

**ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END
2016**

**RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF
LLANTWIT MAJOR**



RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the Financial Statements of the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major for the year ended 31 December 2016

Respective responsibilities of Parochial Church Council and Examiner:

As the Parochial Church Council, you are responsible for preparing the Financial Statements: you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the Financial Statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Financial Statements, and seeking explanations from you as Parochial Church Council members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the Financial Statements.

Independent Examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare Financial Statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
- have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Financial Statements to be reached.

Independent Examiner:

Signature:
Name:
Qualification:
Address:

R. Moll
Rupert Moll
Retired FCA
38 Cilgant y Meillion
Rhoose
CF62 3LH

Date: 20/10/2017

RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

Financial Statements for year ended 31 December 2016

General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2016 Total £	2015 Total £
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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR

RECEIPTS	Planned giving	54,278	889	55,167	57,006
	Loose collections	16,547	72	16,619	18,446
	Donations	8,038	36,179	44,217	16,803
	For Mission	577	0	577	2,218
	Tax Refunds	23,028	0	23,028	18,329
	Legacy gifts received	12,533	0	12,533	33
	Grants	2,000	52,270	54,270	3,150
	Money Raising	14,370	1,031	15,401	13,807
	Fees	9,570	12,217	21,787	20,974
	Investment Income	19,623	256	19,879	12,462
	Other capital receipts	8,845	3,220	12,065	25,726
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	169,409	106,134	275,543	188,954

PAYMENTS	Parish Share	93,067	0	93,067	76,655
	Parochial Expenses of Clerics	4,718	0	4,718	6,429
	Other Support for Ministry	2,197	0	2,197	1,595
	Maintenance of Services	3,007	0	3,007	3,170
	General Parish Expenses	18,751	0	18,751	38,650
	Maintenance of Churches	41,665	4,889	46,554	30,119
	Maintenance of other property	815	12,728	13,543	19,718
	Exceptional expenditure	11,273	1,004	12,277	3,227
	Parish Mission	358	16	374	660
	Home/World Mission	1,628	446	2,074	5,605
	Cost of Money Raising	545	0	545	38
	Other capital payments	178	0	178	719
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	178,202	19,083	197,285	186,585

NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	-8,793	87,051	78,258	2,369
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CASH FUNDS	Brought forward 1.1.16	159,509	35,243	194,752	192,383
	Adjustment to balance brought forward	-184	0	-184	
	Adjustment to fund balances	-2,322	2,322	0	
	Carried forward 31.12.16	148,210	124,616	272,826	194,752

RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2016

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	2016 Total	2015 Total
Cash Funds				
Cash balances	0	0	0	0
Bank current accounts	65,220	109,912	175,132	156,414
Bank Deposit accounts	82,990	14,704	97,694	38,338
	148,210	124,616	272,826	194,752
Other Monetary Assets				
Other debts receivable	13,560	0	13,560	7,916
	13,560	0	13,560	7,916
Investment Assets				
Quoted stocks and shares	290,456	0	290,456	283,069
	290,456	0	290,456	283,069
Assets retained for own use				
Benefice office (freehold property)			56,985	56,985
Stocks			1,400	1,150
			58,385	58,135
Liabilities				
Sundry creditors payable	2,654	0	2,654	0
	2,654	0	2,654	0

Endowment funds held

84,446	79,797
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Non-monetary assets

Kitchen and toilet buildings (St Illtud's)

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 26/10/2017
and signed on its behalf by E. P. H. W. Counsell



RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

Notes to Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016

1. Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993, section 42(3) using the Receipts and Payments basis, and the Church in Wales Accounting Regulations.

2. Analysis of Fund movements of the year

a) **General Funds** may be used by the PCC for any of its ordinary purposes.

b) **Restricted Funds** represent either income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, or donations or grants received or invited for a specific purpose. The funds may only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent must be carried forward as a balance on that fund and cannot be absorbed into general funds.

Church name	Fund purpose	Bal 1 Jan £	Receipts £	Payments £	Bal 31 Dec £
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	Access	729	0	0	729
	Cowethas Peran Sans	246	0	0	246
	Fabric of Church	2,029	0	0	2,029
	Friends of St Illtud's	3,563	1,377	3,829	1,111
	Toddler Group	419	0	0	419
	Galilee Account	0	33,600	0	33,600
St Cattwg's, Llanmaes	Churchyard	4,334	5,823	5,944	4,213
	Restoration/ maintenance	9,427	5,659	2,152	12,934
	Restoration	0	50,135	946	49,189
	Churchyard	4,383	1,721	250	5,854
St James', Wick	Youth work	2,608	34	16	2,626
	Charity/ Mission	245	442	446	241
	Friends of St James'	2,390	870	0	3,260
	Roof restoration	788	3,630	4,042	376
St Tathan, St Athan	Cemetery	2,052	443	960	1,535
St Giles', Gileston	Churchyard	2,560	290	58	2,792
St Donat's, St Donat's	Churchyard	210	450	280	380
Holy Trinity, Marcross	Churchyard	1,582	470	0	2,052
St Mary's, Monknash	Churchyard	0	1,190	160	1,030
St Michael's, Llanmihangel	Churchyard				
Totals (per Receipts & Payments Account)		37,565	106,134	19,083	124,616

c) **Endowment Funds** are funds whose capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or general funds, depending on the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Church name	Fund purpose	Bal 1 Jan £	Receipts £	Payments £	Bal 31 Dec £
St Cattwg's		6,006			6,681
St Donat's		73,885			84,446
Totals					

3. Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

Quoted investments are valued at mid-market prices at 31 December. All other assets and liabilities are valued at cost or as indicated in any subsequent note relating to such assets and liabilities.

4. Church buildings

Church buildings, including churchyards and Rectories are vested in the Representative Body of the Church in Wales; such property forms no part of the assets of the Parish. Moveable contents require a faculty for disposal so are considered to be inalienable property and are not recognised in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

5. Non-monetary assets

Assets and property which are retained for or are occupied for the Church purposes and which are not investment assets, but whose value cannot readily be ascertained are recognised on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as non-monetary assets.

The Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major

Parochial Church Council Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2016

Rectors Introduction

The Annual Report of any parish is always retrospective; it looks back at the events and outcomes of the last year, trying to set them in order and context. This report reflects on 2016, so my remarks are very limited, because I was only in post as Rector of the Llantwit Major Benefice for the final 2 weeks of December! I am grateful to those whose contributions to this report give a full and comprehensive view of the work of our 9 churches, recognising the hard work and commitment of many people.

In the short time that I have been in post, I have seen at first hand the great energy that so many people bring to the work and witness of our churches. The Ministry Team, with its lay and ordained persons, giving their time and talents in so many ways, has a great impact on the churches and communities that we serve. I have been struck by the careful preparation of services and the high quality of preaching that happens week by week; it is my privilege to be part of this team for the next phase of its journey. We are also fortunate to have Parish Officers who are meticulous in the tasks they undertake. Wardens, treasurers and church secretaries have worked tirelessly, while many others have contributed to the upkeep and maintenance of services and church fabric through the year.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the clergy who left Llantwit Major in 2016. Rachel Simpson and Anthony Beer have both moved to new parishes as their ministries develop, while Huw Butler, my predecessor as Rector, has returned to the new challenge of a parish in North Wales. I see the legacy that all of them have left and that gives me and the newly developing clergy team a very solid foundation for our own work over the coming years.

This Parish Report shows that we have a series of challenges ahead of us in these churches; some of our congregations are small and ageing, while both attendance and income are showing a small but steady decline. On top of this, all our churches are listed buildings, with the inevitable practical and financial challenges that this brings. Like so many parishes, we often depend on the energy and generosity of a small core of people, so the many positive things that can be reported this year must be balanced by the realistic need to manage resources carefully, as we seek God's guidance in our mission and outreach.

Looking back on 2016, our thanks go out to all of you who contribute in many and various ways to the life, work and witness of our churches. As we look forward to 2017, we should all be encouraged to think about the opportunities that are presented week by week, to grow and flourish, to give and receive, to share and learn from one another in the life of our parish. There is no situation in any aspect of our lives when we can sit back and say that the job is done and the Church is no exception; it is God's Church and, just like his world, it grows and develops constantly. People change, the dynamics of communities alter and we as individuals wax and wane in our commitment and determination. As we reflect on another year in the life of our churches, may we be thankful for the opportunities that we have recognised and taken, and pray that God will inspire us anew in all things on the journey ahead.

Canon Edwin Counsell
Rector

1. Description of the Benefice.

The Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major is situated in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales. It is in the Vale of Glamorgan Deanery Diocese of Llandaff.

2. Dedications of the churches within the Benefice and their locations.

St Illtud	Llantwit Major
St Donat	St Donat's
St James	Wick
Holy Trinity	Marcross
St Mary Magdalene	Monknash
St Cattwg	Llanmaes
St Michael and All Angels	Llanmihangel
St Tathan	St Athan
St Giles	Gileston

3. Object and Constitution

The mission of the Benefice is to advance the Christian religion through local and worldwide activities. The object of the parochial Church Council (PCC) is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the parish helps to fulfil this mission, both locally and more widely. It is regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales. The Benefice holds an Annual Vestry Meeting and ensures that every member of the Council signs a declaration that they will be bound by the Constitution. The PCC is responsible *inter alia* for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget and all expenditure there under, the care and maintenance of the Church fabric and of the churchyard and for action on any other matter referred to in accordance with the Constitution. The PCC is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the Diocese

4. Names and addresses

Incumbent: Rev'd Canon Edwin Counsell
The Rectory, High Street, Llantwit Major. CF61 1SS

Bankers: National Westminster PLC, Westgate, Cowbridge
Vale of Glamorgan

5. Names of all persons who were PCC members during the financial year and any Parochial Office held.

Canon Edwin Counsell	Rector & Chair
Revd Anthony Beer	Team Vicar
Revd Rachel Simpson	Curate
Mr Geoff Semmens	Rector's Warden
Mrs Jodie Taylor	People's Warden
Mrs Ceri Thomas	Head Teacher Wick & Marcross Primary
Mr Keith Brown	Reader
Mrs Sue Moll	Reader
Mrs Jude Peters	Reader
Mr Mike Peters	Benefice Treasurer
Mr David Walke	Assistant Benefice Treasurer
Mrs Alison Weston	Benefice Administrator & Benefice PCC Secretary
Mr Eddie Williams	Representative: St Illtuds, Llantwit Major
Mrs Gail Davies	Representative: St Illtuds, Llantwit Major
Mr Patrick Hart	Representative: St Illtuds, Llantwit Major
Mrs Louise Edwards	Representative: St James', Wick,
Mrs Pennie Ayres	Representative: St James', Wick,
Mr Philip Davies	Representative: St James', Wick,
Mr Jeffrey Robinson	Representative: St Cattwg's, Llanmaes,
Mr Kerry Veale	Representative: St Cattwg's, Llanmaes,
Mrs Jan Drye	Representative: St Cattwg's, Llanmaes,
Mr Stan Gilbert	Representative: St Donats
Mrs Lynda Clarke	Representative: St Donats
Mr Bob Smith	Representative: St Donats
Mrs Sharon Evans	Representative: Holy Trinity Marcross,
Mrs Jaci Harries	Representative: Holy Trinity Marcross
Vacant	Representative: Holy Trinity Marcross
Mrs Margaret Connolly	Representative: St Mary's, Monknash
Mrs Marie Sheppard	Representative: St Mary's, Monknash
Vacant	Representative: St Mary's, Monknash
Mrs Catherine Jewell	Representative: St Michael's, Llanmihangel
Mrs Anne Ford	Representative: St Michael's, Llanmihangel
Vacant	Representative: St Michael's, Llanmihangel
Mrs Diana Robinson	Representative: St Tathan
Mrs Eleanor MacNamara	Representative: St Tathan
Mr Philip Dukes	Representative: St Tathan
Mrs Lynette Thomas	Representative: St Giles
Mrs Lorraine Garrad-Jones	Representative: St Giles
Mrs Sharne Williams	Representative: St Giles
Mrs Joanna Leonard	Representative: Child Protection Officer
Mr Eric Sparks	Representative: Magazine Editor

6. General Pattern of Sunday Services in the Benefice

[Note: 2016 was a year of Interregnum, so specific services subject to change]

Time	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
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St Illtud's, Llantwit Major

8.15am	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist
10.00am	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School	Morning Prayer & Sunday School
6.00pm	*****	Sunday @4	Holy Eucharist	Evening Prayer	Holy Eucharist

St James', Wick

8.30am	*****	*****	Holy Eucharist	*****	*****
11.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	*****	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist

St Cattwg's, Llanmaes

11.00am	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
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St Donats, St Donats

11.15am	Holy Eucharist	Prayer & Praise	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
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Holy Trinity, Marcross

9.30am	Holy Eucharist	Shared service Monknash	Morning Prayer	Shared service Monknash	Holy Eucharist
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St Marys', Monknash

9.30am	Shared Service Marcross	Holy Eucharist	Shared Service Marcross	Morning Prayer	Shared Service Marcross
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St Michaels, Llanmihangel

9.30am	Shared Service at Llanmaes	Holy Eucharist	Shared Service at Llanmaes	Morning Prayer	Shared Service at Llanmaes
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St Tathan, St Athan

11.00am	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School	Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
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St Giles', Gileston

9.30am	Holy Eucharist	Shared Service at St. Tathan	Morning Prayer	Shared Service at St. Tathan	Shared Service at St. Tathan
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7. Description of the way the PCC is organised and its aims

The PCC is organised with the representatives from all nine Churches.

There is a single treasurer for the Benefice dealing with the Parish Shares, the reimbursement of clergy expenses, insurance, etc.

Each individual Church has its own Church Council which meets on a regular basis to manage its affairs, together with a treasurer and secretary.

The day-to-day running of each Church is managed in this way with an overall figure deposited into the Benefice Account each month for maintenance of ministry the Parish Share and insurance- paid by standing order.

Large items of expenditure in excess of £1,500 must be put before the PCC for ratification but otherwise each Church is free to conduct its own business. A Gift Aid Secretary coordinates the Gift Aid Giving in the Benefice and manages the Inland Revenue rebates, etc.

8. Individual Church Reports

St Illtud's Church Report

The year began with the news that the Rector Huw Butler was moving on, to soon be followed by Anthony Beer and Rachel Simpson in July. We had the welcome support of the Area Dean Martyn Davies during this period of the interregnum.

St Illtuds has continued to provide to the community through the exceptional service of the "retired" Clergy and Readers stepping in to fulfil the high demands for the numerous Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and of course the regular services.

There continued to be three regular Sunday services, Sunday school, daily morning prayer, Wednesday morning Eucharist, Wednesday afternoon Toddler church, a house group, and the monthly healing service continued throughout the year.

Numerous activities held within St Illtud's included concerts, carol services, civic service of the Town Mayor, guided tours and educational visits.

The fabric of the church is in good condition with the usual ongoing challenges that befits a grade 1 listed building.

Links with the local schools continues to improve with many being involved with the Galilee Chapel and the Celtic history of the church.

Too numerous to mention all, there are many within the congregation who have also "stepped up" to take on more as part of their service. These included the dedicated volunteers who continued to serve through cleaning the church, providing coffee mornings, after service refreshments, bell ringing, musical director, choir, arranging flowers and the church shop. The key holder also ensured that the church was open to visitors every day. The Ambassadors provided a much needed service to the increasing number of visitors that visit the church. All within the congregation provided a different but important service to God and the family of St Illtud's.

There is much to be thankful for.

Gail and Eddie

Toddler Church

The Toddler group continues to meet on Wednesday afternoons; numbers fluctuating according to our members' sleep patterns! We lost three of our most senior members to the demands of school and have had to train up a new book monitor (giving out and collecting the song books) and a new biscuit waiter (working on the "One for you and two for me" principle. Party rings still being the biscuit of choice). We continue with the format of stories, craft activities and play time for the toddlers and chat-time for the grown-ups which seems to work well. We had a very enjoyable time at the Amelia Trust farm for our annual summer picnic and our Christmas party and Easter egg hunts were also well attended. I am very grateful to Lynn, who has taken on the role of co-presenter and our wonderful tea ladies, Marlene and Chris who continue to provide the restorative cuppa and juice drinks for the children. We are always happy to greet new members and I can assure you that great fun is to be had on Wednesday afternoons, it being difficult to decide who enjoys it most, little or big members

Choir

St Illtud's Church Choir sings at 10am Morning Service, weddings and special occasions, such as the Town Civic Service, Inductions and Farewells. We are pleased to be joined at many of these events by Friends of the Choir who augment our numbers.

This year we have hosted two visiting musical groups. On Saturday April 30th some members of the flute-playing orchestra called: *Flautissimo* from Southampton made Llantwit Major a port of call on their tour of South Wales. They were welcomed with refreshments and given the Church Tour. After some free time to explore further, various wind sections moved to different parts of St Illtud's to rehearse. The sound of two gentle flutes echoing in the Galilee was haunting and unforgettable. At 7pm they gave us a marvellous concert, and, having requested some Welsh singing, the choir obliged! Flautists, choir and audience shared great fellowship over a glass of wine afterwards.

A request from St Clement's Church Choir in Cambridge to be 'in residence' during their August break, led to our second group visit. They arrived on Saturday 20th August and after refreshments and the Church Tour they had free time to explore the town (and its pubs!) A short rehearsal followed in the afternoon to sort out the logistics as well as the music. Their singing was highly professional (most of them were students or former students). On Sunday 21st August they sang with the Church Choir for the Eucharist service at 10am, including a solo, and then sang a full choral Evensong with two anthems on their own at 6pm. (In between, by the way, they walked the Heritage coast path, on one of the wettest days of the year.) Again, there was a time of fellowship and refreshment afterwards with the congregation and both choirs. We gained so much from these two visits.

The following Sunday was the Flower Festival Songs of Praise and the choir and friends stepped up once again and were also delighted to have a brass solo from Laura (Henderson) Hindley.

Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 6.30pm in St Illtud's (with occasional breaks during inclement weather or some holiday times; check in Pew News) new members are most welcome: have a word with anyone in the choir for more information; we actively seek more members of any age. You do not have to be able to read music, as long as you can sing in tune.

Choir and Friends also form the basis of the Ecumenical Choir for the 9 Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve when all the churches and chapels of the area come together to celebrate Our Saviour's Birth. Rehearsals begin after October half-term on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. There is a warm welcome for anyone wishing to give it a try.

Shop Committee

Following the completion of the Galilee Chapel Project and plans for the West Church, the location of the shop has been subject to discussion, by interested groups, of the areas under consideration. It was finally agreed that the original location was the preferred option and therefore it was possible to carry out a refurbishment programme in situ which improved our display and contributed to our improved turn over.

The committee continues to organise the shop but the extra support and interest shown by the Welcomers is very much appreciated and contributes to the success of the shop.

One area where the Welcomers have a great influence is in drawing the visitor's attention to the shop publications which Viv and Keith have developed.

Although the shop has financed fewer projects this year the contributions made include, monies for the Churchyard maintenance and two items also budgeted for are wall paintings investigation and repairs to the North wall. These amount to approximately £1600 and that together with the £3,000 for the churchyard in December 2016 will contribute to the financial requirements of the Church.

I would like to thank the committee for their continued support in making the shop such a successful project.

P Lewis

Wednesday Ladies

We meet every Wednesday after the 10am service and welcome anyone for coffee and a chat in the West Church. Our fundraising has been successful again this year.

Our first fundraiser was our very popular Lenten lunch on the 18th March which was well attended and enjoyed by all, with a very successful raffle.

We held our Easter chocolate raffle on 9th March which everyone enjoyed and we collected in excess of £200.

Our Christmas Hamper raffle was held on 30th Nov and raised £224.

Our thanks to all our friends and supporters who we can always rely on to turn up and contribute to our success, we always say we couldn't do it without your help.

St James' Church, Wick Report

2016 was a roller coaster year!

The departure of our Rector Huw, then Rachel and finally Anthony meant that things were not quite as usual though we have to give our heartfelt thanks to all our lay readers, retired clergy and many others who worked hard to keep everything going. Especial thanks to Alison in the Parish office who gave us enormous support throughout.

Huw's departure in February was a moving occasion and we wish him and Pat great joy in their new parish.

We in St James' had some changes in our own officers throughout the year. David Powell our treasurer announced that he and his family would be leaving the village to start a new venture in France but we were very fortunate to have a volunteer in David Walke particularly in view of his skills in applying for grants and online application forms (more of that later!)

Our grateful thanks go to David Powell for all the work he has done in the past and to Debra, Amelia and Victoria for the huge part they played in encouraging other youngsters into the church in the form of Sunday Break and SPLAT.

Barbara Savidge also felt that she would like to retire from her post as assistant treasurer. After 35 years in the job we felt she deserved a rest! A small presentation was made to Barbara but nothing could really recognise how much she has done for us in the past so thank you Barbara!

Services

In addition to our normal services Wick and Marcross C in W school held a Mothering service and a school leaver's service as well as continuing to use the church on other occasions for general purposes.

Unfortunately we were unable to hold a Christingle service this year but did hold a lovely (and well attended) Crib service on Christmas Eve.

We had 1 wedding this year (in December) and sadly 5 funerals including those of our beloved Mrs Lauder and Mavis Lewis' husband Dick.

Clergy

We were delighted to hear that Jude Peters had been accepted to train for ordination though we did miss her at our Morning Prayer services.

Anthony's departure in August was a very sad occasion for us- He and Elaine will be very much missed and we are very grateful for all they have achieved for us over the last 6 years. We wanted to give them a parting present particularly from the three western most churches as well as contributing to the Benefice leaving gift so St James' St Mary's Monknash and Holy Trinity Marcross combined to commission a special painting from local artist (and one of his congregation) Rachel Bennett. This was presented to him at our last combined service in August which was also Anthony's last in St James'

We wish them both a happy and fulfilling future and keep them in our prayers.

Church Fabric

We were delighted to hear in June that Anthony's re- application to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund had been successful and we had been awarded a grant of £71,600.00 towards repairs of the nave and porch roof. This does not cover repairs to the chancel and vestry roof so we decided that it would be advisable to carry out work on the whole of the roof at the same time. For this reason we have applied for additional grants to address the shortfall (approx. £27K).

To date we have been awarded money from the National Churches Trust and another (anonymous) charity and are waiting to hear from 3 other sources of funding.

Thanks to our treasurer David Walke for overseeing the enormous task of online applications, liaising with Architects and generally keeping everything going!

David is also working on a St James' website so we can hopefully attract attention (and funds) from a much wider audience.

Churchyard

Many thanks again to Frank for all the hard work he has done in the churchyard- it continues to look lovely and is much appreciated by ourselves and the many visitors that come to attend the graves.

There has been some delay in getting the necessary tree work completed because we are still awaiting planning permission from the Vale Council. A comprehensive survey has been carried out and the work detailed but until the planning permission has been granted we are unable to proceed.

Youth Work

Although there were some Sunday Breaks and 2 SPLAT meetings at the beginning of the year we have unfortunately been unable to continue with these during the rest of the year.

Hopefully we will be able to reconsider this when we are fully staffed but we do rely a great deal on volunteers and changing circumstances mean they are not always available.

Fundraising

The Village Tea Party, Village Fete and Harvest Supper were all very popular and in addition we took part in the Benefice Flower Festival over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

We organised a Village Carols just before Christmas on behalf of Wick Community Council and the profits from this were donated to the Wales Air Ambulance Service.

We continue to give small but regular donations from St James' to Water Aid

Finally we would like to give our thanks to all our congregation for the enormous help and support you give us throughout the year- we really couldn't do anything without you- Thank you!

Lou Edwards

St. Cattwg's Church, Llanmaes Report

Restoration Projects

A. Quinquennial Report. With our application to the Roof Repair Fund being turned down we made an application to the HLF in June and this was thought not to answer their requirements. We have yet to amend this and resubmit.

B. Preaching Cross. The maintenance period occurred in June 2016 but the noted items have not been completed. They will receive attention before the end of March allowing us to release the remainder of the retention monies

Other Matters

1. Church Organ. With our present organ feeling its age we have been given an electronic machine by the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir as a standby.
 2. Bells. Following advice from the Diocese we approached one of the recommended bellhanger companies for their proposal. They visited us in the autumn and carried out a detailed survey but we have yet to hear from them.
 3. Our annual BBQ and the harvest lunch were once again a success with the BBQ raising £600. In the case of the Harvest lunch we do not have the amount raised to hand with our treasurer away at the moment but the monies were shared between Water Aid and our restoration Fund.
 4. Donation. The sum of £500 has been received from the FILCO Company for restoration works.
- Trees. Following a sudden collapse of a large branch into the adjacent lane and with our duty of care responsibilities in mind a survey was commissioned in September of the state of all the trees in the churchyard. Subsequently the recommended work has been allocated to 2 companies and will start soon.

Kerry Veale & Jeff Robinson

St. Donat's Church Report

Church Family

We have a core of committed members boosted by Atlantic College students and wedding couples.

We had 5 weddings last year, all from out of the area so couples attend in the months before the wedding (and very occasionally afterwards).

We have fewer students this year but those who come are committed, a few attending the RC church immediately before joining our service.

Tibha Rai, a Nepali-born intern at the college, and students led the prayer and praise service in February.

Small tables and chairs at the back of the church continue to cater for children during the services. Our valued youngest members enjoy ringing the bells, taking the collection and blowing out the candles.

Lovespoons were presented to leavers in May.

The Principal and students took part in the Advent Carols service in November, and a collection was taken for Medecins sans Frontieres.

Social/fundraising

Bob and Sheila Smith continue to minister to students in hosting monthly lunches, supported by members of the congregation, and they keep in touch with past students. Shrove Tuesday fell in project week so a pancake lunch was held on the preceding Sunday instead.

In April a group of us visited the National Museum of Wales at the invitation of the Chief Conservator to see the progress being made on the restoration of the Stradling Panels. It was fascinating to see the detail emerging and the care being taken to construct frames which will allow for movement.

Bob Smith organised a concert in the Glass Room featuring the Colughkelele Band. We are very grateful to them for continuing to give their time and talents to support the church.

Chris Davies organised another student concert in February. Unfortunately numbers attending were low (possibly because it followed on Huw's final benefice service) but those who came were most appreciative.

Maintenance

The quinquennial inspection is due in 2016.

We are hoping to replace the storage in the Lady Chapel/vestry shortly.

General

Alan Davies was appointed Rector's Warden shortly after our last Easter Vestry.

Heather March continues to supervise weddings with occasional help.

These involve several hours each including rehearsal and service so we are very grateful to her for overseeing them.

Bob and Sheila Smith as joint secretaries, Stan Gilbert as treasurer and organist, John Morgan as churchyard overseer and Kath Davies as chief cake baker all do sterling work.

I have now completed 14 years as People's Warden and will be planning to pass on the baton after 15 years, coinciding as it will with a big birthday, so that we can spend more time with distant grandchildren.

Lynda Clarke

Holy Trinity Church, Marcross Report

A check on some missing tiles at the beginning of the year revealed that there was more damage to the Church Tower than originally thought and with no fundraising events having been held for the last two years, the church needed to raise funds urgently. A request for help from the village was met with enthusiasm and a church fundraising committee was quickly established holding three very successful fundraisers, A Right Royal Tea party in the gardens of The Horseshoes Pub, A Bubbles Beer and Bingo evening in the church and a Fundraising Concert in St Donats Arts Centre hosted by local Bass Baritone Mathew Brooks.

Villagers have given generously both in time and financially and we have raised in excess of £10,000.00

The cost of the repairs undertaken was approx. £1,250 much of which related to the hire of scaffolding. Further work was identified but this will form part of a larger scheme which will have to be undertaken in due course. A programme of works is to be considered but a decision has to be made if we are to appoint an architect to set out the requirements following which grant applications can be drawn up. All these aspects require considerable work however there is a very limited team available to take on the responsibility.

A small but hardworking party was held in the spring which cleared the old drains, sprayed and pulled weeds and gave the churchyard a general tidy up.

Holy Trinity Church held some memorable services, with a really good turnout to say goodbye to Anthony, and another to say hello to Edwin. A very moving wedding service was held for Jess and Tom Jones, daughter of David Morgan and the late Sue Morgan and a busy christening for Baby Jack Evans, Son of Hopkin and Kath Evans

As always we are indebted to Jaq Harris for playing the organ, Sue & Jo Brooks for taking care of the church fabrics and cleaning, and to Hilary for balancing the Church Accounts, and who without their regular attendance and support the church would not manage to hold its regular services

Sharon Evans

St Mary's Monknash Report

2016 began with the discovery that two of our relatively new electrical fan heaters had been taken from the church and replacements had to be purchased.

In June the Quinquennial Inspection of St Mary's was undertaken. The immediate repairs required on the fabric of the building were the replacement of missing, slipped and damaged roof slates. Work completed is the repairing of the slate roof & ridges and the fitting of new aluminium guttering and down pipe brackets on one side of the church at a cost £780. This was carried out during the autumn. The removal of vegetation growth from building and boundary walls and treatment of affected areas with suitable herbicide is in hand. The cost of work required within the next 18 months is estimated at £2,500. The cost of additional repairs required within the quinquennium plus other desirable repairs and improvements totals £43,050.

We continue to share 9.30am Sunday services (2 in each church per month and alternating on a 5th Sunday) with Holy Trinity Church, Marcross; usually having two Eucharist services and two services of Morning Prayer each month. In 2016 St Mary's hosted the Ascension Day service. Our Harvest Festival in October was well attended, as was our Christmas Day service. During a year when the Benefice lost all three members of the Benefice clergy team we were very grateful to the retired clergy, Lay Readers and visiting clergy for enabling the small churches to continue with their usual pattern of services. We also have to thank our organist, Gwenyth Wilde, who has given her services for many, many years. Our small congregation averages 6, plus those attending from Marcross. Margaret Connolly has taken over the position of Rector's Warden, succeeding Winnie Davies, who held the post for many years. We thank Winnie for the work she does for our church. David Davies, former people's Warden, at 93 years of age continues to arrive early to make sure the heaters are on and the church is warm before services begin. November was a very sad month as one of our long standing members, Alban Wilde, died following a period of ill health. Members of the Wilde

family have attended and supported St Mary's for more than 80 years. Alban's ashes are buried in St Mary's churchyard alongside those of his Grandson, Ed.

During the year members of St Mary's congregation attended Benefice services, celebrations and fund raising events around the Benefice. 2016 was a year of farewells - to Huw, Anthony and Rachel. In December we were delighted to welcome Edwin as our new Rector and look forward to the imminent arrival of Craig as our team vicar.

St Michael and All Angels, Llanmihangel Report

We are pleased to report that this year we have managed to make a small profit as we did not hold many fund raising events. Our Harvest Lunch was the only function we held which proved to be very successful instead of having a Harvest Supper,

The church was packed for our Carol Service which continues to be very popular and afterwards enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine at Llanmihangel Plas.

At the moment we are holding fortnightly services and are considering whether to continue with this arrangement from now on due to the congregation numbers.

St. Giles Church, Gileston

It has been a quiet year in St Giles Church with just one christening and it was necessary to reduce the weekly Sunday services to fortnightly due to the shortage of clergy. Also, it wasn't possible to hold a main fundraising event however; special services were well attended, in particular the Christmas Carol Service taken by Bill Henderson with accompaniment by the St Athan Brass Band. Followed with nibbles and mulled wine, the night was a great success and the collection was donated to the Samaritans.

St Tathan Church, St Athan Report

Due to circumstances beyond our control progress has been very slow at St Athan.

The bells were surveyed in 2015. Following the 2nd survey we were advised to seek a structural engineer's survey on the tower. This was completed and the report received in early February 2016. The Rector then left having not authorized the PCC to grant permission for a Faculty submission. This permission was eventually granted, on the 3rd request, in November. We were now expecting our new Rector to be licensed in December so the application was delayed. We look forward to 2017 and the granting of permission to proceed.

Rev Rachel Simpson left us in July and we have struggled to maintain Services since then. The number of people attending Church Services regularly has reduced over the year and we now expect to see approximately 12 adults and 3 children on Sundays and 7 adults on Wednesdays.

We continue to encourage the young people in our charge to read their Bibles and pray and learn about Jesus in a fun filled, appropriate way. They also enjoy contributing to the life of our Church by helping where they can in our weekly services. Their contribution involves welcoming people at the door, giving out hymn books etc., collecting the weekly offering and then helping in the vital work of tidying at the end of the service!

Our numbers have falling dramatically due to a variety of circumstances but we have 6 names on our Sunday School register and expect, on average 3 children to attend each Sunday during school term time.

We are very proud of these young people and ask for your prayers to support their commitment and to encourage other to join us.

We look forward with enthusiasm to seeing our Church flourish in the near future with continued support from our faithful congregation and the local community.

9. Mothers' Union Report

January 2016 saw members of this branch join with the other branches in the deanery to celebrate the Epiphany; the service was led by Revd Huw Butler, one of the last services he officiated for us before departing for his new parish in North Wales. 2016 has seen this branch of the Mothers Union be active in many ways, we started our year by Women's World Day of Prayer at the Roman Catholic Church on the Friday. This was closely followed by the commissioning of our new Diocesan President, Lynne Davies at the Cathedral, and just a few days later we were back in the Cathedral for our Deanery Eucharist, officiated by Revd Dawn Hellard well known to us from when she was a team vicar here in Benefice.

To help us celebrate 140 years of Mothers Union we held a Lady Day service in St Mary Church, officiated by our own curate Revd Rachel Simpson. And we also visited St Johns Church in Penllyne for our Deanery Festival and the service was officiated by the Revd Edwin Counsell who helped us eat the special 140 anniversary cake which we had for the occasion.

Our members have taken their turn with the laundry duties in our caravan in Porthcawl, contributed regularly to the foodbank. attended the half day reflections held in All Saints, Porthcawl, also our Deanery outing to Abergavenny, and travelling to Aberdare for the Mothers Union Diocesan Concert. Instead of a meeting in August we celebrated Mary Sumner Day (our founder) with a meal in the Red Fox, Penllyne, September started with the Mothers Union taking part in the Mayors Civic Service – this is the first time we had been invited since the Llantwit Major branch closed many many years ago. Also that month we had the deanery skittles match and I am so proud to say that a team from our branch won the deanery trophy.

November and December are always very different as we have to find another venue for our meetings, luckily Llandow, Llysworney and Colwinston branch came to our rescue again and invited us to join them in November with a social evening held back in Wick in December. Our annual deanery Epiphany service officiated by our area dean Revd Martyn Davies took place on our January meeting day hence no actual meeting.

Over the year we have had a variety of speakers talking on a variety of subjects from the blue pilgrim, the work on an archdeacon, taking part in the London Marathon and even taking part in jewellery making. At a time when many organisations are struggling, this branch of the Mothers' Union is doing well with five new members being enrolled this year and that is all due to our members – the friendship and support they give to one another, and to the members in the other branches of our deanery, it is a pleasure to be a member of this branch, long may it continue – thank you ladies and may God Bless You all.

Jodie Taylor

10. Parish News Magazine Report

Overview

The Parish News started, in its present format, in September 2012 as a 24 page A5 size magazine. Eric Sparks and Bill Henderson divided the responsibilities, Eric being Editor and Bill handling the Commercial side including the printing and distribution. This arrangement is working most satisfactorily. The magazine is proof read by David Brunning.

The news gathering from the other 8 parishes has suffered during the period of being without clergy. We are sure that it will pick up again now that we have had appointments.

Situation

The colour photocopier has made a considerable difference to the ease of production requiring little more than correct feeding to proceed from original to printed, collated and stapled finished product. We still produce, and distribute, some 400 copies per month.

Finance

It would be comforting if the magazine could be self-supporting. I understand that its outreach aspect is sufficient to justify its existence but a modest increase in the number of advertisers would be beneficial. Perhaps members of the congregation could find potential additions.

Future

We seem to be moving, at last, towards getting some dialogue with readers. More frequently an article produces a response either as a letter to the editor or as another article. This is most encouraging as it indicates that we are managing to be thought-provoking.

It would be good to see additional 'extra-congregation' placements of the magazine to enlarge the outreach area.

Eric Sparks took over as Editor in June 2012 with the first full edition being the September issue. Thus, this year is the 5th anniversary of this change with the full edition waiting until later in the year. Eric proposes some changes in format of the September issue to celebrate this.

Advertisers

At present, we have 23 advertisers taking up 6 whole pages of the 32 and generate over £1500 of income.

Acorn Stairlifts	Flower Shop	Roseland Cottage
Castleton Park	Four Bells Inn	Roz Couzens
Celtic Tyres	Halcyon Flowers	Stone Holiday
Colstons	Hanks Dairies	Cottage
Lettings	Heritage Cars	Therapyworks
CP Motor	Llantwit Car Wash	W James
Services	Mila Ceramic	WA Brown
DP Carpentry	Restoration	Wheljacks
Extend	Nickleby's Bookstore	

Do all readers of the magazine tell the advertisers that they obtained the name from the magazine? This would encourage them to use our pages.

11. Fair Trade Report

I have been a rep. for Traidcraft in the area since 2004 and have regularly sold fairly traded produce at a number of local events. Our Lady and St Illtud's Church continue to buy their catering packs of tea, coffee and sugar from me. They also have a stall on the first Sunday of the month after Morning Mass. This is proving to be very popular.

Tyann Leonard, and Sue Hewitt are doing sterling work running a stall after morning service at St Illtud's on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The 10% profit taken on these occasions is going to St Illtud's Church. £771.95 worth of goods were sold between March to December 2016 and £85 was paid into the account in January 2017.

St Athan Primary's Eco Group worked hard during Fair Trade fortnight and sold cookies and small items during their break time. I have to thank Mrs Nichols the teacher and Mrs Haines the Headteacher for this initiative.

I look forward to continued support from Parishioners and if anybody would like to buy supplies on a regular basis then please contact me through the Benefice Office.

May I respectfully remind everybody that we are a Fair Trade Parish and as such should be using fairly traded products at all of our events!

Eleanor MacNamara

12. Wick & Marcross Church in Wales Primary School

We Work, We Play, We Care, We Pray.

As we begin to welcome new families moving into the development here in Wick we are confident that our strong Christian ethos will enrich the lives of those who begin both their academic and spiritual journey at the school. We continue to foster an environment in which all pupils, with their families, can grow and flourish. Every year is filled with opportunities for pupils to develop their individual skills and talents in an environment where each individual is cared for and nurtured.

Worship continues to be central to the life and work of the school. We were very grateful for the support of Penny Snowden while we waited for the appointment of clergy to the Benefice. Our Service of Remembrance was, again this year, a very moving occasion with poetry written by the children bringing tears to many eyes. Sustaining links with MoD St Athan is very important to us as a school and we were delighted when our children were invited to take part in a special Service of Remembrance at the base.

Academic standards remain consistently high. We are very proud of all our pupils in terms of their achievements, not only academically, but also through the twelve core values that underpin the life and work of the school. The dedicated staff team continue to provide a wide a range of rich opportunities, supported and enhanced by visits and visitors, for all our children and families.