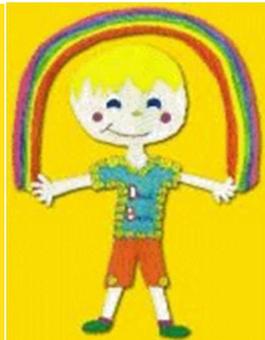


2.6: Plant Dewi's marathon challenge

On 19th March, the devastating decision was made to close all Plant Dewi projects across the diocese due to the pandemic. Undaunted, the team launched a fundraiser which proved a huge success, writes Catrin Evans

We, like everyone else, were facing a complete unknown. We had so many questions: how would our families cope, how could we support them, when would we see each other again and what would happen to the charity? There were reports that charities in the UK would lose £4bn in the first 12 weeks of lockdown, so how would we bring money in to keep us going?

The Plant Dewi team in Carmarthen and Pembroke Dock felt it was a good opportunity for us to do some online fundraising and demonstrate our commitment. Even though we've always attended fundraising events that our supporters have arranged, we hadn't really done anything ourselves! Now was our time.



We used the London Marathon's 2.6 challenge as a theme and, on 1st May, the team of 10 took on personal challenges for 26 days. Catrin cycled for 26 minutes a day and Jane for 2.6 miles a day; Sam drank 2.6 litres of water a day; Christina and Carys worked out for 26 minutes a day; Vicky learned Welsh for 26 minutes a day; Marian went up and down the stairs 26 times a day; Flora did yoga for 26 minutes a day; Carol created a new painting every day (one pictured), and Peter did 26 press ups/sit ups a day.

We also set a team challenge – we walked the distance from the office in Carmarthen to St Davids Cathedral every week in May; a total of 184 miles between us. We normally covered that, and most of the way back, and it definitely got us moving.

Our JustGiving page was launched and donations started coming in. We were overjoyed at the support and, in the end, we raised £2,452 (including Gift Aid) - a fantastic amount of money. We would like to thank everyone who donated – it was amazing to see the kindness and generosity of so many people who were also facing difficult times.

The 2.6 challenge brought us together as a team when we couldn't see each other, it gave us a focus at such a difficult time while having to work from home, being isolated from our

families and friends and facing so much uncertainty. It also raised awareness of Plant Dewi and the excellent work that is done across the diocese.