wasn't any longer the same person, and he had to share this with his parishioners. Of course some wouldn't understand but God blessed him with a small group willing to move on.

But Brian himself moved on with God, he was lead into ARM(Wales) at a time when our organisation was only a small handful of people ready to listen to God speaking. He was also led into S.O.M.A. (Sharing Of Ministries Abroad) to Africa, to Monserrat and conferences in many places overseas. In each case he has spelled out how he saw God at work.

Now in retirement he has lost none of his excitement and enthusiasm. Unfortunately his wife June, his faithful companion on his journey is now suffering ill health. They have both encouraged me within ARM(Wales) and I am happy to recommend this book. I trust that it will serve us well as we learn from his adventures.



More than
a
Book
Review
a tribute to
a priest who
has been
willing to
take risks
for his
Lord.

Mary
Newsom

A Review
of Brian's
Book
by
David
Parfitt

Every story about the work of God in a person's life is always a blessing to hear. In this book Brian records the gracious and powerful work of the Lord Jesus Christ which has brought great joy and fulfillment in his life.

Set out chronologically, the author weaves practical events and historical experiences at home and abroad with the supernatural workings of the Lord Jesus, and along with this comes personal analysis, to produce a genuinely encouraging read.

The work of the Lord in calling a person to follow Him is at the heart of this book. We discover much about the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at work in Brian and June's life and also find a serious challenge to our own faith and willingness to trust in the promises of God and step out to do what He calls us to do. For all who seek to know more of how God guides and equips us to do his work this book offers a clear explanation of how God can change our lives and bless us beyond measure.

Even if you know Brian well this book will provide new insights into his faith and calling and end up leaving you with a heart of praise to the Lord for all he has done. A really good book, and a timely companion for Lent.

Called into
God's
Service

T rafford
Publishing
2007

Lord, what we know not, teach us.

Lord, what we have not, give us.

Lord, what we are not, make us.

And all for your name's sake.

Saint Augustine of Hippo (354–430)

...Who We Are continued from page 4

Dick Shenton—Vice Chairman



73 years old, born in Abergavenny and lived in Wales most of my life. Married to Kath with 5 adult children and an exciting bundle of grandchildren. Career in property investment, and management. Active member of local parish church for 40 years prior to that a spasmodic worshipper. Hobbies were Scouting locally and throughout Wales. Involved in Renewal movement for over 30 years. Member of Exec since 1996, Flames of Fire Coordinator 5 years. Secretary of local CYTUN

with particular concern for unity. I have a heart for Wales and the breaking down of barriers that cause division and anguish. Still active in development of parish mission action plan.

Brian Newsom—Secretary



I spent my working life in scientific research. As a management trainee with Kodak I studied chemistry at Birkbeck College, London where I met Mary. After a PhD. in biophysics at the Royal Marsden Hospital we went to Australia for three years, to work for the C.S.I.R.O. and our first two sons were born. Then returning to U.K. I worked for Unilever Research and our third son arrived. If ever I were asked: "Are you a Christian?" I would have said yes. But when required to take early

retirement, I felt I needed something more spiritual out of life and that I could do more for God. So Mary and I became missionaries and spent two years teaching in Zimbabwe. Back home we were drawn to Wales and got involved in ARM (Wales). In 1997 I became Secretary and also a Reader in the Church in Wales. I still try to find time for my favourite pursuits of hill-walking, astronomy and fencing.

Malcolm Dye—Treasurer

I'm 59 years old and have been married to Anne for 31 years. We have no children but Holly, our Jack Russell, keeps us active! My interests include reading and walking (just as well since Holly always wants to go for walks).

I was a research scientist for 24 years, initially in the medical field (at Aberdeen, where I met Anne) and then in agriculture at Harpenden and Aberystwyth. It was because of my job that we moved to Aberystwyth in 1987. However, after I was made redundant we were reluctant to leave Wales and so for the last 12 years I've run my own business designing, printing and finishing large format

posters, mostly for the research community, and running related training courses.

I was an atheist until 11 years ago when God drew me into His Kingdom. And this only after a long struggle arising from Anne's obvious conversion and changed life, and her subsequent filling with the Spirit. We worship at St Anne's Church in Penparcau, Aberystwyth where I have held posts of Vicar's Warden and Treasurer.

I was originally involved with ARM (Wales) through Flames of Fire, where I worked on the team producing the daily news sheet 'Fuel the Fire'. It is a privilege now to be able to help ARM (Wales) move forward in a way that will reach more of Wales than Flames of Fire could achieve.

Kath Shenton

Age 72. I was born again and baptised by immersion in my 40's having been called out of the Anglican church where I had been in despair. For more than 10 years now I have been a servant of that same Anglican church having been greatly encouraged and nurtured while being involved, with my husband, in Flames of Fire conferences and many Renewal events. I praise the Lord for his provision, protection and blessings and do what I can to glorify his name and extend his Kingdom here on earth.

Who We Are continues on page 13...

When I first heard of Kate I was told that we wouldn't see much of her because she spent nearly all her time caring for children in Uganda, she had her own Charity for this work. That was when her husband Phil Rees, having recently returned to Wales, joined us on the ARM(Wales) Executive. We met her in 1997 at the retreat for the Exec and Spouses, and she made an immediate impression as a "Universal Mum" she loved children and was prepared to make sacrifices to help those in need. There is no way that I could do what she has done for poor and destitute children. Mostly they are orphans who have lost their parents to AIDS.

I admire her for her work as I'm sure do many who have seen her stall in the Market Place at Flames. It is by comparison easy to just support such people financially but in the last information sent out to supporters of UCDF she described herself as a **Facilitator**.

She set out to offer, love and care for up to 50 children, giving them a home when they needed it, an education and above all the Christian faith. But because of her contacts in Uganda she has found herself involved in a number of projects that touch the lives of many more children. She like Brian Waters has also been *Called into His Service* and as a result has achieved much more than she could have imagined through her work at **the Fold**.

Here are a few extracts from her writings.

Almost 90 miles from Kampala, UCDF provided a well for a community of people who were suffering severely from typhoid. But ..

The story of the Iganga well goes like this - "Once upon a time, 2 little girls and 2 little boys became very frightened and sad because both their mother and father suddenly died they were left with nothing and they got very lost in the wilds of a remote district of Uganda, called Iganga. No official government agency existed to help them and they did not know which of their relatives they could be safe with. Their names are Proscovia, Erisa, Harriet and Godfrey. The plight of the children was brought to the attention of UCDF by Mr. George Isabirye, more than 15 years ago, sponsors here in the UK were then found for each one. They found shelter, food and education with an elderly step-grandmother. One day a great storm came and demolished her house. UCDF provided a small replacement house which served them well for a while. Then we discovered that they, especially one of the girls, was being terrorised by the very same step-grandmother who they thought cared for them. The other 3 were also

A Lady
called Kate

A report of
recent work
done by
UCDF
by
Kate Rees

Henry was
the young
Field
Director
who sadly
died in
2005

unhappy and traumatised. They coped during school term times but dreaded the holidays. They each confided in Mum Kate after a morning of deep persuasion, as they were full of fear. They knew that if those who were harming them found out that they had been betrayed, they may find ways to hurt them all the more. It was decided that Henry should be asked to find their maternal Grandmother. With the help of George Isabirye, Henry eventually found her. She was thrilled to have news of her late daughter's children and there was much rejoicing to see them reunited again after so many years. The newly found Gran was very poor and so we helped to settle them there with mattresses, beds, some blankets and a bike.....

.....One hot sunny day, just after the children had been moved to live with their new Gran, the late Henry and Mum Kate set out very early to drive the 90 miles from Kampala to Iganga, to check up on the kids and their 'new' Gran. Because the roads in the remote areas are only mud tracks with no signs, and because they were driving through unfamiliar territory, Henry and Mum Kate got lost.

3,000
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for clean
drinking
water.

They knew Gran and the children were not far away and so there was no great panic. As they trundled along over the bumpy tracks Mum Kate noticed a group of about 25 people huddled at the side of the 'road'. She was struck by how sad and extra ragged they looked. Henry drove past, then Mum Kate asked him to stop the car and turn back to enquire about their situation. We got out of the car and approached the group. Henry asked, them about their lives and as to why they were there looking so sad. With one accord and with no hesitation, they said the main problem was the many deaths of their children and loved ones caused by typhoid. The cause of the typhoid was a complete lack of clean drinking water. they showed us a swamp. They were having to drink swamp water because there had been very little rain water for them to collect. About a year later, UCDF, headed by Henry, provided a well for them with two spouts which produced an on going supply of clean typhoid free drinking water.

Almost 5 years have passed since then and local district councilors Have told us that around 3,000 people now depend on the UCDF well for clean drinking water.

In January, 2007, I brought a group of 12 to Uganda. Most of them visited the well in Iganga district. As we began the long journey

back to Kampala we were surprised to be waved down and stopped by an elderly man wearing a long white traditional kanzu outfit. He explained to Peter that he had spotted our vehicle as it travelled towards the well and he had decided to wait all day by the side of the road so that he could stop us to speak to us. It was so very moving - he knew that the 'white woman' in the front seat represented UCDF and therefore had played a part in the provision of the well. He told Peter that the well had made a big difference to the people of the area and he asked if UCDF could now provide the believers there with a church. During the time the well was being developed, Henry told many onlookers about Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the living God. He preached the gospel to them and many young men responded. They wanted Bibles to learn more, which UCDF eventually provided

The elderly gentleman was desperate that UCDF should now consider planting a Church for those people who needed shepherding. The visitors in the van were amazed. I did not feel I could commit UCDF to any promises just there and then, so I asked Peter to tell the man that we would think and pray about it. His name is Elidad, he is really 'on fire' with his love for Jesus, the zeal and determination just shine from his face.

We have agreed that his request should be granted and pastor Joshua is also excited about what might happen. He has agreed that the new church plant can be affiliated to his church in the capital. Mr. Elidad has already travelled to Kampala to meet him. The other really exciting thing about this lovely story is that out of all the large UCDF group of young people, there is only one special boy who gets teased about being the 'pastor' of the group. Can you believe it, he is one of the four siblings who brought us to that exact area in the first place to find their maternal Gran. He is Godfrey Nyende. At present he is completing his education just outside Kampala and is then going to be trained as a teacher. I asked Godfrey in March 2007, if he might like to prayerfully consider the possibility of becoming the pastor of a possible new church for the new converts living near the UCDF well after completing his teaching diploma. He feels very happy, thrilled and excited about it all. Pastor Joshua is really keen and excited too.

We look forward to hearing more of God's plan for this neglected place and pray his blessing on UCDF. M.N.

....His name is Elidad, he is really 'on fire' with his love for Jesus, the zeal and determination just shine from his face.

Peter, now Field Director grew up in UCDF

Pastor Joshua and his wife Harriet are a great support to Kate and UCDF

Christian
Centre
For
Rural
Wales

One of the round towers at Entrance A on the Royal Welsh Showground has been our meeting place for the past 3 years, and as we hoped, it is being used more and more frequently.

An Alpha Course was held here last winter followed by the HTB study of Philippians. This gathering has now developed into a monthly Fellowship Group, which was attended by 32 people at the first meeting held recently. A second Alpha Course has now started and will continue until Christmas.

We have been grateful for the support of ARM(Wales) and the URC who have held regular meetings in the Christian Centre. The Farm Crisis Network, whose members come from as far afield as Leicestershire and Pembrokeshire and the Christian Rural Network also use the Centre and the Evangelical Alliance have supported us with their presence regularly. We are working in conjunction with FCN and the CRN in the International Pavilion at the Winter Fair in November, and shall hope to do so frequently in the future, as our aims and objectives are very similar.

There are six Trustees running the Christian Centre ably assisted by a volunteer husband and wife secretarial team of Barbara and Roger Tonkin.

A member's
report
Robin Gibson-
Watt

Our vision is to have a Christian presence on the Showground throughout the year, and to be there to help any farmers or members of the rural community who need a chat, a prayer or just a cup of tea in these very uncertain times. We want to build up the Body of Christ and we know that we need to be open to whatever the Lord wants us to do.

Over 1000 copies of the hard-backed book, A.C.T.S. I, have been sold and the proceeds have gone towards the Centre which has proved to be a very valuable source of funding. If you want a copy they cost £10 each and can be obtained from Marcia Gibson-Watt, Tel. No. 01597 822874 or online :- robin.gibson1@btconnect.com. We make a charge for postage but try to deliver by hand. We have recently received a most generous donation to further our work.

...*Who We Are* continued from page 8

Jane Evans—Child Protection Advisor



Hello, my name is Jane Evans. I have been a member of A.R.M. Wales for a long time now. I have attended most of the Flames of fire conferences. I joined the executive Committee a year ago.

I have a family of three children, David, Siôn and Leah. Brian and I have been together for nearly twenty years, it will be our anniversary in April 2008. We live in Carno, Powys. I am an active member of St. John the Baptist Church, Carno.

I am a member of the Lay Ministry Team and Prayer Ministry Team in Carno. We do not have a Vicar at the moment, so are doing the services ourselves,

with our readers Lauris and Peter, and our Area Dean, Bob Pitcher.

I work with children, from the ages of 3 months to 4 years, as my day job. I also do voluntary work with young people, from the age of 4 years to 18 years. I enjoy my work.

Rachel Smith

I live in Cardiff and I'm married to Mike and have three children Catherine, Bethan and Adam.

I am a qualified sign language interpreter and have been interpreting for 11 years. I first came into contact with ARM Wales when I started interpreting at the Flames of Fire conferences.



I decided to learn sign language and become an interpreter when I met some deaf people who told me they didn't go to church because there were no interpreters there and without them the services meant nothing.

I am also a trustee and treasurer for Signs of God, a charity that delivers training for those people who want to sign in Christian settings and I am the South Wales chairperson for the Association of Sign Language Interpreters.

Who We Are continues overleaf...

Marcia Gibson-Watt

Marcia Gibson-Watt, BA, is a graduate of Studio Simi, Florence and Kingston Art College where she specialized in Graphic Design.

She married in 1971, moved to Wales and worked for Laura Ashley.

Marcia has had numerous exhibitions of her work including in Memphis, Tennessee, Stow-on-the-Wold and London. An exhibition in Cork Street is planned for 2008. She has also exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition on several occasions.



Marcia has illustrated two prayer books, *The Four Graces* and *A.C.T.S. I*, the latter is raising funds for the Christian Centre for Rural Wales on The Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

*(Examples of Marcia work can be seen on:
www.gibsonwatt.com)*

Sheila Griffith (S.O.M.A. representative) and **John Meason** are also on the Executive Committee and their profiles will appear in the next issue.

God does not require 'something' from us—he
desires us, ourselves; not our works, but our
personality, our will, our heart.

Emil Brunner (1889–1966)

Mary Newsom—Magazine Editor

You know me as the editor of this magazine and possibly as the prayer coordinator for ARM(Wales) when I joined the Exec. back in 1995. But as I wondered what else I should tell you I felt the Lord prompting me to reprint an article I wrote in 2003 for *The Go-Between*” (the Scottish magazine at the time.) I trust now that it says something that is important to us all.

Who Am I?

How often have you asked that question?
Have you ever asked it?

Our answers are most likely to be incorrect or at least biased. We do not easily see ourselves as others see us and neither do we see ourselves as God sees us. So how do we think of ourselves, how would you describe yourself at this point in your life? Yes I mean at this point of your life because we tend to reply according to the work we do, or the position we hold in employment or in society, in the church or the family. What a shame we often think of the family last, “I’m only a housewife,” or “only a mother”.

I’ve been there. In spite of having a loving husband and three little boys growing up as Christians to become fine young men with families of their own, I suffered medical depression for years. I had given up my career and didn’t seem to have a moment to be myself. It is so easy for a young mum to get lost in what she has to do for others, they become more important than she is, and in the tiredness that results she ceases to find the joy that should be hers. She looks back in despair and becomes inward looking and yet cannot find her true self.

I am so thankful that I believed in God during my years of post-natal depression, I knew Jesus enough to keep me and the family safe, I would sometimes turn to Him in desperation. But that was often after hours of fruitless tears. Now I know that I should have gone to

Who
Am
I?

Jesus much earlier in each battle, I should have spent much more time resting in His presence and discovering His love and support. Hindsight is marvellous but at the time of real depression, you believe that no-one can help, no-one understands and no-one cares. The thought that God really loves you does not enter your head.

Friends who went out to work were “teachers” or “social workers” or “nurses” etc. The job description made them so much more important, what was the good of having a degree in a useless subject like chemistry when I was never going to be a “scientist”, it got more and more out of date as the years went by.

I was able to do a number of voluntary jobs like setting up a village playgroup, getting involved with the county playgroup association, becoming a cub-scout leader, Sunday school teacher etc. I now see God’s hand in this as He became more and more important in my life. I wanted to serve him so how did I see myself in that light?

I remember
that He is
also my
Saviour
without
whom
I can do
nothing

Was I a servant? I could accept that because I was obedient, commanded to love Him, I could serve Him in any capacity He chose. Any job in the church or mission field would do, it gave me a status! I know that many Christians are satisfied with this, and in fact seem to need it, the job is all important, all consuming. Sadly they work so hard at the job that they miss out on real fellowship with Jesus and often also prevent others from sharing in the Lord’s work in a place or situation.

But we’ll pause and think about other possible relationships with our loving God. It isn’t all a Master - servant relationship.

“Jesus my shepherd, husband, friend, my prophet, priest and King, my Lord, my life, my way, my end.....”

What will I choose from that list before I remember that He is also my Saviour without whom I can do nothing.

Does that take me back into the helpless despair in which I once found myself? By no means, because I realise now how much He loves me. I can spend hours just revelling in that love, knowing the love of the “Lover” expressed in Song of Songs. This relationship has taken me into contemplative prayer and a

real healing of past hurts and problems. I have had time to reflect on passages of Scripture, to meditate and pray into them.

I found that the Holy Spirit is real and ever present, not just a minor part of the Godhead used by the Father and Son to prod my conscience occasionally. But through the Holy Spirit I have been led to read and study the Bible and read other Christian books especially on prayer, holiness and prophecy. I have allowed God time to speak to me in the quietness of prayer. When we do all the talking we hear nothing, we have to give Him space and be willing to listen, receive and respond.

So have I discovered who I am in all this? From what I have so far written the answer is no. But through listening both to God alone and to others who have at times prayed with me I have got a lot closer to the truth.

Over several years I learned that God wanted me to “be” rather than to “do”, and be true to myself, the self that God created. Yes I knew the scripture : (Mark 10:15)

“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

That is humbling. Who wants to be a little child? Don't we like to consider ourselves mature Christians?

But wait - think or meditate on this scripture, why did Jesus need to say it to his closest disciples? A young child is totally dependant on its parents and trusts them for everything. That is how we must be with God, but furthermore God is our Father and that is the relationship that needs a careful exploration. Almost involuntarily most of my prayers are addressed to “my Heavenly Father”, they always have been, perhaps that form of address was the one that counted first, long before I cried out to Jesus for help. Did that make me His child? I guess that it was an acknowledgement of a sort but it is a long way from understanding what it is to be a child of God.

Jesus called God Father and invites us to do the same, in fact in the first chapter of John's gospel it says of Jesus that he gave the power to all who believed on him to become the sons or children of God (v.12).

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Am I
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Knowledge
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That is by receiving Christ we can become God's children, so we must seriously consider how we receive Christ into our lives. We have to be willing to become like Jesus and that probably means some changes but that is what God wants.

John 1:13 also speaks of being born of God, yes rebirth in the Spirit. It is worthwhile looking at Nicodemus' story recorded in John 3. We might think that a religious man would have known more of God. But all our knowledge does not automatically bring us into the close relationship that God requires. We can look too at John's first letter and gain a few more insights,

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9)

Holiness is a factor that we may not have taken on board.
and

.....Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.(1 John 4:7-8)

We must be
willing to
share in His
suffering
*"in order
that we may
also share in
his glory."*
(Rom 8. v.17)

Do we really understand the love that is required?

We find reassurance in Chapter 5 that these commands are not a burden and that those who are born of God can overcome the world, we are not under the control of the evil one and he cannot harm us. We are children of God whose Son Jesus Christ came to give us this understanding of truth.

So now I know the truth "I am a child of God". I rejoice in this but know that I must be an obedient not wayward child, for God has a purpose in making us His children. I find this spelt out in Romans 8:12-21 for we are also heirs with Christ and must be willing to share in His suffering *"in order that we may also share in his glory."* (v.17).

The verses that excite me and which I believe that the Church has to take to heart follow:

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The

*creation waits in eager expectation for the **sons of God to be revealed**. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (NIV)*

“I am
a
child
of God”.

Romans 8 is a well known, often quoted chapter for we are assured that we really are God’s children and that nothing can separate us from His love.

So my friends take courage and believe these things, believe that Jesus gave each of us the power to become a child of God. Come to our Heavenly Father in the complete trust of an innocent child, come and surrender to His love and His will. Then we shall see His power at work in our lives and in the life of the Church. Alleluia.

Follow the Vision

“Follow” the Vision was a response to a picture received by a member of the laity some years ago which showed that Llandaff Diocese had crossed into the 21st century as the people of Israel had crossed into the promised land, but as yet had not made their act of dedication to God following the crossing. (See *Joshua Chapters 3&4*).

A Report
from
Llandaff
Diocese

So a service was put together which enabled members of the Diocese to rededicate and commit themselves again in service to God in the land God has given us and to mark that commitment by bringing to the Cathedral a small stone. The Cathedral and both Archbishop Barry and Bishop David supported the venture and it was settled that there would be a service of Re-dedication and Commitment on Monday 1st October, with a Prayer Vigil the night before.

by
Amanda
Thompson

The Prayer Vigil started with Compline in the Lady Chapel with the Revd. Mari Price who preached on 1 Samuel 7 and talked about God’s faithfulness to us. The Chapel was full and many stayed

An
Act of
Rededication
and
Commitment

on for the earlier part of the Prayer Vigil. The World Vision Committee, the Children's Committee and the Franciscans led prayer using music, DVDs, candles, stones and meditation until 10 pm. Then we prayed through the preparation leaflet remembering Bishop David in the Holy land who had offered to do the same on Mount Sinai that day! At 11 pm the cathedral was locked and a dozen of us prayed through the night. We prayed using "Soaking" prayer, Celtic Christian prayer and song, sang hymns around the cathedral and were silent. Most moving was when at midnight we lit a candle for each parish in the Diocese and prayed for each by name. The candles burned right through the night. The next morning at 6 am we prayed for Prisoners in Cardiff prison and then 6th form girls from The Bishop of Llandaff school joined us before school and led prayers for young people. Although tiring, the Prayer Vigil had been a great blessing for all those who were able to join in.

The celebration on the Monday night was a great joy. The worship was moving, the visual presentation of the crossing of the River Jordan was very challenging and Archbishop Barry led us in the prayer of re-dedication. It was really encouraging to watch as people walked to the front to leave their stone. Prayers were prayed for each generation in the diocese and Archbishop Barry sent us out into the world to live out our commitment for the future. Baskets had been left available through Sunday and Monday to receive stones, one basket for each deanery. There were stones in the baskets before the service began that night and during the celebration more were offered. Later the stones were counted and 548 people had taken the opportunity to re-dedicate themselves in service to God, and commit themselves to the task of working for God's Kingdom to come in our Parishes, in Llandaff Diocese and in Wales.

This event took place in Llandaff Cathedral on September 30th and October 1st last. I apologise for not including the report in our December issue. Editor.



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES
ADNEWYDDIAD ELWYSWR CYMRU

Encouraging people to live in a closer relationship with God

We welcome all Christians to join with us in supporting our work.

Membership fees per annum (minimum):

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Benefits of membership include receipt of the Magazine (3 issues a year), the Annual Report and voting rights at the AGM. The AGM is where you can express your opinion and elect the Executive Committee.

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Committee Members:

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Marcia Gibson-Watt

Sheila Griffiths

John Meason

Mary Newsom

Kath Shenton

Rachel Smith

We trust that we may glorify God's name through our activities in Wales and we look to the prayer support of our members.

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Registered Charity Number 1053180

Datganiad A dnewyddiad E glwyswyr Cymru

- Llawenhau yn aelodaeth Eglwys Duw
- ac yn ein galwad i'r Eglwys yng Nghymru
- ac yn cydnabod mai drwy weithgareddau'r Ysbryd Glân cawn fwynhau perthynas personol gyda'r Duw Dad a Iesu Grist.
- Rydym yn ymrwymo'n hunain mewn aelodaeth ffyddlon i'n heglwys, yn ffyddlon i'w harweiniad a'l fframwaith.
- Dymunwn ymuno â llawnder rhoddion grasol Duw i'w Eglwys, i ddangos ffrwyth yr Ysbryd Glân, ac i ymarfer doniau'r Ysbryd a roddwyd inni yn ac yn freiniol er mwyn nerthu'r Eglwys.
- Ac idyfu fel unigolion ac fel eglwys i efelychu Crist.
- Drwy ddyfalbarhad i adnewyddu, gobeithiwn fel unigolion, yn gorfforedig ac yn undebol, cawn ein harwain gan yr Ysbryd i annog yr Eglwys mewn:
 - addoliad sy'n ein harwain wyneb yn wyneb â'r bywiol Dduw
 - deisyfiad i gael ymuno yng ngwir gymundeb â'r Ysbryd Glân, i'n galluogi i roi argraff gyhoeddus o eglwys fywiol, gariadus a gweithgar.

A statement from Anglican Renewal Ministries (Wales)

- Rejoicing in our membership of God's Church
 - and our calling within the Church in Wales
 - and recognising that through the activity of the Holy Spirit we are brought into a personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - we commit ourselves to be faithful members of our church, loyal to its leadership and structures.
 - We desire to enter into the fullness of all God's gracious gifts to his Church, to display the fruit of the Spirit and to exercise the gifts of the Spirit as he sovereignly and freely distributes them for the building up of the Church
 - and to grow as individuals and Church into the likeness of Christ.
 - Being dedicated to renewal we hope that individually, corporately and by open gatherings we can be led by the Holy Spirit to encourage the Church in:
 - a worship which expects to encounter the living God
 - a desire to be caught up into the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, the communal expression of a living, loving and serving church.
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