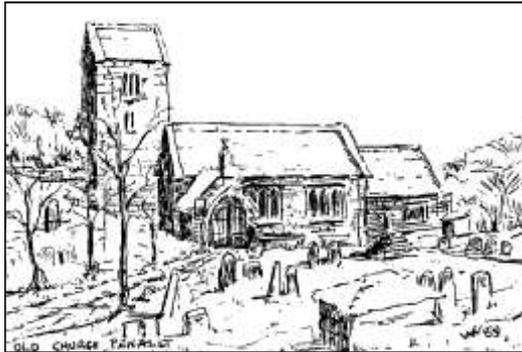


CHURCH MAGAZINE
FOR THE PARISH OF
TRELLECH & PENALLT

December 2010 & January 2011



Old Church, Penallt

St. Nicholas, Trellech



*We wish everyone a very happy,
peaceful and much blessed
Christmas*

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

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 860880

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

Parish Website: 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 January/February magazine: Friday, 14th January, 2011

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.

A Christmas message from the Vicarage.

In Luke's Gospel, the Nativity Story is set in the darkness of the night and there is a lot of fear around. The shepherds are filled with fear and the angels had to reassure them: "Be not afraid." Indeed, there was enough fear around the birth of Jesus to cause a lot of people to tremble and a tyrant to resort to killing thousands of innocents. But when the shepherds visited the stable and received the Babe into their hearts, their fears vanished and they were granted peace. We who live in fear of many things have reason to rejoice in the Christmas Message: Be not afraid ... In the beginning was the Word, And the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Be not afraid. Lo, I am with you always! It requires the innocence of a child to receive that Christmas promise without reservation and in **complete trust. Some may still say, " We can do without you.. ! But** Christmas comes around again as a reminder that He is here for us and is here to stay! That's what His Name means: Emmanuel, God is with us. And He is looking for your welcome, your hand, your embrace. He is waiting for you to say, O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for You! I cannot do without You! If you are ready to accept the Christ Child into your heart, His Christmas gifts of love, joy, forgiveness and peace will become yours to share. May the Christ Child of Bethlehem bring you His love, joy and forgiveness this Christmas. May He bless you with His peace.

Rev Sandra Howells
Vicar



OLD CHURCH FLOWERS & CLEANING

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

December:- No flowers in Advent, but volunteers needed for Christmas flowers. Please let Sarah know if you can do an arrangement, Dec 22nd, 23rd or 24th.

January:- Mrs Trish Hayward, Mrs Jess Rabjohn



In aid of Hands Around the World

Thursday 9th December, 10.30 - 12.30

Coffee Morning at Mrs Jan Noirits, Green Pastures

also

After Christmas meagre lunch ! (Did you indulge too much ?)

Home made soups, home made
bread, fruit

Tuesday 11th January, 12.30
onwards

Mrs Lyn Harper, 'Nyanza', Penallt.



HANDS AROUND THE WORLD
Registered Charity No. 1097628

Announcements and Acknowledgements

"Rest eternal grant them O Lord."

The funeral of Doris Hudson, wife of the Late Ronald Hudson, took place at the Old Church on 22nd October. Formerly of Plash Cottage in Penallt, Ron and Doris had supported our parish fetes even after they moved to Osbaston, and for many years had received Holy Communion at home, being the first to encourage our lay Eucharistic ministers. They are still remembered in Redbrook where they ran the shop and had the milk round for many years before they retired.

Peter Richards of Trellech Hill Penallt died on the 21st October and it was good to see so many of his farming friends and neighbours at the crematorium for his funeral. Peckett Stone Pete will be remembered as a great character in the community.

Another character was Madeline Sheppard of the Narth whose funeral was in November and who will be missed by her neighbours and by her friends at the Thursday keep fit group. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who mourn.

Confirmations.

Janet Richards
Gareth Fullerton
Rebecca Fullerton



THE PLACE OF ICONS AND RELIGIOUS ART IN OLD CHURCH

Have you noticed the icon that was put over the door in the Old Church in late July this year? If not, you must pop into the church and look at it. It is a copy of a well known icon and has been painted by Helen Scourse who has kindly gifted it to the church.

It was given to us earlier in the year but we needed to consider very carefully where it would be placed, in order that it may be appreciated without it changing the simplicity of the Old Church; something so many people value.

The choice of its temporary position, over the door as you enter the church, was purposely chosen for a number of reasons. As already suggested, it does not change the feel of space and simplicity as one enters the church, thus retaining the character of Old Church, and it is also high enough to deter theft. But primarily, as the image is of Christ holding the scriptures in one hand and offering a blessing with the other hand, it offers the understanding of an unseen blessing as one enters the church, and a personal blessing as one leaves the church. I felt this profoundly powerful in the context of a recent funeral. **The words of psalm 121, "The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in" were tangible as I led the deceased into church and then out of the church to their final resting place.** The position over the door has therefore provided a very meaningful place. We did however agree it would at this stage be a temporary position, to enable us to explore an alternative place which was also agreed as a possible location.

This will be high on the wall over the small arch between the South aisle and nave. The possible benefit of this position is that it will be easier for people to sit and enjoy it, but it will also be important to ensure that this position does not detract from the side altar or affect the impact of simplicity as we enter the church.

If you have not already considered these points, after reading this article please go and see for yourself before, later in December, the alternative position will be used for a further trial period.

I am sure you will agree that it is a privilege and a blessing to receive this gift from Helen, which has been a real labour of love.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF TRELLECH AND PENALLT

This year we are not able to staff two midnight services so the only Midnight Mass (starting at 11.30pm) will be at Trellech, where there is parking for everyone in the Babington Centre and a church large enough to accommodate everyone. There will also be carol services in every community other than Trellech in the week leading up to Christmas, and two services in the parish on Christmas Morning:

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER

11.00 Carol Service at Catbrook Memorial Hall

4.00 Carol service at The Old Church Penallt

WEDNESDAY 22ND DECEMBER

6pm Carol Service the Narth Village Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm. Nativity AT THE MEDIEVAL BARN, PENALLT

By kind permission of The Gwent Wildlife Trust

As in previous years, we will need shepherds angels and wise men,
together with any other costumed folk who care to join us!

Meet us on the Village Green, Penallt at 3.50pm.

We understand that Father Christmas will join us this year!

11.30 MIDNIGHT MASS ST NICHOLAS CHURCH TRELLECH

Parking in the Babington Centre

CHRISTMAS DAY

09.30 Family Communion in St Nicholas Church Trellech

11.00 The First Eucharist of Christmas at Old Church Penallt

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

09.30 Parish Said Eucharist in St Nicholas Church Trellech

Churches Together in Monmouth
CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK
Tuesday 18th January – 25th January

Three specific activities are being planned for Christian Unity week.

The first is an Octave of prayer.

A prayer pamphlet is being prepared which will name all our local churches and the many shared interests and concerns. These will be divided into morning, noontime and evening prayers over 8 days, and it is hoped that all Christians in the area will share in this prayer cycle, in the knowledge that they are not alone in their prayers.

The second is to Celebrate Diversity.

This will be on the evening of Wednesday 19th January and will be a time of fellowship where each church will provide someone to speak about what it is they cherish or find important for them in their own denomination.

The meeting will open for questions and we shall also enjoy fellowship together.

The third event will be on Sunday 23rd January.

In previous years we have tried to have one combined service but it is not really practical for all churches to cancel services for this to happen. So this year we propose that everyone have their own services but join together for **Sunday Lunch. St Mary's Priory Church in Monmouth have offered the use of their church building for a bring and share lunch beginning at 1pm.**

I hope that you will put these dates in your diary and be ready to share with our Christian brothers and sisters of other denominations as we focus on Christ who unites us, as we celebrate our own traditions too..

More details Later



The Olive Bough

In October 2005 the Olive Bough Stall opened in the Shire Hall Market for a trial three weeks. This was so successful we ordered more stock, organised weekly market managers and got a rota of volunteers from all the local Christian Churches. We began trading weekly on 11th February 2006.

Nearly six years later we are still trading every week except 25th December, 1st and 8th January 2011.

We have a large range of new Christian Books, second hand Christian Books (50p or £1 for three) plus free booklets and leaflets. We also sell cards for all occasions. 95% have a Bible verse inside. We sell fair-traded gifts from Toy-Box (supporting the street children from South America) and jewellery from Kenya's Rift Valley.

You will always get a warm welcome from the volunteers and with Christmas soon approaching we have a good selection of Christmas cards all showing the 'real' meaning of Christmas. If you are unsure what to buy as a present we also have Gift Tokens available.

Do come and see us. If you like what we are doing come and join the team.

Please pray for continued support and the health and well being of all our volunteers.

October '10 BIF

The Burning Issues Forum met again in October at the Babington Centre, Trellech. This time our topic was crime and punishment. Two excellent speakers - a probation officer and a magistrate - explained our court system, the roles of different legal officers and the alternative sentences available. We discussed a scenario involving a drug-related attack on an elderly woman and an ambulance team and then widened the debate to more general but related topics. It was a most informative and thought-provoking evening and we are most grateful to our speakers, Jean Halligan and David Rowlands for coming along.

As usual, the discussion continued over a delicious buffet meal (for which many thanks to Susan Flower and Linda Campbell) with most of the thirty people present staying to talk informally.

If you have not yet been to a BIF evening, do consider coming along and look out, in the New Year, for the announcement of dates and subjects for 2011. Everyone is most welcome, there is no entry charge but we invite donations to cover costs of hiring the hall and providing food and drink. If you have any ideas for topics or speakers please let us know, Stevie Coutts, Ruth Bastow, Peter Symes.

Message for Magazine Distributors from Jean Rogers

A belated and very big thank you to all of you who so willingly distribute this magazine every two months.

I won't name you as there are so many of you now but we are very grateful for your help in ensuring that every house that wants a magazine receives one.

As we would like to hear your opinions about any difficulties or suggestions that you may have concerning the distribution, I am proposing that we all meet on Monday 10th January at 2.30 pm at my place, Trellech Barn for some light refreshments and an exchange of ideas. If you need directions please phone me on 01600860275

Thank you again for your consistent efforts, and wishing you all a very peaceful Christmas and Blessed New Year



Service Times for

Date/time	Season/place	Service	
November 28th	Advent Sunday		
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist	
11.00.	St Nicholas	Holy Eucharist	
December 5th	Advent II	Eve of St Nicholas	
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist	anointing offer
4pm	St Nicholas Trellech	Advent Carols	
December 12th	Advent III		
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	BCP Eucharist	
11.00.	St Nicholas Trellech	Family Eucharist	
December 19th	Advent IV		
09.30.	St Nicholas Trellech	Said Eucharist	
11.00.	Catbrook Memorial Hall	Nine Lessons and Carols	
4pm	Old Church, Penallt	Nine Lessons and Carols	
December 22nd			
6pm	Narth Village Hall	Carol Service	
Fri.24th December	Eve of the Nativity		
4pm	Penallt Village	Nativity at the Barn	
11.30.	St Nicholas. Trellech	Midnight Mass	
Sat. 25th December	The Feast of the Nativity		
09.30.	St Nicholas Trellech	Holy Eucharist	
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Family Eucharist	
26th December	First Sunday of Christmas		
09.30.	St Nicholas Trellech	Said Eucharist	
2nd January	Epiphany Sunday		
09.30.	St Nicholas Trellech	Matins	
11.00.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist	
9th January	Baptism of Christ		
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	BCP Eucharist	
11.00.	St Nicholas Trellech	Family Eucharist	
16th January	Epiphany II		
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist	
11.00.	St Nicholas Trellech	Holy Eucharist	anointing offer
23rd January	Epiphany III		
09.30.	Old Church, Penallt	Holy Eucharist	
11.00.	St Nicholas Trellech	Holy Eucharist	
30th January	Epiphany IV	UNITED SERVICE	
tba	Trellech Methodist	tba	

for both Churches

<i>reader 1</i>	<i>reader 2</i>	<i>server/chalice</i>	<i>chalice 2</i>	<i>welcome</i>
L. Harper A. Gibley	J. Heales R. Parsons	K. Lowe	A. Gibley	L. Harper R. Parsons
V. Kimber All readers	A. Stratton	L. Harper n/a		A. Stratton A. Stubbs
T. Churchward Welcome Club	S. Haeffner n/a	L. Harper J Heales	K Lowe	S. Haeffner A Stubbs
B. Green	A. Powis	K. Bowen	R. Parsons	B. Green R.Parson
S. Poulter	K. Lowe	K. Bowen	K. Lowe	A. Stubbs
R. Parsons	F. Kemp	R. Parsons		B. Green
A. Gilbey	R. Parsons	A. Gilbey	R. Parsons	R. Parsons
A. Powis D. Shannon	F. Kemp V. Kimber	n/a L. Harper		A. Powis W. Boycott
W. Boycott Welcome Club	S. Haeffner n/a	L. Harper J Heales	K Lowe	S. Haeffner A Stubbs
G. Mills B. Richards	S. Dean A. Gilbey	L. Harper K. Bowen	A. Gilbey	S. Dean R. Parsons
J. Coutts B. Green	S. Coutts R. Parsons	L. Harper K. Lowe	R. Parsons	S. Coutts A. Stubbs

A very special Christmas Nativity event at the Barn
Starting on the Village Green on Christmas Eve at 3.45pm.
Accompanied children and everyone else welcome.

Regrettably, 'elf' and safety means we can no longer run our traditional Father Christmas haycart and carol singing tour around Penallt. However, ever opportunistic, our vicar, Sandra Howells, suggested to Alastair Robertson, who chairs Babington Meadow committee, that the Church and the Meadow get together to jointly organise a fun Christmas Eve afternoon event for the children in the village, particularly for the little ones, and ensure that Father Christmas is not a stranger to the village this year.

The afternoon's festivities will start at 3.45pm on the village green (just outside the village pub, the Inn at Penallt). We hope as many children as possible will come along in their own home-designer costumes with their parents to make up the numbers of shepherds and **angels we need for the afternoon's nativity performance.**

Once assembled, everyone will go in procession to the beautiful old barn down the lane behind the pub. There, Sandra, the vicar, will begin to tell the story of the nativity. Youngsters and their parents will be joining in the storytelling and have fun singing carols and possibly listening to some poems as well.

To round the afternoon off, Father Christmas will arrive in full regalia to hand out presents to the children and to wish everyone a jolly scrumptious Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. His helpers will be busy selling raffle tickets in aid of Babington Meadow (which will be on sale as well at the Inn at Penallt over the whole of the Christmas period. Everyone should be happily home for tea by 5.30pm.

Further info: tel 01600 715781 / qwest@btconnect.com





TRELLECH METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 19 December 6.15pm Carol Service

Friday 24 December 4pm "Families @ 4 @ Christmas". All the family welcome for a short service to celebrate the wonder of Christmas.

Sunday 26 December No service.
Back to normal on Sunday 2 Jan at 6.15pm.

St Nicholas's church development project

After a short lull in activity, we are about to embark on the next stage of this **project**. **The PCC agreed the development group's recommendation to appoint Caroe & Partners to work with us as our architects and we are (at the time of writing in late October) about to sign a contract with them.** Caroes have a long and distinguished history as conservation architects, but also impressed us with their practical, creative and stimulating approach. Their recent work in Wales **includes the cloister area of St David's Cathedral.**

Over the next 3-4 months, we shall be working with Caroes to develop proposals for the church. These will be detailed enough for a quantity survey to cost for us, and for us to present to others, including the Diocesan Advisory Committee, parishioners and members of the wider community, along with potential funders.

Further details from Tessa or any of the committee members
(email: trellechchurchdevt@hotmail.co.uk)

Trellech Primary School

Our school as described by our pupils - (Pupil Survey Summer 2010)
the bigger the word, the more often it was used



... and by our parents (Parent Survey - Summer 2010)



Traditionally Reared Turkeys and Chickens

Orders taken NOW for Christmas

Tel: Ivor Gleed 01600 712894

Penygarn Farm, Penallt



The Olive Bough

In October 2005 the Olive Bough Stall opened in the Shire Hall Market for a trial three weeks. This was so successful we ordered more stock, organised weekly market managers and got a rota of volunteers from all the local Christian Churches. We began trading weekly on 11th February 2006. Nearly six years later we are still trading every week except 25th December, 1st and 8th January 2011.

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You will always get a warm welcome from the volunteers and with Christmas soon approaching we have a good selection of Christmas cards all showing the 'real' meaning of Christmas. If you are unsure what to buy as a present we also have Gift Tokens available.

Do come and see us. If you like what we are doing come and join the team.

Please pray for continued support and the health and well being of all our volunteers.

As we pass from the season of remembrance, into the season of light and hope, Betty Richards of Trellech has sent us this article about Trellech 70 years ago.

"Some of us remember quite vividly the activities of daily life in the 1940's.

The Second World War was taking its toll in the world and life would never be the same again. At the end of May 1940 the troops of Britain, France and Belgium were rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk and by the end of June, France had surrendered to Germany and Britain now stood alone. We began to have more and more aerial activity over our country from German planes who hoped to weaken the British spirit and our wonderful Air Force. Our country areas became used to recognising the sound of German planes at night-time as they tried to investigate our resources and the Battle of Britain began on 10th July.

The first bombs in the Monmouth area fell in the parish of Trellech on the night of 16th August at 12.30 and four H.E. Bombs caused damage to a farmhouse at Parkhouse, and a cowshed at Trellech Grange. We were so very fortunate not to be injured - two sheep were killed in a field.

On September 7th, the Blitz began with Germany dropping massive bombs on London and other British cities causing extensive damage and great loss of life".

CATBROOK MEMORIAL HALL

Saturday 4th December at 7.30pm - Wine Dinner. Four course meal with wines.
Tickets £25 per person.

Sunday 19th December at 11am - Carol Service accompanied by Monmouth Band.
Cakes, tea and coffee afterwards.

Saturday January 29th 2011 at 7.30pm - Caldicot Male Voice Choir.

Saturday 26th February 2011 at 7.30pm - Alison Neil.

Saturday 7th May 2011 at 7.30pm - All Together Now.

It is hoped to hold a quiz in March/April 2011 - more details to follow. Also another
ever popular Race Night in the autumn.

Tony Jacobs and his Swing Cabaret Trio are hopefully booked for 26th November
2011.

Yoga Classes with Ruth Routh held Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings.

Coffee mornings held the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am.

To book the hall or for further information email: info@catbrook.info.

BABINGTON CENTRE - TRELLECH

Film Nights

Saturday 4th December - Me and Orson Wells.

Saturday 2st January 2011 - Film to be announced

Saturday 5th February 2011 - Another Year

Saturday 5th March 2011 - King's Speech.

Tickets £4.50 - Free Parking on Site - Disabled facilities - Tea, Coffee and
Wine available!

Crafts and Produce Market

Wednesdays 15th December, 19th January 2011, 16th February 2011

16th March 2011

From 3.00pm until 6.00pm

To hire Babington Centre, contact Dave Robbins, 01600 860714

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.

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

Film Night: Saturday, 4th December. 'To Be or Not To Be'
starring Carole Lombard and Jack Benny.

Come along in your 1940's austerity suits and enjoy a large snack
as well as the film ! £5 Bar available

An older, tired looking dog wandered into my garden. I could tell from his collar and his full belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my garden, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Being curious I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap?'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with six children, two of whom are under the age of three, he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

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)

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

Peru 2010 by Peter Symes

As supporters of Traidcraft, we signed on for their 'Meet The People' tour to Peru.

From initial briefing at **Traidcraft's Gateshead office to sending off our** feedback form, we were filled with admiration at the care taken to ensure that we had a superb trip.

The highlights?

Fantastic scenery

Amazing mountains, vast plains, fertile fields growing potatoes, maize, rice and fruit. Terraces everywhere, much of it hundreds of years old, all the way up the mountains, with crops growing. Llamas, and more rarely but beautifully, alpacas.

Tourist attractions

Machu Picchu, more impressive even than the postcards! The Pisac Inca ruins and other amazing ruins everywhere. Spanish colonial architecture - churches and town squares. The internationally famous whole-day train journey over the Andes with stupendous scenery and first class international standard service. Lake Titicaca, amazing reed islands.

Traidcraft centres and other projects

The Minka bases in Lima, Collasuyo, Cuyo Grande and Cuyo Chico. **The COCLA coffee production area. The Allpa producers' centre in the Sacred Valley. The** floating reed islands of Uros on Lake Titicaca. Administratively efficient, wonderfully friendly, performing an invaluable service to hundreds of small farmers and producers, opening the world to Peruvian products. The school for girl street children in Lima started by a local teacher and supported entirely by fundraising. The café in Ollantaytambo started by a Dutch woman, all profits going to support destitute young girls and elderly women.

Travel

Thirteen-hour flights by KLM Bristol/Amsterdam/Lima and back. Flights from Lima to Cusco and Puno to Lima over the snow-capped Andes. Long bus journeys up and down twisty roads, some under construction, to high altitudes. Foot-powered bicycle taxis. The train to Machu Picchu.

Towns

Lima. Ollantaytambo. Cusco. Puno. Juliaca. Crowded, jostling, busy. Splendid

architecture. Messy slums and industrial areas. Glossy shopping malls and boutiques selling luxury alpaca garments and gold and silver jewellery. Back-street cafes selling rice and potato dishes. A sophisticated restaurant with an international menu and floorshow.

Altitude

Testing at times. Particularly during an hour-long climb (which took our guide fifteen minutes!) to a homestead stay on Taquile I sland, Lake Titicaca. And where our bed collapsed at midnight.

Our guide and companions

Fantastic, the best guide ever. Well informed, caring, courteous, nothing too much trouble, passionate about his country and culture. A group of thirteen people, all interested in Traidcraft; super company.

The people

Above all, the people. The ordinary people who grow the crops, the tea, the coffee, who make the garments, the jewellery, the ceramics, the products we enjoy. Usually living and working in remote areas without the services we take for granted - electricity, clean water, sanitation - but content and happy. Welcoming and generous to the point of embarrassment, proving again to us the hospitality and graciousness of those who have so little, and how they share without reserve. Welcomed with flower petals, with delicious food, which took all day to cook, with dancing, with love.

Actually walking and talking with the family who grow the tea and coffee on their small plot - the people on the other end of the Fair Trade relationship - was so humbling, so enthralling, so encouraging!

And what did we return with? Souvenirs, Christmas presents, garments, jewellery, ceramics. Above all, with great gratitude that we were able to make the trip and with a determination to do more for Fair Trade and Traidcraft. **It works! We've seen it working! We hope to go on another trip next year!** Anyone want to join us?



Dates for the diary

1 st Dec	2pm. Trellech School Christingle. St Nicholas Church
5 th Dec	4pm Advent Carols St Nicholas Church
7 th Dec	Family and Friends Quiz Night. St Nicholas Church
9 th Dec	Coffee morning, Green Pastures
18 th Dec	12noon. Wedding at Old Church
19 th Dec	Carol Services Catbrook and Old Church Blessing of marriage St Nicholas Trellech
22 nd Dec	Narth Carols service
24 th Dec	Nativity at the barn
25 th Dec	services as advertised
6 th Jan	7.30 pm. Churches Together meet . RC Church
11 th Jan	Soup lunch, Nyanza, Penallt
18 th Dec	Christian Unity Week begins - prayer octave
19 th Dec	Celebrating Diversity. Churches Together evening
23 rd Jan	Christian Unity bring and share lunch. 1pm Monmouth, St Mary's
30 th Jan	United service at Trellech Methodist church

Mobile Library dates - 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 Friday morning, at about 11.15, but because of vehicle problems, holidays and the weather, they often change the date at the last moment, so please phone the library to check; the van is expected Dec 10th and 31st. 21st January.

PLEASE support this very useful service ...

Library phone: - 01600-775215

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

