

EDITORIAL

As we settle into the Editor's chair, we do so with a sense of excitement, aware that we follow in a worthy succession.



A few days ago we outlined our vision and hopes for *The Treasury* to the Publicity Panel of the Church. One of these is the creation of *The Treasury's* own website:

www.yourtresury.co.uk

on which additional material and some of the Letters to the Editor that we hope to receive will appear.

Another of our aims is to try and improve the circulation of *The Treasury* by creating a magazine that increasingly uses the best technology and design we can afford to provide pertinent debate, informative news and helpful articles for our readers as we enter the second decade of the Millennium.

Please tell us if we fail to interest you when you pick up your copy of *The Treasury*, but we hope you will encourage us by continuing to subscribe.

If by chance people in the pew behind you are reading this over your shoulder, encourage them (kindly!) to buy their own copy of the magazine to boost circulation and ensure the future.

Revd Iain B Hodgins

New e-mail for *The Treasury*

Please note that all communications by e-mail should be sent to editors@yourtresury.co.uk

News from the Churches



TYDDYN ST UNITED CHURCH IN MOLD CELEBRATES ST DAVID'S DAY

St David's Day was celebrated in Mold's Tyddyn Street Church with a special presentation about the saint's life and work by the Sunday School led by Mrs Ann Richards. After the children gave their stories about Wales' patron saint, Mrs Richards outlined his remembered message of sustaining the faith by working at the little things. The celebration took place within the morning service led by the Minister, Revd Brian Acty.

The photo shows the Tyddyn Street Sunday School children with Mrs Ann Richards and Mrs Janet Wheldon in their Welsh costumes.

MACHYNLLETH

On Saturday 7th March the Mid Wales & Border Presbytery met to induct Revd Richard Davies as Part

Time minister. Mr Davies had moved to the town some years earlier to take up a teaching post at the local Comprehensive School until ill health compelled him to retire early. Having professed in his Bible teaching and fellowship in the church, the members and elder, Mr Gordon Mill sought the approval of the Life & Witness Board to recognise his ministry more formally.

A child of Bethany, Ammanford, Mr Davies was a student at the United Theological College in the early 1970's. He has held pastorates in the South East of England and North East Wales.

TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

In Neil Kirkham's concluding *Sabbatical Report* he travels to a Bridgend village to see an award winning church.

Cefn Cribwr is a village of 1500 people. I visited the Bethlehem Church Life Centre, a church with its roots in the 1904 revival. In 1923 the church met in members homes and didn't erect its first building until 1930. By the 1950's the membership wanted to continue in the moving and power of the Holy Spirit but reached the point in which this was no longer encouraged within the PCW. Hence they traveled the Pentecostal route, witnessing many healings and welcoming people from all over the world who have come and prophesied to the church.

In 2004 the membership stood at 70 and had varied little over the last 7 years. Desiring more the leaders conducted a door-to-door survey of the community and, in response, applied for a grant of £200,000 and built a new sports hall, fitness centre, offices and an Oasis cafe on what had been the car park.

Today Social Service and other groups use the building for conferences and meetings. The church runs its own youth clubs, makes space available for counseling and operates a community minibus. They employ 5 full time leaders and 4 part time staff to run the youth group and supervise the gym. Funding comes from church giving and revenue from use of the facilities- the turnover is between £200-300,000.

Four core leaders whose roles are Pastor/Teacher, Outreach Worker and Administrator lead the church. Everyone is assigned to a midweek small group called a Life Group and leaders of these groups undergo a 10-week training course. Members are encouraged to discover their Spiritual gifts. To this end they follow Rick Warren's material called SHAPE (Spiritual gifts, Heart, Ability, Personality, Experience). Leaders then sit down with people and help them identify areas of service.

Their vision for the future focuses on transforming the community. That includes acts of compassion like gardening, shopping, visiting and working amongst the worst off.

While I was there they received a Queen's Award for their contribution to the community and all the civic dignitaries and politicians were there for the presentation. Everyone in the area holds this church in high regard.

The members used to pray in monthly prayer meetings for opportunities to share in the Gospel. Now it has become a natural part of everything they do, whether it is sports coaching or in the cafe, the Good News is lived and spoken.

Neil Kirkham has spent the 17 years of his ministry at Llandudno. Previously a Civil Engineer, he was brought up in Moreton.

Thank you and best wishes

After many years as Editor of the *Treasury*, The Reverend David Jenkins has retired at the end of February. On behalf of all the readers of the *Treasury*, and the Publicity and Publishing Panel of the General Assembly I express our sincere thanks and appreciation for his devoted service. He has maintained the high standard of this popular publication.

I am sure all of us have read with admiration his editorial each month, and we have enjoyed the articles, letters and the news from the Churches. David, succeeded in editing a monthly that shared news with all the English speaking Churches of the Association in the East, and also made known to the readers the time of day within the whole Denomination. He has fulfilled an effective ministry for Christ within the pages of the *Treasury*. Thank you, David. May God bless your ministry within your Pastorate and the Presbyterian Church of Wales.

Whilst saying thank you, we welcome to the joint editorship of father and son, the Reverend Iain Hodgins and the Reverend Jonathan Hodgins, with Miss Eleanor Jenkins. I have already been impressed by their enthusiasm and desire to maintain the news value of the *Treasury*, and to glorify God in Christ within its pages. May God bless their ministry through the written word. We also thank the Association in the East for its care and sponsorship of the *Treasury*.

Harri Owain Jones, Chairperson of the Publicity and Publishing Panel