

CHURCH MAGAZINE
FOR THE PARISH OF
TRELLECH & PENALLT

June and July 2010



St. Nicholas, Trellech



Old Church, Penallt

FREE to all houses in the parish, but donations towards printing costs are always welcome! Please call the Treasurer on 01600-860122 for information on how to make a donation. Thank you.

Parish web-site: - www.parishtrellechpenallt.org.uk

Contact details ... NB: VICAR IS AWAY UNTIL AUGUST

Vicar: Revd. Sandra Howells, The Vicarage, Penallt 01600 716622
sandjune@btinternet.com

Trellech and Penallt

Vicar's Warden: Mrs Rose Parsons, Fairway, The Narth 01600 861855

Peoples Warden: Mrs Sarah Haeffner, Fairview, Penallt 01600 712349

Sub warden; Mr Terry Churchward, Maes-y-daler, Penallt 01600 714478

Sub Warden; Mrs Kay Bowen, Bowmead, The Narth 01600 860594

Treasurer: Mr. Phil Lowe, The Old Vicarage, Trellech 01600 860122

PCC Secretary: Mr Steve Vickers, 10 Claypatch Rd, Mon. 01600 713632

Penallt Verger: Mr Jim Saunders, Lime Kilns Farm, Penallt 01600 860008

Trellech Verger: Mrs Nancy Pugh, Hygga Farm, Llanishen 01600 860276

Gift Aid Secy: Mrs Stevie Coutts, The Reynolds, Tregagle 01600 860277

(For information on how Gift Aid can enhance the value of a donation to the church please contact the Vicar or the Gift Aid Secretary).

Welcome Club leaders: Johnny Hathaway 861821, Bethan Jones 01291 650569

Web-site: kathsteve@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of Trellech Church & Churchyard, Contact Karen Lowe 01600 860122

Bell ringing (Mondays from 7.30pm) Mrs Margaret Wrightson 01600 715752

Society of the Sacred Cross, Ty Mawr Convent, welcomes visitors

Daily Eucharist: 12 Noon. Other service times contact Convent 01600 860244

Trellech Methodist Church: Evening Service Sunday 6.15pm
Secretary: Mr David Hoare 01600 860174

Parish Magazine: Lyn Harper, 'Nyanza', Penallt, NP25 4SE. 01600 713528

Email for magazine ONLY: - parishmageditor@googlemail.com

Copy date for August/September magazine: Monday 12th July, 2010

Adverts: Mrs K. Lowe, The Old Vicarage, Trellech 01600 860122

St Nicholas Church Development Project trellechchurchdevt@hotmail.co.uk

Printed by G. T. S. Monmouth.

As most of you will know, our Vicar, Sandra, is on a three month sabbatical, and will not be returning until August.

So this month, I have asked Rev. James Coutts if he would like to write a short piece for the magazine ...

After all the recent politics, people are asking, 'What kind of society do we want our new government to produce?' For the Ancient Greeks, politics and elections were everything. Yes, they produced some of the greatest art, architecture, philosophy and drama, yet despite their obsession with politics, they could not produce a society that could survive. Whilst politics was everything, what was done in private was up to you. Sexual life was the pursuit of your own desires, provided you could afford it. Abortion, euthanasia, exposing unwanted babies, slavery, were all part of everyday life.

As long as we can get our political and economic society working again, does it matter what the individual believes? The moral concerns of our age - the environment, violence and destitution in Third World countries, the growing gap in our own society between rich and poor - often seem beyond the power of the individual to change. **Why shouldn't businessmen, bankers, State managers pay themselves the highest salary they can get away with? Why shouldn't people treat sex as a game, provided they take adequate precautions? Why shouldn't the media be sensationalist and inaccurate, provided they can sell newspapers or T.V. time? Why shouldn't abortion and euthanasia be freely available, provided that is what people want?**

In the recent election, all the political parties promised change. Our new Prime Minister (who has often spoken of 'Broken Britain') and our new Deputy Prime Minister have both said that they want to produce a society where people accept the need for **mutual responsibility, where the individual's behaviour will contribute to the stability** and increased prosperity and well-being of our people. How can we create a morality that is accepted by everyone and becomes part of the environment of our schools, hospitals, places of work and how can bonds of loyalty, responsibility, care and kindness, within our families, our neighbourhoods, our country, be once again valued?

So, we get back to the old question, 'Is it possible to have morality without being religious?'. We need to remember that some ultra-religious societies - e.g. the Ancient Greek, parts of the present American Republican Party, Franco's Spain, Sectarian Islam, Nationalist Hinduism, and the religion of Atheism ardently encouraged by Stalin and Mao-Tse-Tung - leave a great deal to be desired. Part of the answer may lie in the British political scene. We do not have a Constitution, but we do have a Queen. When the Queen is crowned, this happens within the context of the main act of Christian worship - the Eucharist. A crown is placed on her head, symbolizing the glory and dignity of being human: she wears the vestment of a deacon symbolizing service, humility, duty, loyalty, obedience. So, to promote human glory and responsibility, do those values have to be sought in, and teased out from, the Eucharist?

James Coutts

OLD CHURCH FLOWERS & CLEANING

Always needing volunteers ... please ring Sarah Haeffner on 712349

June:- Mrs Sue Phillips & Mrs Jan Noirit

July:- Mrs Virginia Hartley & Mrs Sue Dean

St Nicholas development project progress report

We've made good progress over the last two months.

Five architects have visited the church to discuss the project and have gone **away to produce proposals for us. At this stage, it's all about their experience** with this type of project, how well they understand our aims, how they would work with, and support us, and - of course - their charges. They will also be providing us with some visual material, but there will be no fully drawn up solutions at this stage. That will require much more work both from whoever we select, and from us. We aim to select an architect to recommend to the PCC in August.

We've also been busy providing opportunities for you to find out about the project - firstly for the church congregation at the Easter Vestry on 8 April and then for everyone in the community on 27 April. At the community meeting we reported on what we have achieved so far, explained the process through to August and - most importantly - asked for your vision and ideas, along with any worries you might have about the project. Those who came gave us plenty to think about. There will be a further opportunity to exchange ideas at the end of the summer, but in the meantime, we would love to hear from you.

We've set up a brand new email address for the project: trellechchurchdevt@hotmail.co.uk or you can write to us in the traditional way via Steve Vickers, the PCC secretary, who will pass your letter on to me.

Tessa Murray
Project Manager

Celebrations and Acknowledgements

Funerals: -

Margaret Campbell

Marjorie Wakeling

Sister Anne SSC of Ty Mawr

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory!



Wedding: -

David Cook and Diane Jones

Baptisms: -

Maximillian Swayne

Daniel Andrews

Millicent Andrews

* Plant and seedlings stall: - held on Monday 3rd May *
* was an enormous success! Despite the chilly *
* weather, we had an large number of plants donated, *
* and raised £175 for the Old Church funds. *
* Thank you everyone who donated, and the helpers *
* too! *

Coffee Mornings (all 10.30—12.30)

Thursday June 24th Mrs Annie Oakley, Tree Tops, Penallt
in aid of Arthritis Research

Monday 12th July Mrs Sarah Haeffner, Fairview, Penallt in aid of
Old Church

Wednesday 4th August Mrs Stevie Coutts, The Reynolds, Tregagle
in aid of Old Church

MAY WE HELP YOU ?

Do you have problems travelling to hospital appointments?

Are you housebound and needing a break?

Would you like some company and time for a chat?

Are you recently home from hospital, temporarily unable
to drive and need help with shopping etc.?

Should you have a real emergency we will do our very
best to help but this may not always be possible as
our team usually requires some notice.

Please telephone either Rose Parsons (01600 861855) or Jean Rogers (01600
860275)

Please ... we need contributions for the magazine !

*Poems, very short stories, wise words, interesting snippets,
jokes, small line drawings ...*

*Send any contributions to the editor, address inside front
cover.*

Thank you ...

The Narth Singers will be pleased to perform their Summer Concert at Pelham Hall, Penallt on Wednesday 7th July, and at St Nicholas' Church, Trellech on Friday 9th July 2010, both at 7.30pm.

Join them for a light-hearted musical tour of the world



from Amsterdam to Zanzibar. Admission is free but there will be charity collections.



YOUNGSTERS FROM TRELLECH LEARN THE ART OF CAMPANOLOGY

Three of Trellech's young communicants were part of the first group of youngsters to attend the new ringing centre at Usk, when, during the February half term they began their course on bell ringing under the supervision of Pip Penney and her team. They are now joining the Trellech ringers on a Monday evening. Pip leads the Diocesan "Kids Ring Out" band and the photo is of Jordan, Katherine and Flo on their first trip out with other young ringers in the Diocese. On a hot Saturday afternoon they all walked a river bank to ring together in some new towers before an Easter egg hunt and tea out in Monmouth. Congratulations to Flo, Katherine, and Jordan for sticking at it all through half term and mastering the art of campanology, and many thanks to Pip and her team for helping them to do so.



Extracts from Vestry Report
Membership, Attendances and Statistics 2009

The good news is that we have actually gained five new members through confirmation and people having moved into the parish, but overall the total on the electoral roll is still down due to those who have moved out of the parish, a couple of people who have not yet completed the new application forms, and of course those who have died in the last year. We record the deaths of Margaret Campbell, Ron Hudson, John Sudds, and Mary Wilks, giving thanks to God for their faith, and their contribution to the life of the church in this parish. The new electoral roll is on the notice board of both churches. The encouraging number of people on the electoral roll is still not reflected in the attendance figures as in keeping with current lifestyles, church attendance generally is less regular than in former years.

Average Adult attendance on a normal Sunday:

	2008	2009	2010
Trellech	22	26	
Penallt	12	10	
Total	34	36	

Children: Trellech	2	4
Penallt	0.4	0.6

Average Communicants:

Trellech	19	19
Penallt	10	10
Total	29	29

Total Easter Communicants: 75 98 93

Total Christmas Communicants: 92 104

(2007: 141)

Mid week communicants: weekly 5 Monthly: 12

Baptisms: 4 infants, (Trellech). Confirmations: 1 adult, 7 children

Weddings:	2009	2010	Funerals:	2009	2010.
Trellech	4	1	Trellech	7	5
Penallt	2	1	Penallt	4	2

Children and Worship : Sunday attendance is still drastically low; averaging 4 per week in Trellech and less than one per week in Penallt. The Family Eucharist in St Nicholas is now well supported, sometimes with over 10 children, but being monthly, the figures are not reflected well in the weekly average as shown in the statistics. There is however an average attendance of 9 on a Wednesday evening, with 12 on the register, and a good number of babies are being brought to the family service.

Elections and officers for 2010

Church wardens - Rose Parsons; Peoples warden - Sarah Haeffner; (yr.3)

Subwardens - St Nicholas: Kay Bowen. Old Church: Terry Churchward.

PCC elections:- A Stratton, L Harper, V.F. Kimber, S Coutts, P Lowe, K Lowe, S Heales, L Campbell, S Vickers, D Owen, G Fullerton, E McFarlane, J Rogers

Sidespersons (St Nicholas) A. Powis, A. Stubbs, B Jones, A Gilbey, K Lowe; S Heales. (Old Church) S Coutts, A. Stratton, L. Harper, C. Mills,

W. Boycott, S. Dean, S. Heales.

Triannual elections

Deanery Conference - Lyn Harper.

Diocesan Conference- Rose Parsons.

Board of Nomination: Rose Parsons, Phil Lowe, David Murray.

Accounts and full report are in churches

Penallt Old Church Summer Fete

At Moorcroft, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Hartley

Saturday 19th June, 2010, starting 2 p.m.

Classic Cars Toys Fantastic Refreshments

Bream Silver Band Ice Cream Plants Book Stall

Picture Raffle Bring and buy CAKES please !!

White Elephant Stall Novelty Dog Show ... see opposite



A variety of games on the back lawn,
e.g. Water sponge stocks, coconut
shy, etc.



GRAND RAFFLE

A Walter Keeler Pot

A meal for two at the 'Inn at Penallt' (formerly The Bush)

An MP3 player; sports shirt, and many other prizes

*A request for GOOD quality second-hand/new goods for the
white elephant stall ... and please, nothing you yourself
wouldn't consider buying !!*

Phone:- Sarah Haeffner 01600712349 or Lyn Harper 01600 713528

Novelty Dog Show

Registration of dogs and owners starts at 1.30 p.m.

Entrance fee PER event ... 50p.

Judging starts at 2.30 p.m.

Events:-

1. Dog with the waggiest tail
2. Owner and dog looking alike
3. Best brace of dogs
4. Dog over 8 years old
5. Best child dog handler
6. Best party trick
7. Most handsome dog
8. Prettiest female dog
9. Best six legs (owner plus dog !)
10. The dog the judge would most like to take home.



PLEASE NOTE: - The fete and dog show are held in a private garden, so ALL dogs must be on a lead at all times and under control.

(ALL dog mess to be removed straight way by the dog owner PLEASE !!)



Date/time	Season/place	Service
June 6	Trinity I	
09.30.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Matins
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
June 13	Trinity II	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	BCP Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Family Eucharist
June 20	Trinity III	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Holy Eucharist
June 27	Trinity IV	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Holy Eucharist
10.30	St Hilda Griffithstown	N. Taylor first celebration
July 4	Trinity V	
09.30.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Matins
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
July 11	Trinity VI	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	BCP Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Family Eucharist
July 18	Trinity VII	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Holy Eucharist
July 25	Trinity VIII	
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist
11.00.	St Nicholas, Trellech	Holy Eucharist
August 1	Trinity IX	
09.30	St Nicholas, Trellech	Matins
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist

<i>reader 1</i>	<i>reader 2</i>	<i>server/chalice</i>	<i>chalice 2</i>	<i>welcome</i>
B. Richards	R. Parsons	n/a	n/a	A. Stubbs
V Kimber	T McGorrigan	T McGorrigan	L Harper	L Harper
A Stratton	C Mills	n/a	n/a	A Stratton
J Heales	n/a	J Heales	K Lowe	A Stubbs
L Harper	W Boycott	L Harper	n/a	W Boycott
B Jones	B Richards	K Lowe	R Parsons	B Jones
S Haeffner	J Heales	J Heales	L Harper	S Haeffner
A Gilbey	R Parsons	A Gilbey	K Bowen	A Stubbs
F Kemp	A Powis	n/a	n/a	A Powis
S Dean	V Kimber	L Harper	n/a	S Dean
T Churchward	T McGorrigan	n/a	n/a	T McGorrigan
B Jones	A Gilbey	J Heales	A Gilbey	A Stubbs
J Coutts	S Coutts	L Harper	n/a	S Coutts
R Parsons	F Kemp	R Parsons	K Bowen	K Bowen
C Mills	J Heales	J Heales	L Harper	S Heales
A Gilbey	B Richards	A Gilbey	K Lowe	B Jones
B. Richards	K. Bowen	n/a	n/a	A. Stubbs
V. Kimber	T. McGorrigan	T.McGorrigan	L. Harper	L. Harper

Memories of an ex Vicars Wife ..

I have been privileged recently to read private memoirs of Mrs Pauline Blake, widow of the Rev. A. V. Blake, vicar of Penallt 1949—1960. Mrs Blake remembers her stay in Penallt with such affection that she named her retirement home in Devon after the parish which introduced her, as a young **bride, to life as a vicar's wife. Here are a few telling extracts she has kindly permitted me to reproduce here.**

We moved in October 1950 to a vicarage that was a dream of a house, a mini-mansion situated in large grounds over-looking Offa's Dyke and the River Wye. The Bishop laid his hands on Arthur, giving him charge of the parish ... the singing of the large congregation literally raised the roof—for the ancient plaster was loosened. Arthur realised that the restoration of the ancient building 'was to be his work'!

There was no electricity [in the vicarage]. Friends had hunted in their attics to find wonderful brass hanging lamps ... we bought modern Tilley lamps to light the large rooms.

We had not been in the vicarage for long before no water came from the taps. The milkman, realizing our plight, pointing to the pump, said 'But Vicar, that thing in the corner of the kitchen is to pump water to the roof tank!' No-one had told us that the holding tank in the garden was to collect rainwater and surface water. We all became quite ill as we were drinking this instead of pumping pure water from the well in the garden. Not all the cottages had wells with drinking water, so we would see the aged Rushton England passing our house to pump water from the village well. He carried his buckets suspended from a yoke across his shoulders.

[Elsewhere, Mrs Blake records that the 'village well' was at the Bush Inn.]

Penallt Old Church was a favourite to view when the Bishop or Dean had foreign visitors. They would arrive at the vicarage for refreshments ... I always kept food in readiness [and] became adept at baking meringues and fruit cakes which kept well.

Winter weather was extreme, with snow lying under the hedges until May ... one never-to-be forgotten storm when Arthur was in hospital severely ill, I had to cope with the extreme weather conditions. The storm blew in the bathroom window. The tank in the roof froze. The weight of the water when it thawed broke the pipes pouring gallons of water down through the house. The Monmouth plumber repaired the pipes but once the tank was filled all the water poured down for a second time.

Life was very difficult financially until the Director of Education heard that I

was a teacher and asked me to help out in the village school ... The whole school of just 24 pupils would come to the vicarage for birthday parties and at Christmastime ... the year I was to take over as Headmistress I insisted that [my son] Paul went to school at Trellech. [He] was not too pleased at having to walk the miles to school during the icy weather when there was no transport ...

*Prolonged ice on the roads meant that the grocer and butcher from Monmouth could not deliver our goods. It was not too much of a problem as Arthur had **permission to shoot on the Major's lands. I became adept ... at cooking rabbits, pigeons and pheasant.** The local farmers supplied us with meat when they killed a pig. During the fishing season, Arthur caught bags of trout and on one occasion a huge salmon caught on his trout fly ! The sick parishioners also benefitted as these were the days before deep freezes. Arthur would take the sick some of his catch.*

Arthur Blake left Penallt to become vicar of Raglan and Llandenny where he and **his wife served for seventeen years.** They were then 'translated' to the parish of Llanfrechfa. Mrs Blake became senior mistress of the Grange School in Monmouth, a career which illness cut short. She has been an active oblate of **Ty Mawr Convent and Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union** among numerous church-centred interests, retiring ultimately to live in Devon.

V.F.K.

Mobile Library - use it or lose it !

Monmouthshire Mobile Library calls in Penallt, at the lay-by near Pentwyn Park, opposite the Old Post Office, every third week but because of vehicle problems, holidays and the weather, they often change the date at the last moment, so please check the board outside the Old Post Office **for any updates ... next scheduled visits 2nd & 23rd June, 14th July, 4th August**

PLEASE support this very useful service ...

Library phone:- 01600-775215



A house without books
is like a room without
windows ...



Where did those benches come from ?

Walking round Penallt you will have noticed a new bench on the Village Green (outside the Inn at Penallt) and another opposite the Old Post Office by the bus stop.

Prue Evill writes:-

Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee celebrations in Penallt 2002.

A collection was made round the village at the time of the above celebrations to enable us to fund the various activities which took place.

After the celebrations, there was a surplus remaining in the fund and it was decided to purchase two benches to be sited in the village. The long delay in producing the benches was due to a series of very sad events (the death of the Treasurer of the Jubilee Committee; the horrendous motor-cycle accident of Ruth Massey and her husband, and several serious illnesses suffered by Jane Lewis).

Both Ruth and Jane were part of the Jubilee Committee.

Over the past few months two benches have been purchased. Permission was obtained from the Highways and Trellech United Community Council to site one at the bus stop by Pentwyn Park and the other on the Village Green. The latter has been suitably inscribed. Bryn Boycott very kindly installed the benches for us on concrete slabs.

We hope that villagers and walkers/visitors to Penallt will be able to enjoy the benches for many years to come.

Building Project at Ogenda High School for Girls

I have recently returned from Uganda having spent 4 weeks helping to build new classrooms at Ogenda High School for Girls in northern Uganda. This is the school that the church supported for 5 years from 2003 to 2008. I went as a volunteer with Hands around the World (HATW) who organise work teams to go to selected projects to help build classrooms, health centres and training centres in under developed countries in Africa, India and South America. I had visited Ogenda with Sandra and Nicholas in 2008 to celebrate the 5 years link between Penallt, Trellech and the school, and was delighted to be able to go back with HATW to help create new classrooms at the school. The original classrooms were constructed with mud walls which required high maintenance and had a limited life under their extreme weather conditions but we helped to build 4 new permanent brick built classrooms.

I had some concerns as to how a small team of 4 relatively unskilled volunteers were going to achieve this, but I was very impressed with the commitment of the local community. About 15 local bricklayers and labourers worked with us on the project. They worked without pay - they saw the project as a great benefit to their community. Many local women also helped by carrying water up a steep path of about half a mile from the river Nile to the building site - the water being essential for the mixing of mortar and concrete. Although Uganda certainly does not have the same building regulations and Health and Safety rules as the UK, the building was constructed in a careful and efficient manner. At the end of our time, the classrooms had been built up to eaves level and was ready for the timber and iron sheet roof.

As well working hard on the building in very hot conditions (temperatures in the mid 30s each day) we had great enjoyment socialising with the local community. We were invited out to meals (even had a goat slaughtered in our honour!) and spent time sharing music with the local church choir who practised near our guesthouse. We were able to teach them some of our hymns and songs and they taught us some of their own. It gave us great joy to sing with the choir in church and to participate in services.

We returned home feeling sad at leaving new found friends but enriched after sharing their lives for a few weeks. They lead a very hard life - no electricity, no running water and are so dependent on the weather to grow their food. However they always wanted to share what little they had - a lesson to us all.

I would like to thank all those who contributed to the social evening held in Trellech before Christmas and for the cheque that was presented to me to help me raise the sponsorship money I required. I can assure you that the money has gone to a wonderful project creating new classrooms in a community who are so very committed to the education for their children.

Peter Gratton

CATBROOK MEMORIAL HALL

Friday 25th June - Quiz. Doors open 7.15pm. Teams of a maximum of six people. Entry £5 per adult (to include sandwiches), children under 14 years of age free. Places must be reserved in advance.

Saturday 25th September - Hijinx Theatre presenting "I'll meet by moonlight". Tickets £10 per person.

Yoga classes with Ruth Routh held Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm and Thursday mornings, 10.30-12.00.

Coffee mornings held third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 am - all welcome.

The hall now has its own website, www.catbrookinfo. For further details or to hire the hall contact Rosemary Stephens on 01600-860451, or the email address is info@catbrook.info.

BABINGTON CENTRE - TRELLECH

To hire The Babington Centre & for rates, contact Dave Robbins on 860714

PELHAM HALL, PENALLT

Regular events

Bowls Club every Tuesday

Book hall for Badminton via Vin Godier 01600 716502

Wednesday morning PILATES ... contact Diane Bartle 891249

W.I. **1st Thursday evening of the month ... contact Trish Hayward on 712864.**

The hall is available for private functions ...book with Vin Godier on 716502

THE NARTH HALL

Contact person - Sue Stocker - Secretary 860530

Art group meets every Wednesday. Contact Sue Seymour on 860033

Bridge Group contact Vivienne Casson on 860054 to find out more.

Films on The Narth Contact Hywel Rees on 860516 for information

Gardening Club last Tuesday of the month. Contact John Lewis on 860374.

Keep fit for the mature person Thursday a.m.. Contact Huw Smith on 860659.

The Narth Singers Wednesdays at 7.30pm - contact Jenny Hickey on 860216.

Play reading group Meets one Monday a month. Contact Gordon Casson on 860054

Whist drive third Friday of each month at 7.30pm. Contact Sue Stocker on 860530

Womens' Institute 7.30pm on the third Tuesdays. Contact Jan Stephens on 860576

Youth Club fortnightly on a Thursday, 7.30pm - 9.00pm. Contact Kate Rees on 860516 or Rachel Widdicks on 869142

Private Bookings To book hall & for rates, contact Mary Pardington on 860227.

Film Nights at Pelham Hall

These have now concluded for the summer months. We have seen some unusual films (!) which have begun a sort of cult following ... and the food is excellent too ! Look out for notices for the next film which will be in September.

Lambing Update at Pentwyn Farm

After almost 5 weeks our flock of Hebridean sheep have finished lambing at Pentwyn Farm. We now have a total of 29 lambs born to 24 ewes.

There have been some high and low moments as is always the case with **livestock. In fact I think we've experienced just about everything that can go wrong with lambing** from abandonment, to a ewe that needed a caesarean, to **weak little ones that just didn't make it, but we also saved a few when it was touch and go** and overall we were blessed with straight forward births and strong healthy lambs.

The Trust is really grateful to all our volunteers who helped with the lambing **checks; we couldn't have done it without you! Our thanks also go to the locals in Penallt** many of whom kept an eye on the flock for us and were very understanding of our decision to close some parts of the reserve while lambing was ongoing. We thought it safest all round as Hebridean sheep will defend their lambs with those horns!

The ewes and lambs will be grazing on Wyewood Common throughout the summer months, but if you are walking past please remember to keep dogs under very close control.

For more information about the flock or to become a volunteer sheep checker, please contact the Trust on 01600 740600 or Annette Murray ... details opposite.

Old Church 'Spring' Cleaning Morning

Saturday 3rd July, 10—12.30 ish

Coffee, tea, biscuits provided

Please bring your own cleaning tools ... brushes, feather dusters, polish and cloths.

Many hands make light work, and we get so much praise for our beautiful church, its worth making the effort !

Pentwyn Farm Summer Courses

Meadow Plant I D for beginners	Thursday 11th June 10am to 1pm
Dry stone walling	Mon & Tues 21st & 22nd June 9.30 am to 4.30pm
How to manage your land for bumblebees	Saturday 3rd July 1pm to 3.30pm
Managing your land for Wildlife	Tuesday 6th July 10am to 3pm
Bumblebees for beginners	Wednesday 7th July 2 - 4pm

Contact:- Annette Murray Wyeswood Common Project Officer

Gwent Wildlife Trust, Seddon House, Dingestow, Monmouth, NP25 4DY

Tel: 01600 740600/07810853794 www.gwentwildlife.org

Registered charity number 242619 Limited liability company number 812535

Work. 01600 719817 **Mob.** 07855 455101
Email. info@wyevalleyblinds.co.uk

Wye Valley Blinds

We are a small local family company based in Monmouth since 2003, We offer a free advice and quotation service on all our blinds and curtains.
Please call us to arrange a visit.

New Summer Deals!

TRAIDCRAFT GOODS
*FROM LINDA AT THE CONVENT,
or from
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH
or from
OXFAM IN TOWN*

*You can advertise here for very reasonable rates.
Contact Mrs K Lowe,
The Old Vicarage, Trellech
01600 860122*

ART FOR AFRICA 2010

Where ? Catbrook Memorial Hall

When ? Friday 16th July 6 pm to 9 pm

Saturday 17th July 10 am to 6 pm

Sunday 18th July 10 am to 6 pm

ART AND CRAFT BY LOCAL ARTISTS
REFRESHMENTS CAKES
POTTERY CARDS TRADICRAFT & MORE!

Food Security in Zimbabwe

Proceeds go to a Christian Aid partner project in Zimbabwe which is pioneering conservation agriculture, providing support to farmers in the drought-prone Matabeleland South region. Reports indicate the remarkable difference the use of these techniques has made, despite the troubles in Zimbabwe. Full details at the exhibition.

And again, as last year, for every £1 raised, the European Union will provide an additional £3 - effectively quadrupling donations!

A warm welcome to all to the 20th Art for Africa!

Art for Africa is 20! Will it be 21?

This year's Art for Africa exhibition will be the twentieth, and the fifth to be held in Catbrook Hall. It will also be the last, unless someone comes forward to carry it on. We are looking for someone, or perhaps a small group, to take it on, refresh it, enliven it, develop it into "more and better."

It all started in a small way in 1991, when Hazel Symes and a few members of the Wye Valley Art Society were chatting in the dining room of Fern Lea. It was the time when people were becoming more aware of the dire need of many African countries. Discussing what they could do, Bertie Lloyd pointed out that they could paint some pictures, hang them from the picture rails in the room and offer them for sale.

That first year, we actually filled two or three rooms of Fern Lea with paintings by local artists. Then, year by year, the number of artists grew, and the number of pictures hung grew to over 300, so that the walls of every room on the ground floor of the house were covered with pictures. Many subsequent visitors have said that they had never seen the inside of the house without hundreds of pictures up!

People asked for drinks and refreshments, so the granny annex became the refreshment room. Also, year by year, the Fern Lea garden became filled with tents and gazebos housing anything from a variety of cards, to pots, to bric-a-brac, to plants, to books, to mobiles, to jewellery, to wood carvings, to glassware, to Traidcraft products and produce. We also had artists demonstrating their skills; we had musicians playing; we had a handloom demonstration; we had a resident hawk; we even had a small plane flypast one year!

Many artists and helpers, the Monmouth Christian Aid Committee and many more too numerous to name individually, put in a lot of hard work to keep the weekend running! Many thanks are due to them all. Then, when fifteen years of moving all the furniture from the downstairs rooms either upstairs or into the barn became too onerous for people of a certain age, the exhibition was warmly welcomed into Catbrook Memorial Hall, where it has been successfully held for the last four years.

Nearly £70,000 has been raised for a variety of Christian Aid projects in more than a dozen African countries. Hundreds of paintings have been sold. The most raised in any one year was £6,438.01 in 2006, which became a thanksgiving for Hazel. Christian Aid is a leader in the monitoring and accountability of projects and in the participation in projects of people in the poor communities. Each year a project in Africa is carefully selected after discussion with Christian Aid in Cardiff.

Will it be 21, and more? If you'd relish this challenge, please contact Peter or Catherine Symes at Fern Lea, Trellech Cross, Monmouth NP25 4PX, phone 01600 860264 or email prsymes@tiscali.co.uk

Dates for the diary

June 7	Schools return after half term
June 19	Penallt Old Church Summer Fete
June 23	Development team meeting
June 27	NJTaylor celebrates Griffithstown
July 3	Old Church 'spring' cleaning morning
July 7	Narth Singers concert, Pelham Hall 7.30
July 9	Narth Singers concert, St Nicholas, 7.30
July 16—18	Art for Africa
July 19	Schools break up for summer
August 2	Vicar back from sabbatical