

St Francis of Assisi, Llay

PARISH NEWS

Mid-March 2025



The content in this Parish News is in addition to that in the Parish Bulletin, the Parish Website and the Diocesan newsletter, The Wrexham Clarion. If you have news or opinions of interest that you'd like to share here, would you please let our parish secretary know of them.

PARISH HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE



As parish priest Canon Lordan is responsible for Health and Safety within the parish – but this is something we can't expect him to undertake.

It would therefore be greatly appreciated if someone would volunteer to take on the role of parish health and safety representative to ensure that the parish is compliant with the health and safety legislation.

Maybe you do something similar in work? Maybe you would like to gain experience of this sort of responsibility? Or maybe you'd just like to contribute to parish life in a practical way?

Whatever your motivation there is lots of help to get you up and running – the Diocese would enrol you onto the training platform provided by the Diocesan insurers where there are 14 modules to complete. The Diocese is audited on health and safety matters by a company called Work Nest and they are a great source of help and assistance – and they have a portal with information on what the parish is required to do to operate safely and meet mandatory requirements.

It is essential that the parish has someone to take this on – if you will help, please let Canon know.

PARISH MEMORIES

Sheila Mills recalls happy memories of the parish youth club:

At Christmas 2024 I was lucky enough to visit our son Alan, his wife Belinda and children Cooper (16) and Dayna (12) in Sydney. We don't get to be together often unfortunately.

Alan was an active member of our PAC and contributed to the newsletter writing, in the 1990s. He was only in his 20s at the time and we had other active young people in the parish too.

As usual whilst in Sydney, I went to a number of churches, both Roman Catholic and Anglican, and was struck by how many young people were attending the services.

On my return I was reminded we have few young people in our congregation today when in the past we had so many. Some of you may also remember our youth club which Father Owen Hardwick asked me to lead, but we already had a group of mums running the group whilst holding down busy jobs.

The group had many enjoyable activities including cooking, table tennis, quizzes, guest speakers and many more, culminating each year with a barbecue at my house with games of rounders and football.

But I never got around to taking photographs of these activities as that wasn't so easy then.

It would be lovely if we could put together a few photographs to celebrate those times and if you have any that you'd like to share please let me know on mills733@btinternet.com. We could put them together, as a montage for the hall, or to include in a future issue of this Parish News.

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC AND ANGLICAN HIGH SCHOOL

The first Friday of March each year is designated "Women's World Day of Prayer." Women of the world unite to pray for the world. The essential purpose of the day is for prayer, but the day can also provide women with an opportunity to strengthen their ties with other Christian women as they pray together.

This year the women from the Cook Islands have spent time reflecting on this year's theme, which is "I Made You Wonderful", based on Psalm 139. They have focused on how the Psalm tells us we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God.

Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this theme from World Day of Prayer Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that women and girls, are "fearfully and wonderfully made" in the image of God reinforces support for women expressing their faith and talking about their lives.

The Chaplains staged an exhibition in school to mark Women's World Day of Prayer 2025. For this exhibition we asked every department in the school to be part of the exhibition by suggesting a "woman of note" alive or dead, in their subject area and to write a short explanation of them and their achievements. The women displayed are courageous and strong, innovators often ground-breaking in their time, sometimes challenging the norms of the society in which they lived. We hope the pupils will be inspired by their stories.

OSSUARIES – CHURCHES OF BONES

Here's a cheerful note to finish this month's Parish News -

Throughout the ages as communities have grown, there has often been insufficient land available for burials and this pressure gave rise to the catacombs in Rome and more extensively in underground chambers below Paris where over 6 million bodies are entombed.

Several religious communities in Europe overcame the problem by using the bones of their deceased colleagues to line the walls of their chapels, giving a constant reminder of the brevity of their lives!

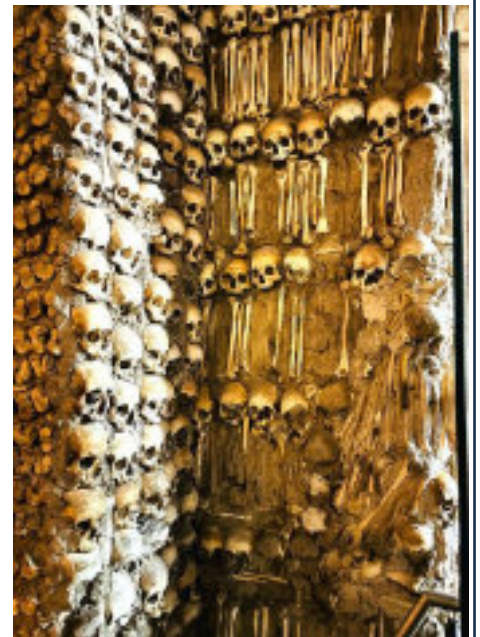
As one such chapel inscription has it –

Where are you going in such a hurry traveller?

Pause . . . you have no greater concern than this.

Recall how many have passed from this world, and reflect on your similar end.

Our bones that are here await yours.



Here are some photos taken recently by a parishioner in the Evora Ossuary Chapel in Portugal -

