

Ministry Area of Llantrisant
Report for Annual Vestry 2021



Living the Way of the Saints/Bwy Ffordd y Saint



Report from St Illtud's Church Village & Llanwit Fardre

Rreport to Benefice Church Council from St Illtud's Church Village 2020

1. Introduction

As is repeated here, and from others in the Benefice 2020 has not been the best of years and has been hard in many ways. Also deeply frustrating in that the Ministry Area, through nobody's fault, has been hampered in doing as much as was hoped for it. Frustration too as Fr Philip was unable to work for some of the year, and lockdowns got in our path making the Ministry Area teams operation and development rather difficult. It has to be said that worship continued via new methods and for these all remain grateful. Our concern for our clergy was kept on high alert and what they have done across the Benefice has to be marked as excellent and / or remarkable depending on how folks wish to score it.

After initial difficulty in setting up the Ministry Area the expectation of a new start was largely dashed by Covid 19. We can look forward to commencing fully in the weeks to come and hopefully the old boundaries will dissolve and the move forward will be as a single body that is the whole benefice, all as sisters and brothers together.

Some crossing of old barriers has taken place help to Llantrisant re grass cutting and similarly to Pontyclun, the reverse from Llantrisant to St Illtud's to set up the routines and signage for services under Covid. There has been some attendance in Churches from other former Parishes thought the restrictions of Covid have mitigated against this significantly.

Zoom meetings have allowed us to rough cut manage issues when discussions were needed and thus we have met the charge of St. David of doing the small things as best we can.

As noted below we have lost some of our number during the year and our Clergy have had a unwelcome increase in the number of funeral services across the benefice. So far this has been managed effectively and for this again much thanks. Parishioners have scurried about to deliver news and support each other as much as they were able and for this we thank God for the willingness to do so and the inspiration given to us to do this.

I must thank particularly Anne Brown and Brenda Evans in doing so much to keep the Church on track and to keep us on top of all our duties. Also the Tuesday Team who never flagged in working around the Church and the Church Grounds. There are many more I would wish to thank for following the pattern set for us by Christ in serving others but there are too many to do so.

Of notable significance in the year the work on the Tower was completed which has totally revived the front of the Church from its somewhat dilapidated appearance to a "wedding ready" state. For that we give thanks to God and to all those involved in the restorative effort, that would be all of the former Parish of course plus our Diocese staff who helped so much.

2. YEAR OF PILGRIMAGE:

With the pandemic of 2020 taking over everything else, it is sometimes hard to believe that for the first two months of the year some "normal" things took place in Church life. On the 12th January 2020 Fr Philip, Gareth, Liz, Brenda and myself attended a service in the Cathedral proclaiming the start of the Year of Pilgrimage celebrating the 100th birthday of the Church in Wales and collected Emily the Pilgrimage Bear.

On the first Monday in our care she attended Welsh lessons with Gareth and Liz at Garth Olwg and was made an Honorary Member of Mothers Union the following day. On Wednesday afternoon of the first

week she helped out at Tiny Tails the dog groomers in Church Village where Milly (Anne's daughter's dog) had an appointment at 2pm. Further happenings for her that week were that she had her hair done by a local hairdresser, helped Brenda printing out the weekly sheet, assisted with the flower arrangements in church and attended both the 8am and 10am service on the 19th January. The following Monday she went shopping with Liz and Lorraine for food items for the Mothers Union contribution to Castle House and later that evening attended a meeting in Llantrisant of the Archdeacons, Area Dean and church wardens of all parishes about the new proposals from the Bishop regarding the proposed (as it was then) Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant. Later that week she was taken by a parishioner on a pilgrimage to St David's.

Emily's last appearance in the Parish was in the coffee morning on the 30th January 2020 at a special event to say goodbye when in excess of 25 people turned up along with a visitor from Brynna Parish who had met Gareth when collecting candles at the Cathedral at the start of the Year of Pilgrimage and whose Parish we were to join with in the newly formed Ministry Area in due course.

On Sunday the 9th February 2020 our term of having care of Emily ended and Brenda and I safely delivered her together with the shell, rucksack and staff to the safe keeping of St Luke's Cilfynydd at the 9.30 service and officially handed Emily over to the safe keeping of the Rev Gill Tuck. Emily continued her journey around the Deanery that morning when she was taken to St Catherine's in Pontypridd in time for the 11am service.

All in all it was a hectic start of her pilgrimage journey when we of course were not to know that things would grind to a halt by mid-March due to Covid 19.

Anne Brown

Sadly the events of 2020 made our year of pilgrimage one of a different nature. We journeyed on not in isolation but as a band of brothers and sisters linked by e-mail and the near miracles of "Teams" and "Zoom". Our path of pilgrimage sadly saw some fall during the year but the group pressed on with the alternative form of pilgrimage never forgetting the commission set for us by Bishop June. One humorous note our group was split up in the Cathedral when the year was commissioned, and it transpired that both Anne and I went each to one of us to the alternative two candle distribution points. This resulted in two candles in St Illtud's when we were entitled only to one! Confession is good for the soul, but it was done in pure innocence.

Gareth Jones

3. Treasurers report

Attached is the full statement for St Illtud's Church Llantwit Fardre. The year has proved to be as harsh in terms of running the finances of the Church as has been the case in other areas of activity. The actions of the Diocese to assist all Parishes and the Ministry Areas has been very beneficial and our thanks go to them. The year saw a great deal of activity in respect of the tower renovation which saw us deplete the funding held for us by Llandaff from the sale of the former Church Hall; this was only possible after an approach and clearance from the Charity Commissioners. Some juggling between accounts was necessary to allow the payments for the tower to be concluded as funds from Llandaff and from the operators of the Welsh Church Act funds generally came after bills were required to be paid. Similarly the recovery of VAT proceeded with minor hiccups to a successful conclusion to recover payments made to contractors.

Thanks are extended to Len Tarr for his sterling work in handling VAT recovery in relation to planned giving and advice on many aspects of financing the Church and advice generally.

The year saw us conclude with a surprising excess of income over expenditure of £19053 but this reflects sums repaid to us in respect of the tower renovation and are held over to form the basis of funding of the Phase 23 redevelopment of the Church notably the dire need to renew the lighting system and install safety features for two of the doors into the Church. These sums could have been returned to Llandaff into the restricted fund from the Church Hall sale but they would have been withdrawn again in a matter of months making the repayment and the work in the Diocese legal team somewhat pointless. The same applies to the

VAT repayments. The excess income over expenditure also reflects the aid given by the Diocese in the year and the figure would be very much smaller but for that support.

4. Church Fabric,

2020 gave us some chance to finish the contract on the Church Tower. The fact that significant tracts of time saw the Church closed meant that the contractor could work without services to make things more awkward. The wet spring and the drying out of the tower once the old cladding was removed however acted in the opposite fashion. Thankfully the work was completed by early Autumn offering us a most pleasing aspect to the Church and a big improvement on the view that had been the case for more years than was desired. Some minor reordering in the Church was undertaken which allowed the Christmas Tree a space in the Nave all the pews with dedications being preserved as is correct. The doors to the lady Chapel and the Tower entrance were renovated provided the final touches to the scheme making St Illtud's a "wedding picture perfect" setting now. It must be recorded that the Architect involved, Michael Plageman, provided excellent advice and service and our builders were magnificent in all they did.

Work on the interior of the Church commenced with a plan to repair the roof (not extensive), to redecorate the interior, re-carpet the nave and replace the interior lighting. The brightness of the Tower the fabric team deem made work on the interior very necessary. A Faculty was submitted and has been approved to allow the work to commence. As the Church Year changed tenders have been issued are expected to be received very early in the new year.

The Tuesday grounds team (Team Tuesday) have maintained a yearlong effort to keep the Church grounds looking good, a task they have achieved with some panache. Similarly, small jobs not requiring a faculty have been achieved through the good offices of this group. Indeed, the group responded to help two other Churches in the Benefice when they needed assistance in lock down and normal grass cutting etc. could not be provided from usual sources. Sadly the team lost Alasdair in the year his passing was marked by a drive past the Church with many of the congregation standing roadside as a mark of respect to the loss of a dear colleague.

The plan looking forward is to consider a Phase 3 (likely to be on a much smaller scale than the previous schemes) and to fully check the grave headstones etc. in the grounds; some of which appear to be declining in safety requirements.

A general tidy up opportunity afforded by the lockdown has been undertaken and our alarm system has been rechecked to prevent numerous alarm calls and disturbance to our neighbors.

It is noted that the 2022 should be the programmed quinquennial review date, which should hopefully find the Church in a much improved state from the last review.

5. Sunday School.

The impact of the Pandemic and the closure of the Church impacted heavily on the Sunday School. What services were possible were very limited and the Sunday School did not operate. Hopefully 2021 will see its return once safe and permitted to continue

6. Operation Christmas Child

7. We have supported this Charity for many years and were able to do on line again this year . With monies received from the congregation following a plea in our weekly sheet (more on this later) we were able to pay for 46 boxes.

6 Weekly Sheet

(Brown) started this way back in March 2020 at first lock down with the intention of keeping the Parish in touch throughout the Pandemic. It was thought in the beginning that it would be a few sheets (similar to those produced for morning worship) and would run for a few weeks or months at the most. When it started on the 29th March 2020 we sent out by email to 42 Parishioners and a further 15 sheets were delivered by hand to a 15 people who did not have computer access. By March 2021 the emailed copy was going out to 70 Parishioners and the same 15 people receiving those each week from the volunteer “postmen” or “postwomen” as the case may be. Apart from church news, readings, prayers, and news of the Ministry Area contributions were asked from various contributors and a weekly page(s) is received from Gareth (the Benefice Warden) Len Tarr our Gift Aid Secretary, and monthly from Bishop Richard (who helped out when Philip was on sick leave in 2018) and Fr Kevin Simpson now based on Caldey who used to be our Curate many years ago. In addition Anne’s sister in Perth, Western Australia is a regular contributor as are members of both the previous 8am and 10am congregations. The sheet sometimes runs to 12 pages with various pictures from peoples’ gardens, the church yard, and anything appropriate at the time. Liz (Gareth’s wife) keeps us up to date on the Foodbank and Mothers Union matters and Len Tarr’s articles have covered Priests robes, all windows in St Illtud, the Cathedral, Ministry Area churches, the smallpox outbreak in 1962 and various notable graves in the churchyard. It was also used as a way of sending Christmas greetings to friends in the Parish not seen for many months. The work on the recently completed tower was regularly printed with photographs as well as the news on the upcoming Phase 2 work covering the electrical and decoration. Anne’s daughter, Claire, has also helped enormously with the preparation of the weekly sheet and we are grateful for her input.



There are three Mothers’ Union Branches within the Ministry Area, Llanharan, Llantrisant, and Llantwit Fardre. This year the branches have acted in their usual way in preparing for the Annual Vestry Meeting. Hopefully we will be able to organise some joint meetings as well as our branch meetings, and next year we may be able to present one annual report, which covers all three branches.

None of the branches has been able to meet together since February 2020, but this does not mean we have been idle.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 OF LLANTWIT FARDRE BRANCH MOTHERS’ UNION

On behalf of Pontypridd Deanery on Sunday 12th January 2020 Liz Jones, Branch Leader, accepted the Archdeaconry Artefacts and Emily Bear from Bishop June at the service in Llandaff Cathedral to mark the start of the Diocesan Year of Pilgrimage. The Parish of Llantwit Fardre hosted Emily Bear and showed her around the area in time allocated to us. She had several adventures, went to parishioner’s homes, came to our MU January meeting where she was made an honorary member of MU, and a church coffee morning before moving on to St.

Luke's Cilfynydd and the Pontypridd Ministry Area. I believe her adventures ended in Llantrisant, where she may still be quarantined.

Llantwit Fardre Branch MU met to pray the Wave of Prayer at the end of January, several praying in church and others in their homes.

The branch held their last meeting in February, where several services and plans for the rest of the year were outlined, including the World Day of Prayer, a Quiet Day at the cathedral on Lady Day, the Pontypridd Deanery Festival in May and the Archdeaconry Eucharist in June. By the time our March meeting was due, we had been advised to stop all group meetings and the rest as they say, is history.

Mothers' Union is very different at the moment. Llantwit Fardre Branch have not been able to meet together, but we do communicate by phone and with socially distanced doorstep chats. Publications such as "In Touch" the Llandaff Diocese MU quarterly magazine and the Annual Prayer Diary have been delivered and our chaplain, Revd Sandra Birdsall has produced Devotions every Sunday and Wednesday which have been delivered electronically to members or their relatives, or by older "paper boys" who get regular exercise pounding the streets, delivering a print copy to those who have no access to the internet. There have been services for special occasions on YouTube and Zoom at national and diocesan level, the latest being the Lady Day Service from the Lady Chapel of Llandaff Cathedral.

All members received an Easter card with some individually wrapped chocolate eggs delivered by the Branch Leader Liz or the Branch Secretary Betty.

Our Branch Leader, Liz Jones has contributed a video reading of daily prayers for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in November and United in Seven Days of Prayer, which lasted from International Women's Day to Mothering Sunday. Both were broadcast on the Mothers' Union Llandaff Diocese Facebook page. Liz also contributed to Live at Five in August, when MU celebrates the birthday of their founder, Mary Sumner.

Llandaff Diocese MU have joined Digital Volunteers and now have ipads with wifi to loan so members (and others in the diocese) can see if they would like to use them to contact friends and family and access church services and other activities. There is an article about this in "Connected" the new MU magazine for all members.

Several Llantwit Fardre members have been busy sewing face masks, scrubs bags and knitting hearts and warm hats as local need has arisen. This is as well as our usual newborn baby clothes and blankets for Cwtch Baby Bank in Taffs Well. They are not able to take handmade donations at present, but the pile will be all the bigger when they do start again.

Pontypridd Deanery MU has a project with Castle House in Treforest, where a different MU branch provides the ingredients for

their monthly cookery sessions. Although these sessions have stopped, MU have continued to support the staff and residents by giving them a card and a voucher at Christmas and Easter.

Our Branch Leader, Liz, is a Vice-president for the Diocese and also the Away From It All Rep, receiving the applications for holidays in the MU caravan in Porthcawl. The caravan was closed all last season, but is opening this year from April to the Autumn half-term. Christine Smith and Josie Bolton from Llantrisant Branch serve with Liz in the Action & Outreach Team, which organise the caravan, plus other diocesan projects, our Ministry Area is well represented at Diocesan level of the MU.

Liz Jones, Branch Leader.



***Report from St. Michael's, Beddau, Ss. Iltyd, Gwynno & Dfyodwg,
Llantrisant & St. David's, Miskin***

Llantrisant, Miskin & Beddau

2020 did not quite work out as we had planned!

The Year of Pilgrimage was not the pilgrimage we had hoped for; it was certainly a journey - of learning, new technology, new terminology, new ways of being church, new ways of connecting. Most of us walked more, enjoyed our local area more, shopped online a lot more and watched more box sets!

We lost a number of dear people along the way and we commend them to God's safekeeping.

We as a parish became The Rectorial Benefice of Llantrisant on 1st March 2020 joining up with the parishes of Llantwit Fardre, Pontyclun and Llanharan - 9 churches in all.

We welcomed, albeit remotely, Vincent and family to Llantrisant in May and said goodbye to our Assistant Curate Steve Brett at the end of June, not long after that we welcomed Rose and her family to Pontyclun. Not the finish of an old job or the start of new job that we would have liked for them.

Many have tried to keep in touch with their family and friends and church family through something we hadn't heard of before - 'Zoom'. It has been both a challenge and a blessing, 'we can see you but we can't hear you' was our cry!

Worship on social media has also been a learning curve, we have learnt a huge amount about what works and what doesn't. We have touched many who had no connection to church before the lockdown and long may that continue. We are very grateful to so many people for the online services that have been produced, songs from Llantrisant Worship Group, KidzDen@10 children's service, Worship sing-a-long, Live@5 and many more traditional services that were adapted for social media.

There are many services, events and meetings that we've missed, among them are Mother's Union, Dementia Support Group, House groups, Click and Chatter, Christmas tree festival, Women of the Well, Partners in Prayer although we've carried on praying for each other and for many people in our families and in our communities.

Thankfully, the vaccines are being rolled out now; many of our older members have had both doses and are feeling more confident to get out and about, the younger ones patiently waiting their turn. God definitely does move in mysterious ways and no more so than in this last year, sometimes it feels like a mystery how we coped. Many thanks to everyone for working so hard and getting us through it.

We look forward with confidence to the year ahead in our Ministry Area, we know God has a great work for us to do in our churches and in our community and our prayer is that we can work together to build up His Kingdom in this place.

'And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose'

Romans 8:28 ESV

Shirley Evans

REPORT FOR ANNUAL EASTER VESTRY 2021

Mothers' Union is a global Christian membership charity that has been providing a support network for families since 1876.

Working through our 4 million strong membership we campaign for policies which strengthen family life.

Our focus on ending gender based violence is promoted not only through our advocacy, but through working sensitively with communities for increased gender equality.

Our focus on improving the lives of children is through practical outreach in the provision of parenting groups.

Our members work with families who are going through times of stress and hardship, bringing practical support.

Reading over the M.U. report for last year's Easter Vestry meeting made me realise the extent this pandemic has had on our M.U. lives. It has certainly stopped us meeting and enjoying the best of M.U. where we chat, have tea, listen to a speaker and catch up on news both M.U. and our own.

It may have stopped us meeting together but it has not stopped us being together as a group in thought and care and that has been most important.

So, what have Llantrisant M.U. members done over this last year?

Members have knitted beanie hats for covid patients in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. This was after a request from the hospital saying the air conditioning was keeping temperatures low and patients heads were cold. It was a small way we could help.

Members knitted red hearts for the Prince Charles Merthyr Hospital who wanted to give these to patients and families who could not see each other, who could not be together at this upsetting time. It was a link for them both.

Other red hearts were used at Mountain Ash Hospital for cancer patients who also had to undergo treatment alone. These hearts were asked for by the hospitals who wanted ways to keep families in touch.

Members also knitted squares for the mothers and babies of the baby unit in the Heath Hospital.

So, much knitting went on during lockdown, but it meant M.U. members were keeping in touch with each other and helping communities.

Our Castle House support project in Treforest was not able to go ahead as usual because the residents there were not able to gather as a group to eat together during lockdown. However we were able to send them a voucher at Christmas and Easter asking them to buy small gifts for each other so they knew we were thinking of them.

The support we, and all Llandaff branches give the caravan in Porthcawl has been severely curtailed this year as we have not been able to have coffee mornings or other fund raising activities. The caravan itself was not used last year

because of covid issues but this year we are able to use it again, albeit on a reduced capacity and happily once more disadvantaged families can again have the opportunity to spend time together in a relaxed setting.

Mothers' Union have had a wealth of resources on line and members with internet access and knowledge have been able to access services for Quiet Days, Deanery Festivals and all the traditional celebrations throughout the year.

Our M.U.chaplain Sandra Birdsall has written devotions twice a week throughout the year and members able to access them via e mail have all appreciated their words of reflection, understanding and encouragement.

As a branch we were aware that not all our members had access to the internet and so we kept in touch by telephone calls.

We also delivered the In Touch magazine to members so they could have the Diocese news and also meet a member (at a distance!) at their front door.

At Christmas we delivered to each members home a Christmas card and slice of Christmas cake and suggested a time and date when we could all sit in our own homes and reflect together and perhaps read through the M.U. prayer.

We also did this at Easter and again took an Easter card and gift of eggs with a time and date when we could all sit at home and remember each other.

We felt this was a way we could again be together if not in body then spirit.

Throughout the year, as in every year, there is the daily Wave of Prayer and our list of members to pray for.

This has been a challenging year for all our members. I hope we will be able to meet again in person soon and continue our fellowship together and support the work of the Mother's Union.

J.Bolton (Llantrisant branch Secretary)

Worship Group Annual Report 2021

What a year of changes! A little over a year ago, we sat by a lakeside eating afternoon tea together at one of our socials. We discussed that afternoon, our thoughts on the past year and we discussed where we felt God might be leading us to next. In our last report I wrote that we felt that God was calling us to serve our local community in a different way. At that time we were unsure of how that may look but we felt compelled to look for ways in which we could serve the wider community.

This last year has seen us as a group face challenges in ways we had before not imagined possible. This pandemic has enabled us to be creative in how we serve our Lord and the church. Back in March 2020, as we went into lockdown and all contact services were suspended, I had a conversation with Steve Brett and I asked: "how can we as a Worship team support you at this time?". Steve had begun a live at 5pm on Facebook that he was delivering every day. He asked that we would do two of the live at 5's on Facebook a week. We initially started doing these as a team, taking it in turn to cover a Monday and Saturday. In the weeks and months that followed, other church members began to offer their support for the live at 5's. In September, the frequency changed to one live at 5 a week on a Saturday and these have been maintained throughout the past year with only a handful of times in which there was no live at 5 uploaded.

Over the past year we have faced the new challenge of learning how to record songs enabling us to play together virtually. Each of us creating our own individual recording to a click track which were then all placed together. At present we have a total of 13 recorded songs available to be used in online church services. The very first song was put together by a friend of Rhiannon's using a free app her mobile phone. Charlotte Darlington and her partner Ian Williams of Highlight Photography have put together 6 of the songs for us whilst they were experiencing a quieter period in work. Steve Davis has produced the latest seven songs for us.

As well as the song recordings, we have also planned and put together two lay led services this year with the help of other church members. The first was the crib service which was posted to Facebook on Christmas Eve in the afternoon, and the latest was a Sunday morning lay led service on the 21st March. It seems that these were well received by the church and wider community, and the children enjoyed taking part in them. During the few in-person services we have had in Llantrisant church, we have enjoyed being able to worship together and the familiarity of our role as a worship group in leading worship, albeit very strange playing together in masks and unable to sing. We appreciate the support we have been given by Vincent throughout his time in the church in an unprecedented year.

I want to state that we all feel privileged and enjoy serving and helping lead worship in Llantrisant Church. We envisage our role in supporting the church and its leadership to be just as important in the coming months. In this time we will continue to serve and support the church and its leadership by using our God given gifts and talents and our hearts for worship to the glory of God. We hope and pray God continues to use us to bring people closer to Jesus as he is at the centre of our worship. And more so than ever this year, we pray that he uses us to serve and support the community which we are a part of.

Rhiannon Stevens

Worship Group

Beddau House Group.

Well as you can imagine it has been quite a year for the house group which stopped physically meeting in early 2020, however, continued to keep in touch through technology such as WhatsApp and zoom.

At the beginning of 2020 we started and did finish the pilgrimage guide for lent provided by the Diocese, but then started a new pilgrimage under covid 19 conditions! The group has supported each other through prayers, sharing bible verses and many have also joined the 2ponder group run by Frank and Jean Ball, so plenty to keep us going.

As we emerge from lockdown, we shall monitor the guidance and will aim to meet again soon following any guidelines provided by the Government and the Diocese.

Peter Darlington

Men who Breakfast!

We have been able to meet a few times this past year when Government guidelines allowed. We have enjoyed meeting up at the Coach-yard café supporting Alicia and her team with numbers varying from a few to well into the teens on occasions. We did manage to meet up in early summer to wish our Curate at the time Steve Brett a fond farewell as he moved with his family down West Wales.

We have been supported by those from other churches including Bethel and St Paul's and some non- church goers as we treat this as an outreach event in the community. We are hoping to invite other men from the other churches in our Benefice as conditions allow in 2021.

Peter Darlington

Men's Life Group.

Like many groups we have moved onto online contact under Covid 19 conditions and instead of meeting we formed a WhatsApp Group. The biggest change though was being able to join in with the CVM Cymru online events which became 'M8s on Monday' and we were able to join up to 30 guys across Wales in fellowship, worship and support. As we emerge from Lockdown, we shall see what the vision is for the Benefice and how Men's ministry can be developed into the Community.

Peter Darlington



***Report from St. Paul, Pontyclun, St. Illtyd, Llanharry & St. Anne,
Talygarn***

Pontyclun, Talygarn and Llanharry

'Verger's ' Reports 2020/2021

SUNDAY SCHOOL ST PAUL'S PONTYCLUN

Due to ongoing restrictions Sunday School, as others, has been held 'on line' with 3 sessions. The links have been emailed to the children's families in addition to being texted - feedback has been positive and it is hoped that others have also joined in.

In addition, the children have also participated in a number of services that Mother Rose has recorded, including Mothering Sunday. They have read prayers or readings and have enjoyed being part of the service.

As with all Church services and activities this last year has been difficult with us not being able to meet face to face. It is hoped that we will soon be able to meet again, but the priority will remain the safety of the children and the wider congregation.

Sian Bolton.

VERGER'S REPORT ST. PAUL'S PONTYCLUN

This last year has seen a change in the way we worship in Church and a new online way of our faith has been established.

With various lockdowns taking place our Church has coped well, as this pandemic has affected all our lives.

As we were all getting prepared for Christmas the last lockdown happened, however our faith has carried us through this unusual time.

Our hopes are that shortly we will be able to meet again, this being helped by the rollout of the vaccines.

Janice Mabley & Peter Read,
Vergers.

VERGER'S REPORT ST ANNE'S TALYGARN

Congregation

Our congregation numbers have remained steady at St Anne's throughout the year with good support when we were able to open for services. Thanks are due to Servers/Readers/Sides-persons/Organist (music only) and cleaning duties. Thank you to each and every one for their help and welcome engendering a friendly positive atmosphere which is extended not only to church members but to all who walk through our doors.

Corona Virus.

It is confirmed that St Anne's adheres to the guidelines for Llandaff (CiW) and government in relation to the Covid 19 Virus. St Anne's has remained closed for worship since 21st December 2020.

Sunday School

Currently there is not Sunday School held at St Anne's, enquiries are directed to Sian Bolton as Head of the Sunday School held in St Paul's, Pontyclun. Sian & Mthr Rose have worked together to produce On-line Sunday School sessions.

Verger/Wardens.

Chris Searle has taken on the title of verger, for St Anne's, for church records, but a committee comprising of Mary John, Jean Jones and Chris Searle look after St Anne's.

Wedding & Baptisms

There has been a drastic fall in the number of weddings held in St Anne's over recent years. This can be attributed to Hotels and other venues offering full wedding packages, which appear to be the trend at the moment.

Baptisms have also fallen. Due to COVID 'lock down' it is difficult to communicate fully, however Mthr Rosemary has details of any future baptisms, funerals and weddings at St Anne's, which may have been postponed due to COVID regulations and re-booked. At the moment we understand there is one Baptism scheduled for 24th May 2021, but at present no weddings are booked for 2021.

P.A.T. TESTING

P.A.T. testing was carried out on

Fire Extinguishers

The last date for inspection indicated on the Fire Extinguishers was.....

Heating Boiler

The last date the boiler was serviced was 07.05.2019. Servicing of the boiler will have to be arranged before the heating is turned on again in the Autumn 2021. It is confirmed under Covid regulations the Hot Air induction heating system cannot and has not been used.

Churchyard

A group of 5 volunteers commenced tidying up the churchyard in January 2021, working socially distanced and observing COVID regulations - Malcolm John, Mary John, Chris Searle, Jeff (who lives in the Manor) and Gary (who is an immediate neighbour to the Church)

A lot of clearing has taken place and people who walk through the churchyard regularly stop to talk and say how much they appreciate the effort made by all. A number of people and young families have expressed an interest in helping and hopefully when COVID regulations lift we can think about forming a St Anne's Churchyard Group. The aim will be to tidy-up the graves and churchyard in general but to retain the integrity of a wild rural churchyard. It is also envisaged that we will put up nest boxes for various types of birds, including owls, and to create two or more hedgehog houses for winter / breeding purposes. Mthr Rosemary plans to hold Woodland Services in the open air for the children and young families. We also hope to work towards forming a nature group for children whereby they can explore God's creation through the medium of the churchyard.

This is all done in support of Fr. Vincent's project of creating a garden in the lower churchyard for the community.

Roof & Tower.

Since the interim roof repair in December last year, the ingress of water has reduced, but there is still water coming in through the tower roof, (where partial repairs were carried out) onto the vestry concrete floor and seeping into the carpet in the Nave. It is intended by the use of the 'drone', we can look at the gutters and gullies to assess what condition they are in. Arrangements for this to be done, with Mthr Rosemary in attendance, are in the process of being made. The church architect, Horowski and Lewis, have advised Sarah Perons, CiW Diocesan office, that the gutters and gullies be cleaned out before any other investigation into the cause of the continued ingress of water is carried out. Due to COVID shutdown/ restrictions this has, to date, not been possible, but costing will be obtained once the visual inspection has been made.

Mary John

Chris Searle

Jean Jones.

St Anne's Church Committee

14.04.21

BIBLE STUDY

We broke off in the middle of Lent Courses held in Church a year ago. We have been unable to meet since that time. During Lockdowns we have kept in touch, with all those who use the Bible Study mostly, by telephone. The group are raring to resume our study of the Bible as soon as it is safe to do so.

Dave & Ann Allen.

**PARISH OF PONTYCLUN, TALYGARN & LLANHARRY
COMMUNITY SHOP REPORT**

Our community Shop has been closed under COVID restrictions for more than half of 2020. Even when we were able to open it was within strict COVID compliance. We have furloughed our Manager, and received funds for her wages. We have received rate relief on our properties, and also grants for keeping the business afloat. We are now getting ready for a possible re-opening in April 2021.

When we re-open we will need your support. We wish to brand the shop as a 'Church Christian Outreach' into our society. We are aware that we are now in a Benifice of 9 churches and wish to reach out to all in these congregations. But we do need support. We are looking for volunteers to work in the shop for 4 hours a session, one a week, to do the tasks necessary in the shop. This includes service customers, accepting donations, sorting donations, once they have been quarantined, pricing stock, shop maintenance, displaying stock. etc. We also need more members for the shop 'Board'. So whatever your skills, we have a job for you ! Please help.

David & Ann Allen
St Paul's.

St ILLTYD'S CHURCH LLANHARRY.

Unfortunately St Illtyd's, as all other churches has been closed, but we have found our way around these problems with massive support from Mthr. Rose and Fthr Vincent in all the on-line services, projects and support from various members of the congregations within the Benifice.

We knew there would be changes, but I don't think anyone of us expected what the Pandemic mean to us all. We all had faith and hope, that we would come through this and make us stronger to carry on.

Naturally, as all others, church 'Fund Raising' has been badly affected, but hopefully we can recover part of what has been lost in 2021/2022 with God's help and our hard work.

I have kept in touch with our congregation and kept them informed as much as I can, all looking forward and eager to meet again at St *Illtyd's*.

It feels as we are all on the starting line waiting for the OFF.

Annual Maintenance in St Illtyd's

PAT Testing

28 July 2020.

Gas boilers in Church and Hall were serviced

28th January 2021

Fire Extinguishers and safety check

4th March 2021

Health and safety issues

No accidents to report and the need for a handrail on the stairs in the church hall is ongoing.

Church Maintenance

There are a few items still to be completed which are outstanding from the restoration work done in 2017, but obviously due to our Global situation this has not been organised, let us hope we will be able to complete some of it in the near future.



Report from St. Peters, Brynna & St. Julius & Aaron, Llanharan

Report for the Vestry meeting from Llanharan

It is difficult to sum up our emotions of the past 13 months in the parish but I think it fair to say we have had a feeling of being bereft. In that period we have had a total of 6 in person services, 1 Sunday in each of the 2 churches and 4 Weds in Llanharan,. Unfortunately many of the parishioners have failed to get to the on-line worship, some without the necessary devices, some without the technical ability, and some not able to cope with virtual worship. Efforts have been made to keep in touch with parishioners. Brynna has had regular virtual prayer meetings, but again without many of the limited congregation. Some church members have spent time on the 'phone trying to lift the spirits of the elderly, sick or lonely in the lockdown, and some have joined virtual worship in other parishes.

The MU has not met but have been kept up to date by June Windsor the MU leader, and the former wardens have had a difficult task in maintaining the buildings in Llanharan with the church suffering damp and mould, plus a mouse infestation in the church hall. The window in Brynna following the break in has now been repaired. Contact with the schools for the Easter and Christmas Experiences has been lost as has the storytelling group, led by Rosina.

We have been cognisant that the Ministry Area, with 9 churches and 2 clergy, both of whom were new to the area and not knowing the various congregations have had an almost impossible task, which has left a feeling of neglect and lack of communication. The recent announcement of appointments is very welcome in addition to the easing of Covid restrictions and gives hope and anticipation of a brighter future. There is the realisation that we will have lost membership and that social distancing will continue for a lengthy time and will restrict attendance. The spate of house building means we have not been able to tackle the contact which we might have had ecumenically with the new estates. Our normal contact with our colleagues in the Methodist and Baptist churches has also gone by the board.

Some parishioners have kept up their payments, either by direct debit, standing orders or bacs payments, and others have continued to fill their weekly envelopes and deliver them to the treasurer in various ways. I think any financial information has already been submitted. It may be inappropriate to include a note about the nonsensical instruction to the clergy, that retired clerics could not take services. I now understand that it is an instruction that has been widely ignored in several ministry areas. It is even more galling when we have a fit retired Canon who has been part of our weekday worship for several years.

Sylvia scarf

Brynna

Positives

Communication by watsapp email and telephone call to congregation in St Peters, sharing good news and prayers. The last wedding in St Peters was conducted by father Vincent in September and we now have the father of the Bride David Gale with his friends as well as Julian from the Brynna community centre Jim and I that have striped back all the overhanging trees around the walls and kept the grass trimmed and tidy as well as cleaning all the paths back.

The Alarm has been reset by Gareth without charge to the parish and we have only been called out once to reset Roger Turner local councillor decided he would like to fund tarmac on the paths and entrances outside St Peters and to revisit funding the internal decoration at a later date

The War Hero in the grave yard has been recognised and visitors to the churchyard can zap their phones on the app on Signpost and read about him. Gaynor Cater Margaret Davies and myself braved awful weather conditions and went on a pilgrimage to The ruins of the original St Peters on the hills over Brynna on St Peters and Pauls Day 30th June.

The stained glass window has been replaced and the internal door and broken locks have been replaced and I have treated the door with Danish oil. Members of the congregation have been able to attend services in other churches and denominations where possible. Jim and I continue to monitor the fabric of the building and clean regularly in St Peters luckily there is little or no build up of mould.

Not so positive

Not everyone is conversant with technology and may not have equipment so are unable to follow zoom and face book and you tube. Bernard Lavery one of the congregation living in the complex died suddenly and is sadly missed We have been mostly pragmatic however there have been times that all of us at some time have felt isolated within the parish the wider benefice and from the wider church. Finding decisions confusing and conflicting and unfortunately what has compounded this is the lack of a vicar in the parish . Ashes for two deceased have been interred in the churchyard in St Peters we do not have paperwork for this not sure if anyone else was aware of this or if we need certificates etc. Unfortunately the statue of our lord has become dislodged on the wooden cross above the altar on the wall

Every day is now full of hope especially now that Simon Freeman has been appointed and we look forward to supporting him and each other in the growth and development of the parish.

Regards to you all

Rosina