

The Parish of Penarth and Llandough

Reports to the Annual Vestry Meeting 2019



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Thank you to all those who submitted reports

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Parish of Penarth and Llandough

From the Caerau, Plymouth and Leckwith woods in the north to Flat Holm in the south we are

Telling a joyful story.

Growing the Kingdom of God.

Building our capacity for good

Many thanks for taking the time to read this overview report of the life of our parish, covering the period from April 2018 to April 2019. This is my fourth report to an Annual Vestry Meeting of this parish, after arriving here at the end of October 2015.

This report has many very positive aspects, which I would like to share with you. Before doing that, however, I would like to pay tribute to all those people with whom we worshipped, over the years, who are no longer with us. The sheer number of church members with terminal illnesses, and the loss of so many wonderful individuals has been, for me, the most significant aspect of the entire year in question.

With grateful thanks...

Of those who died between April 2018 and April 2019, who had very close connections with our churches, and who are now resting in peace, I would personally like to remember:

Ann Bromley, Ann Wardell, Ray Woodford, Eve Houston, Penny Galey, Sue Plenty, Mary Cole, Margaret Turner, Joyce Penning, Derek Barberini, Terry Smith, John Lewis and Bridget Terriza.

And so we now turn to look at the life of the parish that they loved.

Staffing

As this report looks back over the period from April 2018 to April 2019, it is right to note that Revd Rosemary Hill, the parish's first female Curate, was ordained Priest on 30th June 2018. It seems so long ago now! We celebrated this occasion on 1st July 2018, along with her friends and family, at her First Mass.

Rose has thrown herself into links with schools and young people, as well as on social media matters, and is a valued colleague, who has grown considerably in skill and experience over her time in the parish. I thank you all for supporting her so well. All being well, we shall have Rose with us for another whole year, and a small part of the one after that.

In July 2019 we look forward to a new colleague, Revd Alison Reeves, being cross-licensed to this parish, but based in, and financed by, All Saints' Parish. Alison will help me and others to cover the interregnum in All Saints' Parish next year, although she will not, of course, be able to take Eucharistic services until the middle of 2020.

Youth Worker

Following a successful joint application (with All Saints' Parish) for £30,000 of funds, Mrs Shavonne Erlandson started work in September 2017.

We now have around 30 teenagers in the Penarth and Llandough Youth Group (PLYG).

Shavonne has also been at work in the local secondary schools and engaging with local teenagers at other times, such as in the school holidays.

Shavonne will be leaving us in the summer to relocate to north Wales, but the process of appointing her successor has already begun, and an overlap period is planned for succession planning purposes.

Ecumenical

This parish continues to take its responsibilities within Cytûn seriously, leading two of the monthly sessions each year, and participating in joint worship and in other joint initiatives, whenever possible. Another example of this is the Christian Aid service that we again took part in this year. Our special partnership with Llandough Baptists continues in a very positive way, and we attend one another's services throughout the year, and for special occasions, such as the Epiphany service and meal.

Refugee Family

We housed a family of Syrian refugees with 4 children during the course of the year in Church House. *Croeso Penarth* have looked after them tremendously well, providing ongoing support, English language lessons and a host of other opportunities. The experience, I feel, has broadened our outlook as a parish. It is good for us to look outwards more, and it is also good for us to know that, through our caring, we have been able to help a young family who would otherwise have spent yet another year in a freezing upland refugee camp, with very poor conditions. Once again, thank you.

The Musical Life of the Parish

The work of our talented Bell ringers is described elsewhere.

The many high quality concerts and special events that we have hosted, including some outstandingly talented people, are not just fund-raisers, but outreach opportunities in themselves. They are described in detail elsewhere.

I would also like to pay tribute to all of our current organists and choir members, in this report. Their dedication and skill is appreciated by us all. I would also like to welcome Mrs Irene Mallett to the team, as organist at St Dochdwy's.

In two of our churches we trialled, and then successfully got to grips with, the set of CDs called *No Organist, No Problem*. This enabled us to be able to afford to have 2 paid organists, twice a month, at St Dochdwy's and Holy Nativity for the cost of one month's fees.

Our new line-up of organists is now:

Robert Court – Organist and Choirmaster, St Augustine's
 Dr Chris Berry – St Augustine's (volunteer organist)
 Malcolm Watts – 2 Sundays per month at Holy Nativity
 Irene Mallet - 2 Sundays per month at St Dochdwy's

Fundraising

Fundraising for local charities continued throughout the year. Cheques were presented to a number of charities from the proceeds of another very successful Christmas Tree Festival. Many thanks to all who were involved, once again.

The *Feed the Hungry* plates are an excellent idea of one of my predecessors, and are most often used for Disaster Relief Campaigns – usually when the Disasters Emergency Committee calls for urgent international support.

Significant amounts were again raised through Lent Lunches (for Christian Aid), sales, fayres and other events. A number of special events have taken place this year, and a significant number of talks, lectures, concerts and recordings took place, which will be discussed by other people elsewhere.

I want to thank everyone for their contributions of both time and money.

Volunteering and contributing in other ways

Volunteers from the Parish continue to help out in local soup kitchens, as Hospital Visitors, and a great many items are taken to the local Foodbank every month, as a result of the generosity of parishioners.

My thanks to all who have contributed in so many ways.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival goes from strength to strength and has been an excellent way of interacting with lots of children and young families. It is an excellent form of outreach, and tells a joyful story. We are now involved with schools well outside our parish boundaries, and have created a positive image of church and its links with the community.

Crib Service

The highly-successful Crib Service continues to draw in ever-greater numbers as it gets more and more well-known. It is a nice problem to have to worry about fitting them all in, especially considering they don't take up that much room, physically!

Sunday Schools

We have two monthly Sunday schools, one at Llandough, the other at St. Augustine's. The St Dochdwy's Sunday School is almost self-sustaining, and there is good lay-leadership, in preparation for the time when Rose moves on. The St Augustine's one is at an earlier stage of development, but is much appreciated.

Our Tots Groups

Numbers fluctuate periodically for Tots groups throughout the country, but the groups at the Memorial Hall in Llandough and in the Parish Hall in Penarth are very full indeed. This is excellent news, and I want to thank all the members of the church who are involved behind the scenes, in so many ways, and front-of-house.

Work with Local Schools and Nurseries

The Nightingales Pre-School came to the Parish for services at Harvest and Christmas, for a mock Royal Wedding, and to understand what a church was. I visited the Pre School with knitted puppets to tell the Christmas story. These visits were all very enjoyable, and well-organised, and we value our connection with them.

I reported last year, that following the appointment of a new Headteacher at Albert Road Primary, we completed the set of schools that we wanted to work with very closely indeed, as we have hit a ceiling in the number of hours clergy can give to these opportunities. We now have regular assemblies going on at Llandough Primary, Cogan Primary, and both Infant and Junior Assemblies at Albert Primary. We have also had visits from Ysgol Y Deri Special School, Fairfield and we also have connections with other schools, on a more infrequent basis.

We are now in the two local mainstream secondary schools via our joint parish youth worker.

A successful *Beating the Bounds* service in Llandough, bringing church, school and public together, was held again last year. This involved Llandough Primary and Llandough Community Council, and another is scheduled for this May, taking in the Hospital and some of the less-visited parts of the parish.

We continue to support RE in local schools, have visited local schools, and many schools have visited us with great success.

100th Anniversary of the End of World War I

An important and memorable commemoration, with the highest recorded attendance at St Augustine's in recent times was held on November the 11th itself.

The parish hosted members of the Royal British Legion, All Saints' parish, members of the armed forces, VIPs, members of the uniformed organisations and local schoolchildren. Also invited were representatives of people whose names are recorded on our Roll of Honour. They came from all over South Wales, from Australia, some from the USA and a minibus contingent from Staffordshire. My thanks to all involved in this service, and especially the Roll of Honour Team/Church Team.

National Cystic Fibrosis Memorial Service

We value our connection with the Adult CF Centre in Llandough Hospital, and are planning the next invitation-only service, remembering those from across the country who have died from Cystic Fibrosis.

Environmental Work & Our Stewardship of the Natural World: detailed elsewhere, but once again, may I thank all of those who enabled the Parish to be presented with the Bronze Award of the Environmental Charity, A Rocha. We are now looking towards the Silver!

Many thanks to all those individuals and groups who are involved in maintaining the grounds (5 churchyards) and buildings (3 churches, 1 parish hall) throughout the parish. Thanks to all involved with the local nature groups, and some of the activities such as the Bat & Moth evenings, and the establishment of homes for insects. St Augustine's grounds continue to be developed on a rotational cutting management scheme that benefits local wildlife.

First Impressions and access

First impressions do count, and so I thank everyone for their hard work in keeping the churches looking so good, both inside and out. A great deal of effort is going into our five churchyards, as you all know, with professionals, individuals and teams of volunteers being involved. Young offenders are also working with St Dochdwy's people to keep the churchyard there looking good, as part of their service to the community.

Holy Nativity and St Augustine's both benefited from the flower boxes which welcomed people to the churches – a great idea! The improved visibility of Holy Nativity from the road is also yielding results, and is reducing the numbers of people who use the grounds for drug-taking, etc.

Work with the local council regarding the boundary wall of Holy Nativity is ongoing, as part of the council's planning for road widening, a traffic crossing, and beautification of the area.

I am also pleased to say that people continue to be very supportive of last year's push on keeping the fire and disabled exits really clear, allowing better access to the disabled (and parents with prams!) to our churches.

Valuing our retired priests and keeping our current rich schedule of services going

We are very fortunate to have some dedicated priests to take services in this parish. Our thanks are especially due to Richard and Margaret who live in the parish. We will of course be losing Sandra in May. Her work, and that of the late Very Revd John Lewis, will be missed. A number of retired priests in the area have recently died, become ill, are looking after sick spouses, or moved out of the area. The current pool of available priests, not taking services elsewhere, is now at the lowest level ever, and the situation is not likely to get better, unless there are surprise retirements to the area.

Early in 2020, Peter will retire, and later that year, it is theoretically possible that Rose may leave us. Alison will not be able to take Eucharistic services until July 2020, but she will be very busy in her own parish covering what she can of the interregnum. Clearly, the service situation will need constant reviewing in the future in light of the depleted availability of priests and the demand which vastly exceeds the supply.

Pulpit Swaps and Cross-Parish services

Pulpit Swaps with All Saints' Parish began in January 2017, and generally occur on the third Sunday of each month. It gives clergy a chance to meet one another's congregations, and for conversations to be had, which are essential as we work together now on so many things.

We held a joint Lent course again based on the film *The Theory of Everything*, which looked at the life of Stephen Hawking. The course gave us an insight into disability, relationships, ethics, and the science/religion debate, amongst many other things.

We also came together for a number of special services, e.g. Palm Sunday and at Advent.

Working with All Saints' Parish

Clergy from both parishes work together well. We have Joint Evening Prayer services, pastoral team sessions and hold other discussions, but will need to work even more closely together in the time to come. Our collaboration over the Youth Worker is working well.

The paperwork for establishing the Ministry Area seems to be largely in place, although clarification is being sought at the time of writing, over the exact final form the Bishop will allow. Evensong on the 14th of July 2019 has been set aside as the likely date for the inauguration of a new Ministry Area.

The Mothers' Union

Our link with the MU continues to be strong, and our MU and All Saints' MU have had a number of joint events, in preparation for the churches working ever-more-closely together. They now plan jointly.

I am very happy to support the MU's 'toilet twinning' initiative to assist a community in Africa.

Official and Unofficial Chaplaincy

I continue the work of former incumbents in being Chaplain of the Llandough & Leckwith Branch of the Royal British Legion. In 2018, there were a number of special activities and services associated with the commemoration of the centenary of the ending of World War I.

As Chaplain to the Penarth RNLI branch, I led the service of dedication for the new lifeboat, *Spirit of Penarth II*, which Buddy Thompson named. The Parish, RNLI, Salvation Army Band, locals and many tourists had another wonderful Sea Sunday Service on the Promenade in July.

Rose continues in her work as Chaplain to the local Air Cadets. I recently attended the Royal Naval Service for the local Sea Cadets, who currently have a temporary chaplaincy arrangement.

We have an unofficial, periodic relationship with our local Traveller Community, through fairly frequent baptisms and some weddings.

I continue in my voluntary capacity as one of the chaplains to the Cardiff and Vale Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth. They have had no Chaplain of their own since early 2015. I have encouraged the Hospice to draw upon a wider net of clergy, and they have done so - it is impossible to be 'on call' in the same way as the former full-time chaplain was, when you also have responsibilities to an area with a large population and a number of churches. Nevertheless, I was delighted to be asked to go in on Easter Day and give communion to all who wanted it, and to join the people being cared for (which at that moment in time also included our own Ann Wardell) for a little tea party.

The former St Lawrence's, Lavernock

Our good relations with SALT continue, and there have been a number of times where we have done things together over the course of the year. Services are jointly-planned to carefully avoid each other's events.

SALTs bid for Lottery Funding for electricity was unsuccessful, but I shall certainly be glad to support further fundraising initiatives.

I would also like to see Lavernock form part of a Pilgrimage Trail, perhaps as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Church in Wales – but most of the other elements of this big idea are outside of my control.

Donations

In the past fortnight we have been fortunate to receive a donation from a relative for churchyard maintenance of £1,000. Another gift-aided donation, for specific church building and grounds projects, from the Earl of Plymouth, is for £77,500. Please do remember to Gift Aid your donations, or ask Viv or Roger about how best to make donations to the church. Gift Aid on the latter is £19,375. These generous gifts obviously helps our financial situation, but they are restricted in their terms of use - they cannot be used for parish share, electricity or gas bills, insurance, organists' fees, etc. & etc.

Please can I advocate the thought, should you be writing a will or considering a donation, to make one that is unrestricted – so that the PCC of the day can put your money to best use. It's no use having a beautiful building with no money for the lights!

"Casualty"

St Augustine's was transformed by the BBC into a foodbank for one of the episodes of their popular show. We received a fee for hosting them, and it raised the profile of the work of foodbanks in general.

You may find it an interesting exercise to allocate the various sections of this report to one of the headings "Telling a Joyful story", "Growing the Kingdom of God" or "Building our community/capacity for good" now that you have completed the report, to see just where our strengths and weakness are. We have come a long way, quite quickly!

So, in conclusion, I want to thank you all for your contribution to this wonderful parish and its many ways of Growing the Kingdom of God, Building the Capacity for Good in this Community, and Telling a Joyful Story, full of Hope and Love.

Best wishes,
Revd Mark Jones

ADMIN & EVENTS IN THE PARISH 2018

Revd Mark Jones continued as priest-in-charge. In June our curate Revd Rosemary Hill, was ordained Priest at the Cathedral. Grateful thanks are given to retired priest Revd Richard Griffiths for taking many Sunday and midweek services. 'Pulpit swaps' continued, usually monthly, with clergy from All Saints, with thanks to Canon Peter Cox and Revd Sandra Birdsall. Revd Sandra has also done a midweek service for us every two weeks. A number of other, mainly retired, priests were able to offer cover for other services and we are very grateful to them.

Electoral Roll – as at the Easter Vestry 7/4/18, there are 154 names on the roll (159 last year).

UNITED SERVICES – Epiphany, Palm Sunday (jointly at All Saints), Pentecost, Christ the King, Christmas 1
Additionally 1st July at St Augustine's for the first Mass as president for Revd Rose Hill.

Baptisms – There were 16 baptisms – 11 at St Augustine's, 2 at Holy Nativity & 3 at St Dochdwy's

Weddings – There were 9 weddings – 5 at St Augustine's, 2 at Holy Nativity and 2 at St Dochdwy's

Funerals - 11 at St Augustine's, 4 at Holy Nativity, 5 at St Dochdwy's, and 11 others at a funeral home or crematorium.

Interments of ashes – 2 at St St Augustine's, 1 at St Dochdwy's

Events during the year

January - March

Epiphany Service & supper with Llandough Baptist church

Labyrinth walk

Pancake tea at Llandough

Joint Lent Group with All Saints

April – June

Service for Women's World Day of Prayer

Quiz Night

Rogation Walk with Llandough Primary School

Nightingales 'Royal Wedding' in St Augustine's

Llandough Civic Service

Llandough Village Fete

Habitat & Heritage open day at St Augustine's

Launch of Penarth Repair Cafe at Parish Hall

July - September

Sea Sunday – open air service at the RNLI boathouse on the Esplanade

Confirmation service at Llandaff Cathedral

Summer BBQ at Llandough

St Augustine's Patronal Festival

October – December

Albert Primary Harvest Service

Llandough Primary Harvest service at St Dochdwy's

Nightingale's Nursery Harvest service at St Augustine's

Harvest Supper at Llandough

RAF 100 years service (Penarth Air Cadets) at St Aug

Autumn Fayre in the Parish Hall

All Souls services –St Augustine's

Commemoration of end of WW1 services

Advent Carols at St Augustine's with All Saints

Breakfast with Santa

Christmas Tree Festival –8-9 December

RNLI Carol Service

Nightingale's Carol Service

Cogan Primary Carol Service

Llandough Primary Carol Service

The King James Bible Reading Group and Friends in Faith also met a number of times through the year.

Concerts (all at St Augustine's)

22/4 The Severn Ensemble concert

4/5 Cardiff University Chamber Choir Concert

19/5 Cardiff Cantemus Choir Concert

23/6 Cardiff University Contemporary Music Group

24/6 Trumpet & Organ concert

July – Recording by Caritas Choir

29/9 Male Voice Choirs

18/11 Concert by Rachel Podger

22/12 Cantemus Choir Concert

GIFT AID & PLANNED GIVING

Gift Aid

Charities – the church is a registered charity – benefit from the Gift Aid scheme which enables them to claim back 25% of a donor's donation made to the charity. The parish makes full use of the scheme and as you see in the accounts the tax reclaimed in 2018 totalled £13,687.00. This money comes from various sources – planned giving, donations and plate collections under the small gift aid donation scheme.

During 2018 each of our churches contributed to special projects – St Augustine had a new boiler in January and during the following 6 months there were a number of donations most of which were gift aided as well as grants that covered the cost. St Dochdwy's had an audio system and gift aided donations funded this. Holy Nativity needed money for the organ and once again parishioners made donations some of which were gift aided so now there is a surplus in hand for future maintenance. Other donations can be also be gift aided such as money for flowers, so please gift aid a donation if you are a tax payer.

Planned Giving

Many of our parishioners have joined the scheme by either donating to Gift Direct, by standing order or by using weekly envelopes. Years ago people pledged their amount but nowadays whilst they do not pledge, they usually give the same amount either monthly or weekly. This is useful as it helps the treasurer to budget more accurately what money he can expect to come into the bank account and when.

Every month the parish has to pay its 'Share' which is money that goes to the diocese to pay our clergy salaries, their pensions etc as well as running the Diocese. In 2018 this was £4275.28 per month [£51,303.36 p.a.], and this year it will be 4467.09 per month [£53,605.08 p.a.].

As well as the Share, the parish has to maintain buildings and graveyards, pay clergy expenses, buy altar requisites, pay utility bills and salaries to some people etc – see accounts. The contributions from parishioners do not cover all this, so we have to look elsewhere for other income such as fund-raising activities and hall income.

In 2018 planned giving totalled £45,040.55 from both tax-payers gift aiding and non- tax payers; the tax element was £9,717.28 – making a total of £54,757.83. However last year saw a noticeable drop in planned giving amounts mainly due to deaths during the year so the trend was downwards as is this year also, as sadly more have died.

Future giving

We need to encourage more people to join the planned giving scheme and everyone to look at the amount that they are giving on a regular basis. This is not easy at a time when salary increases are minimal and many are on a fixed pension, but unless we try to replace lost income at the very least, in due course we shall be forced to cut costs in other ways.

We do not pay income tax at a rate of 25% fortunately but we do get 25% of a donation refunded by the Inland Revenue and so should be grateful for this; furthermore, the Revenue encourages people to gift aid so we should take advantage of it whenever we can – nearly 9% of our total income in 2018 came from the Inland Revenue!

D.V Liles

7.3.19.

Things to think about:

- If you are not part of our Planned Giving scheme, could you join and give a regular amount?
- Could you review your regular giving and perhaps increase it?
- Can you Gift Aid your giving if you don't do so already?

If you answer yes to any of these, please speak to a Churchwarden, Roger Owen or Viv Liles.

FABRIC REPORT 2018-19

The listing below is only a sample of works being and requiring attention. It must be appreciated that funds are limited, so priorities have to be considered.

General

- All the Quinquennial surveys have now been completed and the reports are available for examination. It is proposed that representatives of each Church will meet within the next few weeks to decide on what actions should be taken. Any recommendations will be referred to the PCC for possible action. The majority of the reports refer to the buildings structure and refurbishment costs are liable to be expensive.
- All necessary safety checks have been completed and the documentation is available.
- Storage is still a problem at each building and every effort must be made to remove unnecessary items and store effectively.

St. Augustine's

- Several lighting units are defective and due to the height, access requires specialist equipment. Lowering the lighting should be considered to a more accessible position for future works.
- Specialist equipment will also be required for roofing repairs and vestry ceiling attention.
- The defective bell tower emergency lighting has been rectified.
- The recommended heat curtain units to aid the new heating boiler are yet to be fitted.
- Volunteers must be thanked for the extensive work carried out in the churchyard.
- Replacement of the damaged Sacristy outer door is still pending.

Holy Nativity

- Boundary wall requires extensive repairs, as shown in the recent survey.
- In addition blocked drains require cleaning and window guards renewed.
- Full details are listed in the Quinquennial and Risk assessment reports.

St. Dochdwy's

- Space has been provided in the Choir Vestry to accommodate the Sunday School.
- One of the outside Flood Light units has been stolen and will have to be replaced for next Christmas.
- Thankfully, Churchyard grass cutting is still being carried out by the Probation Services which is a considerable saving.

Parish Hall.

- Due to the expense of replacing the defective roof extraction fans consideration will be given to smaller local units.
- The defective ceiling light units have partially been renewed but improved lighting is being investigated.
- A more efficient door has been fitted at the disabled toilet.
- A new control switch has been fitted in the boiler room for the central heating system.

Keith Watts

PARISH SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2018

The main events we had this year were:

- ✱ Quiz night – 26th April
- ✱ Llandough Village fete – raised £400
- ✱ Plant sale St Augustine's June raised £100
- ✱ Llandough BBQ 15th July raised £370
- ✱ Autumn Fayre – 3 November – raised about £850
- ✱ Repair Cafe refreshments – June-Nov – £339
- ✱ Christmas Tree Festival refreshments & sales – raised £1400

Unfortunately the Parish Lunch and the Spring Fayre were both cancelled.

There were also a number of events raising money for other charities.

Thanks to all those who worked to so hard to make these and other events a success.

PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is an important asset for the Parish. It provides an essential income stream, as well as providing a wonderful space for many people to use. The Hall continued to be used in 2018 by lots of people taking part in classes, and community groups. In 2018 we had the following regular groups:

Line Dancing	Children's ballet school	Yoga
KarateFit (adults)	Kickboxing/Karate (children)	Zumba
Ballroom Dancing	Extend (for older people)	Penarth & District Quilters
Barreconcept (until Easter 2018)	StreetFeet Dance (until Easter 2018)	
Parish groups		
Mothers' Union	Tea, Toast & Tots	Friends of St Augustine's

The hall was also used for lots of children's parties and family parties, plus some charity or fundraising events such as for Croeso Penarth and a number of talks on art or local history.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our MU branch membership remains healthy in number; both women and men may join.

Over the past 18 months we have continued to make stronger and stronger links with All Saints MU. A joint programme for the year March 2019 to February 2020 has been published and distributed. However our Corporate Communion services and all financial matters remain separate.

We give the clergy of both parishes our grateful thanks for their support

Delyth Williams pp St Augustine's MU committee

FRIENDS IN FAITH

Friends in Faith, a small house group, meeting in Llandough welcomes members from the Parish and beyond. It has had another successful year discussing a short course "Authority in the Church" and also a Christian outlook on aspects of film, TV and newspaper coverage of current affairs.

Rene Grenville

PENARTH REPAIR CAFÉ

In this year we were asked if we would like to host a new community venture called Repair Café. A number of these had already been established in Cardiff and two Penarth residents, Liz Clark and Katerina Stechman wanted to set one up in the town. The idea is that people bring broken household items which volunteers help to fix for free. The aim is to reduce what we put in landfill by fixing instead of throwing away and share skills at the same time. Repair Cafés are places to meet neighbours and do a bit to save the environment. There are now over 1,700 Cafés worldwide in the UK, Europe and across the world.

We launched Penarth Repair Café in June and have held them every month (except December) on the 4th Sunday of the month 2pm-5pm in the Parish Hall. As Repair Café is a voluntary organisation without funding, the Parish doesn't charge rent for the hall, but instead we sell refreshments to make money. We provide tea, coffee and home made cakes to the people who come to get their items repaired, or anyone else who just happens to be passing! People often meet friends or might just get to know someone new as they wait their turn.

Huge thanks go to Tricia Griffiths, Linda Guilfoyle and Cathy Grove who willingly give their time to selling refreshments. We would love more people to get involved - if you could help please speak to one of us. If you want to volunteer to fix things at Repair Café, I can put you in touch with Liz or Katerina.

Lastly, if you have something broken, why not come along to see if it can be mended? What do you have to lose?

Rachel Elder

ARCHIVE REPORT

The parish archivist's role covers a number of aspects from looking at records for people doing family history research, helping families research descendants on the Roll of Honour or on cenotaphs, and their families; depositing records in the Record Office and during the last two years transcribing burials for the Heritage and Habitat group.

During 2018/19 I have been involved with all of these sorts of research and have also carried out a project for Cogan School which consisted of looking at certain addresses in the area where some of the pupils live now and find out who was there about 1900. This meant looking at both the 1901 and the 1911 census forms, obtaining copies of them so that pupils could see who lived there, their occupations and from the 1911 census know how many rooms were in the house. Other facts could be looked at by the pupils and be developed or included in other work by the teacher.

I have had enquiries from America, France and from various parts of this country mostly asking about the whereabouts of a family grave. There were a number of enquiries at the Friends' Open days in both July and November and we are planning another one in July.

On our Roll of Honour are some Bartletts and I was asked to clarify the re-marriages of three of their widows as there was some confusion in the family mainly due to some facts being incorrect or incomplete.

Another enquiry concerned the only woman named on the Alexandra Park Cenotaph – Emily A. Pickford. She was a pianist and had a group in France entertaining the troops during WW1, but was killed in a motor accident in 1919 – there was an article in the Penarth Times about her in December.

However, the greatest amount of time spent was on recording burials: from 2017 – 2018 all the burials in our churchyard were recorded, which number over 7,000; these have been uploaded onto a special website. A drone has photographed the headstones and the next job is to upload the photos onto the website as well as other available information about those who are in the grave.

Last year an old burial book was passed to us and this contains about 2,000 burials listed in sections and rows and the vast majority of them are in unmarked graves. These burials are in the process of being typed up as a document that can be worked on, and in due course we hope to produce a map showing their locations. This will be very useful as there is no map of where these burials are at present.

The old burial book is now in the record office and we have both a digitized version on computer and a photocopied version for working purposes. There is other interesting information in the book that will be typed up and put with other information that we have about the graveyard in due course.

D V Liles

Archivist

FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE'S – REPORT 2018/19

Overview

The Friends have had a busy and productive 2018-19, building on our first 5 years of fundraising to support the PCC with the maintenance of the building, its artifacts and churchyard. Through our activities and programme of events we have brought dozens of people through the doors of St Augustine's to appreciate what this special place has to offer – and have been delighted to welcome them.

Governance and Finance

At The Friends' AGM 2018, we thanked Chris Williams for his sterling service to the committee since its start, latterly as Chair. Officers were elected for 2018-19 as follows: Cathy Grove (Chair), Jane Higley (Vice Chair), Linda Guilfoyle (Minutes Secretary), Steve Lavender (Treasurer), Tricia Griffiths (Membership Secretary). Elected committee members: Richard Griffiths, Caroline Lamb, Michael Lawrence, Jane Williams, Margaret Turner (to Jan 2019). During the year we have completed the annual update of our organisation's policies on Child Welfare, Volunteers, Environment etc. and we contacted members at the appropriate time to ensure that we comply with the new data protection laws. We are currently preparing to register The Friends with the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation. The Friends' finances are in a healthy state, helped by fund-raising events, membership fees and donations. Our ring-fenced Lottery funding for the Start-Up of the Habitat & Heritage project has been used to buy tools and equipment for the churchyard, to commission reports, and to finance relevant volunteer training.

Events programme 2018-19

The Friends' two main musical events in the church drew very healthy audiences: in September Oxford Male Voice Choir joined forces with Risca Male Choir for a very successful concert to celebrate the 90 years since miners walked from south Wales to Oxford to find work in the new car factories. Then in November, internationally renowned Baroque violinist Rachel Podger gave a dazzling solo recital in a joint concert with promoters Sunday at Six. The only downside to each event was the lack of facilities in the church (one toilet for 250 people!) The Friends also ran three talks over the summer related to WW1 and significant Penarth people, delivered variously by Dr Jonathan Hicks, Dr Aled Eirug and Alan Thorne. In February 2019 members met at The Pilot for the second Friends Lunch, which has proved so successful that it has now become an annual event!

Roll of Honour and WW1 events

The conservation of the Roll of Honour was The Friends' first major project. This year Kathleen Guy and the project team have been researching the lives of individual men on the roll, in preparation for a publication to be produced in 2020. Two further talks this year took the total WW1-related Friends' events in Penarth from 2014-18 to 8. For Remembrance weekend in November 2018, The Friends held a successful Open Church Extra at St Augustine's, to enable a steady stream of people to visit the RoH in advance of the Remembrance service and to inspect parish registers.

Open Church

For the past year, The Friends have opened St Augustine's regularly every Wednesday afternoon, plus the first Sunday of the month, welcoming visitors from all over the world as well as curious locals. During the Eisteddfod week in Cardiff Bay, we opened St Augustine's every day, with a rota of volunteer church-sitters welcoming 84 visitors during the week. The sitters group have also met twice during the year, to discuss the development and improvement of the Open Church system and to welcome six new group members.

Habitat and Heritage

The Habitat and Heritage Project is The Friends' current flagship project, funded mainly by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is run by a steering group (a sub-committee of The Friends), chaired by Andrew Davison and consisting of 10 people drawn from the wider Penarth community, with a range of relevant skills.

The project has had a very busy and productive year: the highlight event was probably the Open Day in June 2018, to celebrate Cherishing Churchyards Week, when visitors were offered a range of activities – talks on graves and monuments, guided wildlife walks, a dramatic reading of 'The Ancient Mariner', access to churchyard burial records and information on the Burial Ground Management System.

Throughout the year the H&H team has continued to run highly successful monthly churchyard maintenance sessions, with a volunteer list of 35 people who clear hidden graves, assist with the planned wildlife-friendly

rotational grass cutting, plant bulbs etc. In September the Wildlife Trust ran a very popular Bat and Moth evening in the churchyard.

On the Heritage side, the highlight has been the dazzling restoration of the Joseph Parry grave memorial, funded by the 2017 Parry Festival. All information from the church records has now been entered into the computerised data management system and all visible graves have been photographed; specialist reports have been commissioned on the restoration of the Preaching Cross; other memorials of particular interest, including war graves, have been identified for further action; and interpretation boards have been bought for installation in the churchyard.

The first phase of the Habitat & Heritage Project has now ended and the Project Review has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Friends will now be considering whether to apply for a second phase of funding to develop the H&H project still further and if so, the amount to be applied for and the aims of the next phase.

Forthcoming Events 2019-20

The Friends Committee is now completing the programme for 2019-20, which will be launched at our AGM in April. We have an eclectic mix of events planned and this coming year we will be particularly celebrating the unique features of St Augustine's church and its churchyard.

The programme will include another churchyard Open Day in the summer; events to mark the Patronal Festival in August; an inaugural Butterfield Festival in September; and a concert to mark the restoration of the Joseph Parry memorial. There will also be trips to the new Frank Roper Centre in Ely and to Butterfield / Arts & Crafts churches in the Wye Valley.

Conclusion

The Friends look forward to welcoming visitors and returners to St Augustine's in 2019-20, whether for big events or for quiet contemplation, and we hope to continue developing the churchyard as a community resource. None of this would be possible without the commitment of dedicated volunteers, not just from the congregation but from the wider community - church sitters, wildlife enthusiasts, report writers, gardeners, researchers, heritage experts, tea makers and so on.

In St Augustine's we have a church and churchyard to be proud of – and what can be better than helping to care for it and sharing it with the wider community!

For details of all Friends events, see our programme for 2019 and our website

www.friendsofstaugustines.org.uk

Cathy Grove

Chair, The Friends of St Augustine's

MUSIC AND CHOIR AT ST AUGUSTINE'S

This year has been a particularly sad one for the choir at St Augustine's as we have lost two of our longest-serving members, Sue Plenty and Margaret Turner. Sue had been in the choir for well over 30 years and Margaret for even longer than that (not even she knew exactly how long!). They were both extremely loyal to the choir and are sorely missed.

Again this year we have had the pleasure of joining forces with the choir of All Saints Church on two or three occasions. These are always happy events - and since we only have two men in our choir the added numbers from All Saints means that we can perform music we otherwise wouldn't.

We have hosted a number of concerts at the church this year. Cantemus, Cardiff University Chamber Choir and Cardiff University Contemporary Music Society have all used the church for their performances. The latter also spent 4 days using the church for recording purposes last summer. Also last summer the world famous trumpet player Crispian Steele-Perkins played for us accompanied by the international concert organist Anne Page. More recently another world-class player, Rachel Podger, gave a solo violin recital here and we should also remember the Oxford Welsh Male Choir (some of whom cycled from Oxford) who joined forces with Risca Male choir for a unique collaborative concert. The chamber choir "Caritas" hired the church to record their new CD. These events all provided useful income for the church.

My thanks, as always, go to the members of the choir and also to Dr Chris Berry our assistant organist, for their continued loyalty, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment. The passing of Sue and Margaret has significantly reduced our choir numbers and so we are more than ever looking for new singers to join us.

Robert Court

Organist & Director of Music

BELL RINGING AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

The St Augustine's Bellringing practice is every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. We have a strong band at present and are able to provide ringers for all 8 bells for Sunday service on most occasions. Many of the ringers come from outside of the Parish and some of them also support other churches so we are very grateful to their continued support. Two of our ringers are now DBS checked should any young people decide to join. We rang for each of the weddings requested during the year (though often only six ringers as Saturdays are harder to find available people for).

We attended the regional striking competition, but failed to win our heat this year. We host some of the branch practises every now and then. During the last year we have hosted the Surprise Major practise. We have had three different visiting bands from Southampton, Halesowen and Marston Bigot along with many individual visitors.

We rang a few special 'Quarter peals' during the year:

- 11th November for Remembrance a method we named Bartlett Surprise Major. For Battery Serjeant Major Tom Bartlett, a bell ringer at this church. Tom was killed in action on August 30th 1916, aged 38, in the Battle of the Somme.
- 23rd September a method we named called Penarth Surprise Major.

We have been asked to host the branch AGM next year 2020 on the 1st Feb

The tower suffers from damp during heavy rain and this sometimes affects the electrics. After one blackout during ringing the emergency light was repaired and everything is currently in working order.

Helen Kerbey

Ringers' Secretary.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Report from Deanery Conference 16th May 2018

The conference theme was Working with Children, led by Revd Elaine Jenkyns, the Diocesan Children's Officer. Parishes were asked to encourage those working with children and young people to attend. Revd Elaine commented that parish returns don't always highlight the good work going on in parishes with children and young people, although it exists and is important for the future.

Representatives were asked to give examples of what was going well in their work with children and there was an impressive range of activity from across the Deanery – developing Sunday schools (one with 90 attenders); Messy Church; Christmas and Easter Experience packages; regular clergy visits to schools; regular class visits to church; work with new families to the area; Open Book schemes; Alpha Courses; all-age worship etc.

Parishes were also asked to highlight areas not going so well: most were related to the difficulty of hanging on to teenagers and secondary school-age children, including the lack of adult volunteers to run activities; the unsuitable nature of available buildings; competing activities; and the need for balance between engaging young people and still satisfying older parishioners.

Revd Elaine pointed out that training for work with children and young people is available from the Diocese, but as yet no-one had requested it – which could mean that it had not been well advertised! Funding is also available from the Diocese Mission Fund and Revd Elaine can support applications.

It was agreed that ministry should be about what the young people want and need, at their point of need – which may involve food and safe space as well as activity choices.

Report from Deanery Conference 9th October 2018

Area Dean Andrew James welcomed Jan Boyce (Diocesan Accountant) and Mark Brampton (Parish Resources Officer - working for Stewardship). Both began by mentioning that there was money still available from the Transformation Fund and the Community Development Fund. Further details and application forms are available here <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/grants-and-funding/>

A presentation followed on 'Giving for Life', a range of resources to encourage giving within congregations. The resources follow an 8-point plan originally from the CofE and adapted for use within the Diocese. The points include: claiming Gift Aid, using the Gift Direct and Parish Buying Schemes, and having a legacy policy. Packs were available to take away which included a PCC questionnaire and assessment sheets. A draft legacy policy was to be finalised shortly and would be available for use by parishes.

There is more information here: <https://llandaff.churchinwales.org.uk/parish-resources/>

Report from Governing Body 11-13th September 2018

The GB welcomed and endorsed the report on 'Evangelism: a framework for healthy and joyful mission', which included the launch of a film showing new ways of 'being church'. Projects from each Diocese highlighted how churches across Wales are taking the Christian message out to their communities. The film is available to watch or download from the Church in Wales website at: <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/news2018/09/faith-in-evangelism-film>

The other main debate at GB concerned the Church in Wales' attitude to same-sex relationships. Three years after the members last considered same-sex relationships, the subject was brought back onto the agenda by the Bishops, who have since changed their view about the provision that should be made in the Church. The Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Bishop Mark Strange, was invited to address members about the process developed and adopted in Scotland, which last year voted to allow same-sex marriages in its churches. This was followed by questions to the Bishop, open discussion, and a secret ballot.

Members were asked to agree or not with the statement “It is pastorally unsustainable for the Church to make no formal provision for those in same-sex relationships.” It was an indicative ballot only i.e. the Church is not bound by it, and the Bishops did not take part. 76 members agreed and 21 disagreed.

More details of the business of the Governing Body can be found at:

www.churchinwales.org.uk/structure/governing-body/meetings/12-13-sept-2018/

Report from Diocesan Conference 29th September 2018

The main business of the Conference was the presentation and discussion of the new Diocesan Vision ‘Where Faith Matters’. The draft booklet sets out the Vision, Shared Aims and Character of the Diocese and, as well as setting out where we are now, offers goals to be worked towards by 2023.

Delegates were divided into discussion groups and reported back to the plenary session. There was broad agreement that the document covered all areas of Diocesan life, in a comprehensive and realistic way, and offered a positive and uplifting way forward. The Vision will be launched in Lent 2019.

Cathy Grove

cgrove@madasafish.com

PARISH OF PENARTH AND LLANDOUGH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held on Sunday 22nd April 2018 in the Parish Hall at 3pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Revd Mark Jones chaired the meeting.
 There were 38 people present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Tricia Griffiths, Keith Watts, Marguerite Lewis, Philip Jenkins, Cathy Grove, Derek Day.

3. PRAYERS - The meeting opened with prayers.

4. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Revd Mark Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming and for all they had done over the past year. There would be one special item of business this year, which was all matters relating to the Ministry Area.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting held on 2nd April 2017 were circulated. They were approved and agreed as a true record of proceedings.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

Fr Mark thanked the Churchwardens & Subwardens, the PCC, the Parish Administrator and everyone else who had helped with the running of the parish.

Fr Mark highlighted some of the points that had been made in his report, which had been previously circulated. Music: finding new organists had been an important task, since the death of Ann Dobbins (Holy Nativity) and the decision of Richard Brooksby (St Dochdwy's) to move on to Dinas Powys. Both churches now have a part-time organist and CDs for when no-one available.

Sunday Schools: Thanks to Rev Rose Hill, these had been set up at St Dochdwy's & St Augustine's and are running well. It is vital to the future of the parish that work is done to encourage more children & families.

Service cover: Thanks were given to Rev Richard Griffiths for giving so much help with services. In the coming year, it may be increasingly difficult to maintain cover for all services, so there may be occasions when authorised Lay persons lead congregations in Morning Prayer.

Pastoral Care: Fr Mark spoke of the vital need to increase lay involvement in parish visiting of the sick and infirm. Anyone interested should contact him or Rev Rose.

7. MINISTRY AREA

Fr Mark had produced a document with a Proposed Model for Governance of the Ministry Area and there was discussion on this.

- We have been working for a number of years towards forming a Ministry Area with All Saints.
- There have been discussions and action, with collaborative working increasing in recent years through joint services, pulpit swaps, and a joint youth worker.
- The next stage is to formally agree the formation of a Ministry Area, possibly having a commissioning service in September or October.
- The Diocese is encouraging us to pay the Parish Share jointly through one bank account, although there are some difficulties in doing this.
- A Ministry Area Steering Group would be formed to oversee the process and guide the individual PCCs which would carry on functioning as they are.
- There would be joint Ministry Area leaders in Rev Mark Jones & Canon Peter Cox, so the process can work smoothly for both parishes before Peter retires in 2020.

The process could stop there or go on to become a Rectorial Benefice with merged PCCs.

- Ministry Areas are not legal entities, but a Rectorial Benefice would have full legal status.
- This gives the ability to apply for things together, like funding grants and to employ people together.
- It has big implications for the structure of the parish, merging 2 PCCs and 2 Parish Offices, running 5 churches and looking after the whole of Penarth & Llandough.

How do All Saints view this process?

MJ stated that they are enthusiastic in principal, but haven't looked at it in as much detail as us. They have a positive sense of what has been achieved so far, although they haven't investigated all aspects of it.

After discussion of the model, those present were asked if they were happy to continue on this path towards becoming a Ministry Area. It was agreed that we should move forward with the plan and hopefully become a Rectorial Benefice.

8. ELECTORAL ROLL – this had increased to 161, up from 157 last year. However, the parish has a mortality rate of 4-5%, which means we need to replace one in 20 each year to maintain the same level, and more to keep growing.

9. PCC ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This had been prepared and submitted by Roger Owen, Treasurer.

- Total Income was £126,940 which was a decrease from last year of £3141 (£130,081)
- Total expenditure was £115,742 which was a reduction of £8302 on last year. (£124,044)
- There was currently a surplus of £11,000, but £8000 of that was from hall income. Without the hall, we would be in financial difficulty.
- Planned giving & loose collection had increased but donations were down, as was fund raising.
- Legacies received totalled £1000.
- Expenditure –Parish Share had increased slightly, as had maintenance of churches, but most other expenses were less than last year.
- St Augustine's boiler had been replaced.
- The bank balances and reserves at the year-end totalled £62,868.

Future

There would be an increase in our Parish Share, as we would be paying £5000 p.a. towards our curate. The Diocese is billing us as a Ministry Area with All Saints, although we still pay the Share separately.

Thanks were given to Roger Owen for all his hard work, and also to Viv Liles as Gift Aid Secretary.

The accounts had been audited by Mr Derek Day. They were approved by the meeting.

10. PARISH REPORTS

Reports had been circulated before the meeting on Fabric, Social Events, Friends of St Augustine's, Habitat & Heritage, Music & Choir, Bellringing, and Area Deanery Conference. There was no time for discussion of them, but Fr Mark thanked all for their work during the year.

11. ELECTIONS

Church Wardens

The following were accepted by the meeting as People's wardens without election:

Mr Andrew Davison (St Augustine's)

Mr Roger Owen (St Dochdwy's)

Miss Louise Cooke (Holy Nativity)

Rector's wardens (appointed by Revd Mark Jones)

Mrs Linda Guilfoyle (St Augustine's)

Mrs Jan Cullen (St Dochdwy's)

Mrs Kath Williams (Holy Nativity)

PCC

The following were accepted by the meeting (no election)

St Augustine's – Mrs Cathy Groves, Mrs Patricia Griffiths, Mr Wyntoun Bailey, Mrs Viv Liles

Holy Nativity –Mrs Ann Lush, Mr Huw Williams

St Dochdwy's – Mr Keith Watts, Mr Dave Taylor

Sidespersons for St Augustine's

Evan Davies, Andrew Davison, Molly Evans, Hilary Griffiths, Linda Guilfoyle, Mary Howells, Philip Jenkins, Helen Knight, Jan Knight, Marguerite Lewis, and Mal Pugsley.

12. APPOINTMENT OF HON. AUDITOR

It was agreed to appoint Mr Derek Day as auditor. Mr Day was thanked for his work as auditor of the parish accounts.

13. WARDENS' THANKS

On behalf of the Wardens, Linda Guilfoyle thanked Fr Mark and Rev Rose for all their work over the past year, much of it unseen by most people. A small gift of appreciation was given to each of them.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm with the grace.