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JUBILEE NEWS

ISSUE 5, December 2014

Celebrating 25 years of Menevia Diocese 1987 - 2012 ...and beyond ...

CROESO! WELCOME! to the 5th edition of 'Jubilee News'.

A batsman's six over the boundary. A rugby player's try at the Millennium Stadium. The birth of a baby. A reunion after a long break. A spacecraft landing on a comet. And not least of all: Menevia's priestly sky-divers landing on a six-pence – and turning it into more than £8,000! These are all wonderful achievements. There are many more we could mention, and many more still to come.

To these can be added the record Jubilee Appeal figure that to date has just topped the £1 million mark. Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to this magnificent sum. This is the moment when targets turn into facts, when hopes become realizations, when hard graft results in jubilation!

We have now moved financially into safer waters. We are able to meet the bills for clergy training in the future. We can support our priests in their retirement. We can consider pastoral projects in our parishes. We can build up reserves for the longer-term, and

benefit from the income stream that they generate in the next few years.

Extending the appeal to parishes between Easter 2015 and Easter 2016 will allow parishes to keep for themselves whatever funds they raise. This will be of particular help to smaller parishes, which can struggle to make ends meet. It will also provide opportunities to tackle local projects: renovating buildings, replacing outdated equipment, repairing this and that, promoting pastoral projects. Planning can start now.

So, as the main Jubilee Appeal reaches its climax at Easter 2015, I encourage a final effort in the next few months. Parishes will be able to look back and rightly say:

WE DID IT! WE DID IT OURSELVES!

WE ACHIEVED EVEN MORE THAN WE THOUGHT WOULD BE POSSIBLE!

Congratulations again, and a
MILLION THANKS!

from Bishop Tom



JUMPING FOR MENEVIA!



LOOK OUT! Fr. Mansel faces up to the reality of the big drop!



RELIEF! Bishop Tom looks a bit pale, but happy to have his 2 young Priests safely back on land!



"OPEN THAT PARACHUTE" shouts Fr. Liam!! only 12,000 feet to go!

It was a bright, cool day in September, as George Orwell might have said. Cloud cover was light, but thick enough to conceal the launch. Our two intrepid Priests, suitably attired in protective overalls and helmets, including, somewhat incongruously, their Roman Collars! - walked out in front of 70 enthusiastic supporters, including Bishop Tom. They boarded the aircraft that would bear them heavenward, to hurl themselves into a 12,000 feet Skydive in support of the Menevia Jubilee Fund. Fr. Liam had confessed to being 'not too good with heights!' He'd been persuaded to join Mansel on the venture by the assurance of 'a firm push in the back I'm sure we'll both be thinking of the Fund as we plummet to earth! After all, what else could you possibly be thinking of as the ground rushes up at 120mph?! The drone of the aircraft engine faded, then, out of the cloud, still over the sea, two figures, each piggy-backed by their 'buddy', appeared and descended to earth, their parachutes skilfully manoeuvred.

"What made you decide to do it?" - it's the same as people ask me regarding my priesthood. The answer, in some ways is the same.....it's not "this is what I decided to do", rather "that was what I was called to do".

However, the call and response to Skydive came rather more suddenly than the call to priesthood. There was certainly much less discernment around deciding to jump out of an airplane, 12000 feet above Swansea.

Skydiving for the first time means stepping into the unknown and putting your trust in the hands of a stranger. The rewards for letting someone take control are breathtakingly liberating. It takes a while to convince yourself you are in safe hands, but when that moment comes you know everything will be alright. Would I do it again? Oh Yes!

And the RESULT? Well, at the last count, still with some sponsorship returns to come in, it was £8,000 and counting!! any more