**Ardal Cenhadaeth Dyffryn Clwyd**

**Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area**

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**Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area**

Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 2021

Held via zoom 29th April 2021 at 7.00 pm

**Opening Prayers:** Were offered by Fr Huw Bryant.

**Present:** Rev Huw Bryant – Mission Area Leader, Rev Stuart Evans, Rev Richard Carter, Rachel Carter, Dan Morgan Ordinand; Mair Ansell, Janet Killow; Heather Jones, Heledd Rees; Jayne Greening, Elaine Oldroyd, Judi Gait, Ceris Edwards, Lois Hubbard; Gwenda Williams, Fiona Claver; Jaap Vaarkamp, Anne Windebanks; Paul Chamberlain, Judith Davies; Rhian Edwards, Debbie Sawyer; Mark Randall; Martin and Liz Jones, John and Beryl Griffith, Haf Roberts; Sue Hanahoe; Mark Jones; Jude Traharne, David Smart, Charlotte Higgs, Dilys Carter, Caroline Bennett.

**Apologies:** Alyson Goldstein, Bethan Atkinson, Colin and Judi Amesbury; Marion Henshaw, Martin King, Jonathan Major, Ian Trigger, Nesta Rees, Ann Hurst, Sheila and George Flanagan, Mary Parker, Evelyn Weymen, Joy Mount, Beryl Ball.

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**PART ONE –**

1. **Approval of DC Mission Area Trustees Report and audited accounts 2020 (previously circulated).**

Fr Huw read out a brief statement from the Mission Area Treasurer Jonathan Major,

for the Easter Vestry Meeting.

***The meeting received the audited accounts for 2020***.

Fr Huw expressed appreciation to all the churches for their hard work this last 12 months. The audited accounts have been prepared in a timely fashion and every church, despite the Covid restrictions and church closures, had paid their portion of the mission area share. For some churches this has not been easy, and it is a useful reminder to acknowledge just what the mission area share covers.

The largest portion of the parish share which each church pays is for the clergy, including housing costs, pensions, stipends for 3 full time priests, approx. £50K per priest, per annum. Our current share is almost 150K which just covers this cost – but in addition to three full time priests, we have also benefited from (at no cost to the mission area) Dylan who was with us for 3 years as a curate, Esther our children and families chaplain, we have Dan Morgan with us as Ordinand in training for 18 months and we will have another curate joining us for 3 years in July, whose housing and training costs are covered by the diocese. The Diocese has also been covering and continues to cover half the cost of our Administrator Caroline.

In addition to this we have training offered by the diocese, e.g. with the Finance Co-ordinator accounts package. We also have access to support from the staff in the diocesan office who are always there to provide help and answer questions, such as Adam in the finance office, Michael who does all the Quinquennial inspections in our churches and has been of great help with building and re-ordering projects, Tracey who has helped us so much with setting up the Gift Aid scheme under the new regulations. So when taken as a whole, we get back far more than we contribute. All the churches pay the same per head of regular members, currently £819 per person, but how we divide or share amongst ourselves, is our decision. The total amount we have to find as a mission area won’t change no matter how we divide the parish-share, the only way we could reduce the mission area share meaningfully is to reduce the number of the clergy, which is not desirable.

**2. Appointment of Mission Area Officers**

a). Mission Area Warden – two vacancies 1. Nominated Mrs Mair Ansell

2. Vacant

b). Appointment of Church Wardens and Treasurers – see list below

**Church Wardens Treasurers**

* 1. St Peter’s Ruthin Lois Hubbard/Elaine Oldroyd David Smart
  2. Llanfwrog Richard Hughes David Smart
  3. Llanrhydd Haf Roberts Martin Jones
  4. Llanfair DC Mark Randall/Colin Amesbury Martin King
  5. Efenechtyd Marion Henshaw Jaap Vaarkamp
  6. Clocaenog Heledd Rees Nesta Rees
  7. Cyffylliog Mark Jones Paul Sawyer
  8. Llanarmon Sue Hanahoe/ Ann Hurst Sue Hanahoe
  9. Llanbedr DC Fiona Calver Gwenda Williams
  10. Llangynhafal Mair Ansell/Mary Parker Bethan Atkinson
  11. Llanynys Rhian Edwards Rhian Edwards
  12. Llanychan Judith Davies/Evelyn Weyman Jonathan Major

**Approval of the appointment of the Mission Area Warden and Church Officers**

**All present:** Approved **Against** None**, Abstained** None.

1. **Church Officers reports –** Written reports prepared by Church Wardens and Treasurers, Gift Aid Secretary and families and children Chaplain were submitted in advance. Questions were invited before the meeting, but none were received.

**The written reports were well received, and they were noted with appreciation.**

**PART TWO – Mission Area Review of Dyffryn Clwyd**

**4. Introduction from Fr Huw** –

The MA Review document which had been previously circulated provided information and statistics for each church community in the mission area, including: -

* What we as a part of the family of St Asaph diocese believe.
* What these beliefs inspire us to do
* Our mission area vision statement drafted in February 2017
* Population profile Dyffryn Clwyd 2018
* Levels of deprivation
* Religious profile
* Comparison of statistics with the wider diocese and Wales
* Reasons to celebrate
* Sunday attendance 2007 – 2019 for each church
* Information about each church and building with some recommendations for consideration
* Key recommendations for the mission area to consider.

Words from Fr Huw…….

“However informative the review document is, we should not get too pre-occupied with detail in particular, disregard questions that arise from:-

1. Do not get distracted on the accuracy of attendance figures in a particular year, the overall pattern is clear, numbers are in decline.
2. Or, how did we here, apportioning blame on things that have happened in the past.
3. Or Diocese/Mission Area motives, there is no ‘Us and Them’ – there is only US and where we go from here is up to us as a Mission Area together.

From now on everything we do we do together and collectively. We were then encouraged to concentrate on moving from maintenance to mission when looking at the review document and remember vision begins with a sense of discontent, that things can be better than they are now. See *‘Divine Revelations how to move your church from maintenance to mission’ by Fr James Mallon* the study book for Lent this year”.

We have buildings, money, vision – we said we that our priorities are pilgrimage; children and families; communications/engagement.

**Services** - we made a start by fixing the service times at the different churches, so that it is easy to invite people to church, the next stage is to develop the spirituality of each church so that when you invite them to a particular church you can also tell them what to expect when they come.

**Buildings/Resources** – what is our true purpose as a Christian community in Dyffryn Clwyd? If our purpose is to make disciples, to bring people into an encounter with God through Christ, how do our buildings and our finances help us in doing this?

**People -** Are we building up the body of Christ here in our relationships, are we making disciples?

What is the church going to look like in Dyffryn Clwyd?

Why do we want to hold on to buildings, services – are we maintaining what has been or growing for the future?

What is being carried forward?

What is being let go of?

If we do nothing, that is a decision and we know how it will end.

**Breakout Groups**

We then split into ‘break-out rooms’ within the zoom meeting and formed five groups. Each group was asked to consider two questions.

**Question One** - What are your concerns or worries, now or for the future?

**Question Two** - What excites you and fills you with passion and energy ?

**Conclusion**

Fr Huw drew the meeting to a close by reminding everyone that although change can create fear – because we are not sure what is going to happen - it is also exciting. We will be taking small steps into the unknown, but together, and it can seem daunting – where do we start?

In May and June we will begin a series of face-to-face meeting with the wider church community – of every church. Dates will follow shortly for each church meeting and the outcome will be pulled together into an action plan to be presented to the next Mission Area Conference at the end of June.

We will then have 12 months to work through the action plan and develop how we are going to do it. Anyone with any questions that have come up as a result of the Easter Vestry meeting are invited to telephone Fr Huw or any of the clergy.

**The meeting closed in prayer and the sharing of the Grace.**