



ARDAL WEINIDOGAETH
PENARTH
MINISTRY AREA

Penarth Ministry Area Report

for the

Annual Vestry Meeting

Monday 22nd April 2024 7.30pm
Held at All Saints Church, Penarth

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Trustee’s Report and Accounts

Accounts can be obtained from the Ministry Area Office – 029 22805663 or email:
parishcommunityhall@uwclub.net or admin@allsaintspenarth.org.uk

Agenda for Annual Vestry Meeting 2024

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Lay Chair's Introduction
4. Minutes of the Previous Annual Vestry Meeting held on 23rd April 2023
5.
 - a) Ministry Area Reports (as detailed within this document)
 - b) Electoral Roll
 - c) 2023 Accounts
6. Elections
 - a) Ministry Area Warden
 - b) Sides persons
 - c) Ministry Area Council
 - d) Confirmation of Sub-Warden appointments
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Any Other Business (at Lay-Chair's discretion and with prior notice)
9. Closing Prayers

Members of the newly elected Ministry Area Council are asked to stay behind to sign the register.

Minutes Of the Last AVM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 at All Saints Church at 6pm

ATTENDANCE

Chairperson: Mel Griffin (MG) Ministry Area Lay Chair. Minutes: Rachel Elder (Administrator)
Clergy present: Rev Mark Jones (MJ) – Ministry Area Leader, Rev Jimmy Young (JY)
There were 52 people present.

1. **OPENING PRAYERS** were led by Rev Mark Jones

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sylvia Harris, Hugh Bryant, Margaret Casey, Pat Robertson, Mary Scarrett, Brian Stonhold, Nigel Lloyd-Latham.

3. LAY CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

Mel Griffin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as Lay Chair. She explained that the Annual Vestry Meeting is the church's AGM, with a chance to receive reports and accounts, vote for representatives on the Ministry Area Council (MAC) and ask questions.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Vestry Meeting (AVM) held on 16th January 2022 had been circulated. No points of accuracy were raised. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Janet Akers and seconded by Carole Rees. They were approved and agreed as a true record of proceedings by those present.

5. MINISTRY AREA REPORTS

a) Ministry Area Leader's Report – Rev Mark Jones

The report had been circulated before the meeting – no questions were raised about it.

b) **Lay Chair's Report – Mel Griffin**

MG said that we had already come a long way since our two parishes had been incorporated as a Ministry Area. It is not easy being 'church' in an increasingly secular country. We have many challenges which we are working to overcome and there is much reason for optimism for the future.

In the last few months, the MAC has been thinking about what we want to achieve as a Ministry Area and has developed a vision of where we want to be in 5 years' time. We are now working on a strategy of how to get there and in particular our priorities for the coming year. This should be finalised in the next few weeks and an outline shared with the MA. MG thanked all the MAC members and the Administrators, and all who had an input into this work.

MG drew attention to the summary of the Vision Statement that had been included in the papers circulated before the meeting.

c) **Electoral Roll** – as at 23/4/23 this stands at 281.

d) **2022 Accounts** – Chris Salisbury (CS)

CS said that the accounts now need to have a greater level of detail than before, as we are a larger charity with an income of over £250,000. We also want to be transparent about finances. The draft accounts had been published early so people could see them and have a chance to ask questions. Some of those questions had been put into the Question and Answer supplement circulated with the AVM papers.

Income had been about £292,000 and Expenditure £319,000, leaving a deficit of £27,000. Income was broadly similar to what it had been as separate parishes, but all costs had risen, especially utilities which had risen by a very large amount. We have the challenge of addressing the deficit. We can do fundraising, although it is difficult at this time of economic hardship to ask people to contribute a lot more. We are also looking at reducing costs, although cost-cutting will inevitably affect our mission, so decisions on this are hard. Maintenance is a large part of our spending, but we have to maintain our buildings to a good standard. Going forward, we have a healthy balance sheet with assets and reserves and the MA remains both liquid and solvent.

Questions about the accounts

Roger Thomas was concerned about balancing the accounts going forward. He asked if the MAC would be looking, in the next few years, at whether it's viable to keep all 5 churches open?

Reply from MJ

- The four active churches of the MA are all contributing to the funds and life of the MA to the best of their abilities. If we decided to close one church, it's likely that many of those people would not transfer to another church, so we would lose them and they would no longer contribute.
- We need diversity across the MA, to serve different groups and different types of worship.
- There may come a time when we have to consider the viability of a church, but there won't be any secret plans to do this.
- We would have to consider whether a church can continue to be opened, managed and maintained properly by the congregation using the building. People would be asked if they have the energy, ability and willingness to keep it open. However, there is no danger of this at this time.

Max Scott-Cook asked about the curates' houses. CS said they are shown on the balance sheet in order to show a full picture of assets. It doesn't mean we have any intention of selling them. Max also asked about the rectory opposite St Dochwys's Church, Llandough. MJ replied that it is owned by the Church in Wales Representative Body and is not an MA asset. A family connected with Citizen Church in Cardiff are currently living there.

MG thanked Chris for all his work preparing the accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Ann Humphrey and seconded by Roger Thomas. They were accepted with no objections or abstentions.

6. REPORTS FROM THE DEANERY AND DIOCESAN CONFERENCES – Rev Jimmy Young

JY said the Diocesan Conference had taken place in September 2022. The representatives present were challenged to think about their understanding of mission and what that would mean for the future. Bishop June also announced the decision to combine the existing Deaneries into six larger Deaneries (JY being an interim Area Dean). It would be for the new Bishop (Mary) to decide if that will continue.

A Deanery evening had been held in February, bringing together all the MAs in the new Vale of Glamorgan Deanery. It was a good chance to chat and get to know each other. There had also been a presentation from Christoph Auckland, Diocesan Mission and Outreach Officer, about his work and how MAs can get involved.

7. ELECTIONS

a) Church Wardens

Janet Akers had agreed to continue for one more year. She was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

There is still one vacancy and it is hoped someone will come forward from the legacy parish of Penarth & Llandough.

b) Sidespeople

It was proposed by MG to continue with those already appointed as Sidespeople and Welcomers, it was seconded by CS and agreed by the meeting.

c) Ministry Area Council

There are 8 places for lay members - 4 from each of the legacy parishes of All Saints, Penarth and Penarth & Llandough.

Penarth & Llandough nominations:

St Augustine's – Robert Court, Neil Pugh

Holy Nativity – Huw Williams

St Dochdwy's – no nominations

All Saints - There were five nominations for the four places:

Ann Humphrey, Alan Balcombe, Jane McLaughlin, Len Smart, Hugh Bryant

However, Hugh Bryant could be co-opted by the MAC as he is the MA Reader, with a role across the whole MA and not just All Saints

MG asked if the meeting was happy to vote on all the MAC appointments at once – agreed.

Those present then voted to accept all those standing for the MAC with no objections or abstentions.

8. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

CS proposed to appoint Caroline Candy of Naunton Jones Le Masurier Accountants as independent examiner of the MA accounts. Seconded by Matthew Salisbury. Agreed by those present.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roger Thomas requested that the minutes of the meeting be put on the website and be available by email shortly after the meeting, rather than waiting until near the time of the next AVM. MG agreed that this could be done.

MG thanked everyone for coming and said that there is lots to do and a long way to go but we look forward to God's plans for us in the year ahead.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm with the Grace.

Administration

Clergy

Ministry Area Leader: Revd Mark Jones Vicar: Revd Jimmy Young

Curate: In June 2022 Rev Bethany Pearson joined the team as Assistant Curate, having been ordained Deacon. She is currently off on long-term sick leave, please remember her in your prayers.

Rev Margaret Stark has continued to take one Sunday service at week, alternating between St Dochdwy's and Holy Nativity, plus doing one mid-week service.

Services

Sundays Eucharist services are held weekly at all churches except St Peter's.

Midweek Eucharist services are held weekly at St Augustine's and All Saints. They are now monthly at Holy Nativity and St Dochdwy's. There is also a weekly Welsh language service at All Saints.

Evensong is held once a month at All Saints and once a month at St Peter's.

Jan – Dec 2023	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals	Memorial Services
St Augustine's	3	1	12	2
St Dochdwy's	1		4	
Holy Nativity	1		2	
All Saints	5	6	24	
St Peters			1	
Total	10	7	43	2

Funerals at the Crematorium – 13

Interment of Ashes – 7

Electoral Roll to April 2024 280 members

Alicia King-Evans & Rachel Elder – Administrators

Ministry Area Leader's Report April 2024

THE PENARTH MINISTRY AREA

Telling a joyful story.

Growing the Kingdom of God.

Building our capacity for good.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this overview of the life of our Ministry Area, which deals with the period from April 2023 to April 2024, and which presents accounts for the year up to December 31st 2023.

My thanks go to all those who have been involved in producing this year's reports, and for everyone's support in this our second year as a Ministry Area.

The five churches of the Penarth Ministry Area support Anglican worship for the populations of Penarth, Llandough and Lavernock, a population which will reach approximately 33 thousand people within the next few years, with significant recent development already in place at Penarth Heights, the Marina, Llandough and elsewhere.

One of the features of the Penarth Ministry Area is its unusual range of worshipping styles - from High Church to Evangelical worship, with everything in between! We are proud of our church family and our churches, and we treasure the unique contribution that each makes to the whole, whether a town centre church, a village church or something in between, serving an urban village/part of Penarth.

We are a joyful, forward-looking Ministry Area that works well together, and are often held up as an example to others in the Diocese, and beyond, on how to do things. This has not come about by accident - but through building trust and relationship over a number of years – and by taking tough decisions to encourage our mutual support and development.

Our clergy work well together and we have a fantastic Standing Committee and Ministry Area Council (MAC), with excellent Sub-Wardens in each of our churches. I want to particularly single out Mrs Janet Akers for praise on this occasion, as she stands down as Ministry Area Warden following successful completion of her term of office.

The Penarth Ministry Area's Plan, which links with the worldwide Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission, has already been presented to you, and will be referred to elsewhere. The priorities of building back after Covid; investing in growth but living within our means; developing a greater understanding of one another; greater lay involvement, and looking beyond ourselves for opportunities to engage with the wider world remain extremely important to us all.

Amidst all the good news stories, we have also faced some challenges this year: we continue to build back following Covid (although we are in a significantly better place than other MAs), and the 2 permanent clergy have had to work really hard to deal with both the demands of increasing population and of the expectations of the past, based as they are upon 4 full-time clergy.

Once again, I'm sure you will all join me in thanking Rachel and Alicia for all their hard work, going above-and-beyond the call of duty, in carrying out the many tasks that keep the Penarth Ministry Area working so smoothly.

So, in conclusion, I want to thank you all for your contribution to this wonderful Ministry Area - and the many ways it is Growing the Kingdom of God, Building the Capacity for Good in this Community, and Telling a Joyful Story – one full of Hope and Love.

God bless.

Rev'd Mark Jones, Ministry Area Leader

JUST SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE WORK WITH:

Cytûn and other churches; e.g. shared youth work initiatives, weekly Cymun Bendigaid services, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, etc. & etc.

Children & Young People:

- Our local schools,
- Tots groups,
- pre-schools,
- Sunday schools,
- Peas & Pods, etc. & etc.
- Special events in the school holidays and with schools
- School assemblies
- Open the Book

Chaplaincies:

- Royal Air Force Air Cadets;
- the Royal British Legion;
- The Cardiff & Vale Marie Curie Hospice;
- Llandough Hospital;
- The RNLI (Penarth Branch)

Environmental:

- The St Augustine's Churchyard Group
- Our local Wildlife Trust
- The Rehabilitation of offenders groups that work in our churchyards

Local Government:

- Penarth Town Council
- Llandough Community Council
- Our local police and special constables

Care of Churches:

- The Friends of St Augustine's
- The Friends of St Peter's
- SALT – the Trust that looks after St Lawrence's, Lavernock

Voluntary Organisations, Local & International Charities: e.g. through fundraising, the Christmas Tree Festival, Christian Aid activities (e.g. Lent Lunches); Glamorganshire Voluntary Services

Lay Chair's Report

It has been an honour to continue to serve as Lay Chair of the Penarth Ministry Area (MA) over the past year. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

A specific and formal part of the role is to chair the Ministry Area Council (MAC) which is made up as follows:

- The MA Leader
- Our 2 other clergy team members
- Up to 4 ex-officio members (the Lay Chair, Treasurer and two MA Wardens)
- Up to 8 elected members
- Our 2 administrators, who together form the secretariat

The MAC meets bi-monthly, usually on a Monday evening, with additional extraordinary meetings arranged as and when needed. The meetings begin and end with prayer. At each meeting standing items include important matters which are the responsibility of the MAC, including safeguarding, data protection, health and safety, and staffing matters. Reports are received from the MA Leader and from each of the MAC's sub-committees (Finance, Buildings and Fellowship) with decisions then taken on any proposals therein.

The MAC's main focus over the past year has been to develop our Vision and Strategy for the future of the MA. Work began in January 2023 at an offsite meeting with external facilitators to help us define our vision for the future. This was followed by a number of additional sessions where we refined our thinking and developed a strategy to achieve that vision, culminating in the presentation of the MA Vision and Strategy to a united service in January 2024. The materials presented are available for review on the MA website.

At the same meeting we launched our STEP (Skills, Talents, Experience and Passions) survey to help identify people within the MA well placed to help with the delivery of the strategy. Work is now underway to set up the first tranche of projects, grouped into four workstreams corresponding to the main headings within the MA strategy, as follows:

- Communication
- Outreach
- Resource Management
- Environment and Social Justice

Each workstream will be overseen by a steering group made up of members of the MAC. It will be my continuing priority as Lay Chair to ensure we deliver on these strategic projects to help make our vision for the future a reality.

As well as chairing the MAC, I also sit on its Standing Committee, a smaller group comprising the clergy, MA Wardens, Treasurer and Lay Chair which meets bi-monthly in between MAC meetings, or when necessary, to take urgent decisions which do not require or cannot wait for the full MAC to be convened.

More generally, my role as Lay Chair involves supporting the clergy in ensuring that the MA is functioning effectively, and encouraging our churches, groups and individual members to take a MA-wide view and work together wherever possible. This aspect of the role is assisted by attending worship at each of our churches and supporting MA events as much as I can. I look forward to continuing to do so in the year ahead.

Mel Griffin, MA Lay Chair

Ministry Area Warden Report

This will be my last Ministry Area Warden report as I finish my duties at this Vestry Meeting.

It has been a successful and busy year for the Penarth Ministry Area and the sub-wardens have all been so involved and supportive of all the events and Services across the whole Ministry Area.

Tom Blenkinsop from St Augustine's has had more building issues than the rest of the Churches but has managed to ensure that everything is running as normal.

Kath Williams from Holy Nativity has managed to encourage the congregation to continue their worship at the Church, despite there being no heating for several months. I believe hot water bottles have had to be used by many. Hopefully once a faculty has been granted, work can start to rectify the problem and make everyone's life easier.

Jan Cullen has supported the congregation at St Dochdwy's plus the community of Llandough with her usual style and hard work. Hopefully a new venture planned to encourage the residents of Llandough to visit the Church will make sure this beautiful Church is used and appreciated by more people.

Matthew Salisbury has started a new project of Art Days at St Peter's and I know that an Open day is planned for later this year. This beautiful Church is loved and appreciated by so many.

All Saints continues to flourish and most Sundays there are over 100 people worshipping at the 2 Services.

There are so many other events held across the whole area, some as fundraisers but mostly as an outreach and mission event.

I can see how everyone in the PMA is getting more involved and happier to help with all the Churches, to me it is a success story of integration. Of course, more can be achieved, and I am very confident that the next year will be more of a combined congregation involvement in all areas.

Janet Akers

Buildings Report

1. The Ministry Area estate consists of five churches, three halls and two clergy houses (the two vicarages being the responsibility of the Diocesan Parsonages Board).
2. St Augustine's is Grade 1 listed, St Peter's Old Cogan Grade II* and St Dochdwy is Grade II. In addition, All Saints Parish Hall is Grade II listed. The other buildings in the estate are All Saints Church, Holy Nativity Church, All Saints Lesser Hall, St Augustine's Parish Community Hall in Albert Road, together with the curate's houses in Coleridge Avenue and Windsor Road (the latter occupied by a refugee family).
3. The Building Committee met on 18th May and 14th December 2023. I am grateful for the work and support of the other members of the Committee: Howard England, Michael Payne, and Tom Blenkinsop.
4. The MAC has approved the respective roles of the Committee and individual churches in assessing and managing building works and projects.
5. As a result, there are now groups at three churches (St. Augustine's, All Saints and Holy Nativity), who are progressing the planning or execution of projects.

6. There are currently no major initiatives proposed at St. Peter's Old Cogan or at St Dochdwy's.
7. The MAC approved arrangements for the Quinquennial Inspections of the churches and agreed, in consultation with the secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, that the inspections would be by the same architect. This will create a base line for future reports and establish a collective understanding of issues affecting the churches. The MAC appointed Jane Chamberlain of Caroë & Partners as the architect and the reports are due shortly. Assessing and prioritising the recommendations will be a major part of the Committee's work next year.
8. The following matters merit specific mention:
 - At St Augustine's there have been issues with the tower louvres and water ingress. The condition of the louvres above the main entrance required the erection an emergency scaffolding "crash deck" at Christmas, while specialist contractors secured the louvres. Further work will be needed in future to effect permanent repairs. Water ingress affected the electrical wiring in the tower requiring remedial work.
 - Also at St Augustine's, a group has now come together to progress plans for the improvement of the facilities and to study options for re-ordering the west end of the church. The project would require fund-raising, in addition to the Earl of Plymouth's fund.
 - At All Saints, new carpet has been fitted in the Nave, as the old carpet had become a trip hazard.
 - The major initiative at All Saints at present is the investigation of options to improve the heating of the church through short term improvements to the functioning of the system and longer-term options for renewal.
 - At Holy Nativity, the restoration of the retaining walls is complete and the grounds reprofiled. Re-planting has commenced with assistance from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The 40 year old gas boiler failed last autumn. Following an exhaustive examination of options, the MAC authorised a Faculty application for a replacement gas boiler.
 - Church House has required work to ensure that it meets statutory standards for rented property.

Huw Williams, Chair of Buildings Sub-Committee

Children & Young People Activity

As things are now a little different than this time last year, this is less of a report from a sub-committee, and more of a recounting of some highlights and direction of travel of the work with the younger generations across our churches. But before we do that, a chance to say thank you to all those who had given so generously of their time and energy to what was the children's and young people's sub-committee, namely: David Cooper, Jane Douglas, Anthea King, Joy Head, Katie O'Flaherty.

We have spent the past twelve months without a youth worker - but the MAC has agreed to a major strategy initiative to employ a full-time youth and children's worker to focus on growing and developing work with the families, and young people and children. To enable us to do this, and to ensure the longevity of this project, we intend to raise the funds for three-years worth of employment (approx. £90,000) to provide a 'pot' to resource the post, which will then ideally be continually maintained to ensure a continual 'buffer' of 3 years worth of salary to mitigate against any financial pressures on the MA, and either allow time to identify new ways to fund the project and to top it up again, or space to finish the project well.

The plan is to begin the recruitment process once the pot has built up the first two years 'funds' - with the fundraising continuing to complete the pot simultaneously with beginning to employ a new full-time worker to develop the work.

Currently, from donors to the MA, we already have half of the initial pot pledged (£45,000) and will be working to raise the next £15,000 as soon as possible to get the ball rolling on recruiting the right person for the role.

Most importantly, the work they will be invited to develop has continued to develop over the past year - with a couple of specific highlights worth mentioning:-

- The monthly TOAST breakfast mornings have gone from strength to strength, with 58+ different families coming along, which are beginning to build into greater connections on Sundays and at other points across church activities.

- The Sunday School at St Augustine's and PEAS at All Saints have continued to do well across the year, with some of the key date events at Christmas time (nativity plays, Crib services) being particularly busy and involving plenty of children. Likewise the youth group (PODs) on a Sunday morning at All Saints has grown and developed over the year - and the return of the children and young people, and reporting back on activities continues to be a highlight of Sundays.

- The Tots group at St Augustine's continues to thrive, and is a real example of people from across congregations in the MA working together.

- Volunteers from churches across the MA are involved in Basecamp - the Friday evening youth group that is run by a wider team from across churches in Penarth Cytûn and were also part of the "Summer Outreach" activities run on the clifftops by another team from across the churches over the school summer holidays.

- Schools work across the MA continues to grow too, with assemblies continuing to be a regular and enjoyable space of engagement for the Clergy, and for the Open the Book team. Churches across the MA have continued to be a great space for welcoming schools, not just hosting carol concerts and services, but also for lessons on the religious aspects of the curriculum - and as well as these things we have been able to share the Christmas and Easter narratives with 600+ children from Years 3-6 from Cogan, Evenlode, Fairfield and Victoria Primary Schools as part of the Experience Easter/Christmas projects which we have been running.

As always, the wonderful team of volunteers for all these events and activities continue to be a huge blessing not only to the children/staff/parents/carers who they work with, but also to all of us across the whole MA - so a massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in these ministries in our churches.

Rev'd Jimmy Young

Fellowship/Events Report

We continue to host a wide variety of events throughout the year. This year a number of particularly successful events have been held (in no particular order):

Plant & Cake Sales

The Community Cinema

Joint MA Services

Concerts

Lunches

A "Welcome Event" for new church members (which turned into a social event for the whole MA!)

A MA Quiz Night

An extremely well-attended Summer Celebration during the Coronation weekend

Participation in the Diocesan Open Churches Week

An Advent Carol Service
Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Tree Festival

Add to these the more regular-occurring events such as Toast, Tots, Faith Groups and Needles, Knitters and Natters etc and you build up a healthy picture of opportunities for fellowship, fund-raising and outreach. These continue to grow, evolve and change as the Ministry Area becomes more established and it is very encouraging to note how congregations from all our churches are supporting these events regardless of in which part of the Ministry Area they take place.

There are too many people to thank individually for their energy, enthusiasm and generosity in making all these things happen - you know who you are! - but be assured that your contribution is greatly valued and appreciated by all of us.

Robert Court

Music Report

The Penarth Ministry Area is fortunate in having not only a team of excellent musicians on the staff but also access to a list of good organists on whom it can call to fill in any gaps in the music provision. We all work very well together and have a good understanding of the different roles we all play at our respective churches. We have had a number of joint services bringing together the choirs from All Saints and St Augustine's - a combination which benefits both choirs and which we all enjoy.

The choir at St Augustine's is small and consists of a loyal and dedicated group of singers who make a lovely sound in the much-admired acoustic of St Augustine's. We still have funding for a couple of choral bursaries for 16 - 18 year old girls but nobody has come forward this year. And of course there are always vacancies for competent female singers.

St Augustine's hosts a number of choral concerts during the year and the relatively new series of folk/jazz concerts continues to grow in popularity with a number of high-profile Welsh groups having appeared this year. We also promoted an organ recital by the international acclaimed organist Martin Baker.

John Cheer writes:

The choir at All Saints Church has continued to grow in number and confidence over the last couple of years. We now have over 20 singers on the books and, though actual numbers singing vary from week to week, we always have enough for a viable group.

The choir sings a wide range of music and usually takes part in three morning services a month, and Evensong on the third Sunday. We are fortunate to have within the choir two people (Brian Stonhold and Becca Sharpe) who are able to play the organ when I (John) am not available. And I should also add that Becca Sharpe and Tricia Ingram play a vital role in keeping the administrative wheels of the choir turning smoothly at all times!

People come to the choir from a very wide range of musical backgrounds, united by their love of singing and commitment to the group and the worship of the church. We don't hold auditions, and if anyone would like to join us, they can speak to any member of the choir to find out more. The choir is a very friendly and welcoming group of people and it is a privilege to work with them. We have also held occasional singing mornings on Saturdays. These are open to anyone and everyone and we have spent the morning singing a wide of variety songs, encouraged by good company and very nice cakes! We hope to plan another one soon.

Nigel Lloyd-Latham writes:

The Worship Team continues to expand gradually and since Andy Taylor (guitarist), Victoria Thomas (viola) and Denis Corless joined, we have also had Lizzie Rees and Sam Shewan (Horn) also join the WT. We continue to provide music for most services, some in conjunction with the choir, and one service

a month where the WT lead our *All In* service. It was also very pleasing to be able to be involved in leading worship for the Candlelight Carol Service at St. Peters Church this year where we received a warm welcome, wine and mince pies! Myself and one other ad hoc member of the team also played for the first time at the St Augustine's Christmas Tree Festival which was very inspiring. The WT is always looking for new members although space can be limited. As team leader it was a tremendous privilege to have a few original compositions, written for the Choir & WT, premiered at Christmas and other services at All Saints and St Augustine's. I thank God for everyone involved in the Worship Team and it is a privilege to lead such a dynamic group in guiding the church to worship with newer contemporary songs.

Music at Lunchtime

The regular series of lunchtime concerts has continued, with concerts usually held on the third Monday of each month. The concerts have a good local following: the audience, often numbering 80 or more, includes a lot of regulars who come back time after time, while the performers range from students to experienced professionals. The success of the series is very much built on the efforts of those who have kept the series running over the years and there is a loyal group of volunteers who help with 'front-of-house' duties, refreshments and publicity.

Finally, John, Nigel and I thank all our choir members, singers and instrumentalists for their outstanding loyalty, enthusiasm and dedication. Grateful thanks too are extended to Irene Mallett who continues to serve as organist at both Holy Nativity and St Dochdwy's, and to Dr. Chris Berry who works with me at St Augustine's.

Robert Court

Cytûn Report 2023

Year on year Cytûn takes on regular and new events and projects to advance Christianity and serve the community.

Jimmy Young took the chair following Simon Jennings's calling to Swansea in March; he continues to chair Cytûn until September 2024.

The year started by celebrating the week of prayer for Christian Unity, with daily prayer meetings and a united service. Mel Griffin again organised the events for which feedback was overwhelmingly positive; 44 people attended one or more meetings, representing 10 churches. St Peter's Church, however lovely a venue was found to be desperately cold in a freezing January and lessons were learned!

Rhodri Jones of Eden Church joined the executive committee as its youth representative, a position that had not been filled for some 25 years. At meetings Rhodri told of the wonderful work he and his fellow volunteers are doing at the Friday night youth club and the revived Thursday after school homework club; both have proved so successful and a life line to many.

The concept of warm spaces became reality in many churches early in 2023 and with Vale and Penarth Council support has expanded and provided many people not only with warmth but companionship and purpose.

The inception of Cytûn prayer on the first Wednesday of each month allows people from all churches to meet and pray for the town, its people and individual needs.

Christian Aid work flourished with Lent and Harvest lunches well supported and other events raising money for the DEC Earthquake appeal and Christian Aid directly.

The year continued with the Good Friday March and sunrise service on Easter Day, both wonderfully supported and led by Jimmy.

A quiet summer although youth work continued with weekly events throughout the holidays on the Cliff Top for families and young children.

September saw plans to revive the Christmas lunch for those alone on the day, The host church changed from Trinity to Salvation Army and a small team organised a delicious lunch for 43. It is hoped to reach even more people this year.

On 1 October chairman Jimmy ran the Cardiff half marathon for Multiple Sclerosis and Kevin Davies, Parg of Bethel Church and chair of Christian Aid, ran for that charity. Well done both for raising so much for your causes.

November saw a revival of social justice work with churches working together to find responses to loneliness and mental health issues in Penarth. Progress has been made for a local directory of events to be available in libraries, GP surgeries and community places. The idea of a community café is being discussed. A bereavement course is becoming available in the town, with the first offered through churches but then available to everyone through wide advertising.

Cytûn Carols was held in Penarth town centre supported by musicians from Salvation Army; leaflets distributed told people of the many Christmas events throughout the churches.

And so another Cytûn year ended and the new one started.

Jan Cullen

Reports from Deanery and Diocesan Conference

The **Vale of Glamorgan Deanery conference** has met 3 times over the past twelve months, meeting and sharing with some of the Diocesan support staff and teams - meeting in February at All Saints in Penarth with the Young Faith Matters team, and in October '23 in Dinas Powys with the Growth Enabler team, and having space in June '23 in Llantwit Major to talk through with people from other Ministry Areas in the Deanery what we thought we would like to get out of the Deanery setup.

The Diocesan Conference was held in September 2023 and was in two parts again. The first part of the conference was online on a Thursday evening, dealing with the 'business' part of the meeting, which comprised mainly of receiving reports from the Diocesan Board of Finance, and the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Conference - and then the results of elections to the Governing Body of the Church in Wales, and to the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

The conference continued on the Saturday in Port Talbot with the in-person elements, including a Eucharist and Presidential Address from Bishop Mary, a keynote presentation from Revd Canon Mark Oakley on "Rediscovering Christ's Call" and then sessions on spirituality (Growing the Kingdom of God) from the Dean of Llandaff Cathedral, on our identity (Telling the joyful story as Welsh Anglicans) from the Director of Mission, and on our vocation (Building our capacity for good) from the Diocesan Secretary. This final presentation contained a series of questions and promptings for reflection that would lead into the Archdeacons visitation later in the Autumn, as well as planting the seeds that would grow into changes to the Fairer Share system.

Rev'd Jimmy Young