***Appendix two***

**Churchwardens report to Annual Vestry Meeting 2022**

**Llanrhydd**

The **Harvest Festival** **(2020**) was well attended (**along with friends of Mothers Union**) unfortunately there was no supper to celebrate due to Covid regulations. .

This was our first congregational meeting during lockdown since March 2020

Our Torch Light Walk and Carol Service (**2020)** was cancelled also due to restrictions.

Since Lockdown - no services, again due to Covid, were held apart from **Christmas Day** which was well attended. The Church was beautifully decorated by members and thanks to everyone.

**Good Friday (2021)**. “**Stations of the Cross”** good turnout our thanks to Rev Stuart and John Griffith for taking part. Diolch David for your background music. – 15 in attendance.

**Easter Sunday (2021)** - well represented – our thanks for everyone who helped clean the Church and for their floral contributions. – 16 in attendance

**Harvest Thanksgiving** – well attend with our Guest Speaker Natasha Quinn-Thomas – 24 in attendance. A traditional two course was given to everyone which was well received.

**All Souls - *Requiem* Mass** – very well attended – 27 in attendance

**Torchlight walk** – 16 present

**Christmas Day** – 14 present

The average attendance **for Sundays only** over the last year was 8. Special services i.e. Christmas, Easter and Torchlight walk were well attended which is not included in Sunday Services. Numerically the numbers have decreased during the last two years due to ill health.

St Meugans have hosted three special events **in 2022 –** namely Santes Dwynwen **with 18 present** which was a fundraising event – welsh cakes, tea/coffee and roses were presented to the ladies. **Gwyl Dewi Sant with 15** in attendance. We all enjoyed a frugal lunch. Both the above included Holy Eucharist. We also held in **2021** a Garden Party at Delgar which raised **£800** towards the cost of an organ for St. Meugan’s. We have spiritually grown by inviting neighbours and friends to all these occasions. Because of the proximity of the Church we are not a community based Church, (hamlet) no houses, town or village, no toilets, no water etc., therefore, we find it difficult to encourage people to attend – we have tried over the years – leaflets through letter boxes etc., but not much success.

Also myself and others serve the community by regularly, on a monthly basis, make soup, serve and tidy up for DIF, which takes place in St. Peters every Friday, also communicating via e-mail, phone calls and pastoral visits to those who are unable to attend Church. We have plans for the coming year as follows- May – **Bring and Buy** **with refreshments** and other fund raising activities which have not yet been agreed.

I would like to thank the Lay Readers for their Ministry - until lockdown and during Lockdown for streaming and recording services from St. Meagan’s, members who read the lessons, organist David and to all the members who keep the Church in pristine condition.

Thank you Martin and John for your endless support in supporting Stuart and all Clergy who attend our Sunday Services and Gosber when in St. Meugans.

Last but not least thank you Stuart for your ministry and guidance through the year – not just in Church but for just being there for me and the congregation.

**Haf Roberts Church Warden**

**St Garmon’s Church Llanarmon yn Ial Churchwardens’ Report 2021-22**

It has been another challenging year for St Garmon’s Church. Attendance has not recovered to pre pandemic levels with average attendance of 10. A number of parishioners have become too infirm to get to the Church except on special occasions and two of our most faithful parishioners have sadly died. Numbers were poor around Christmas due to Covid and a number of events were cancelled or scaled back.

We have started to have a family friendly service once a month followed by tea and biscuits. This has produced a small increase in children and families attending, the Easter treasure hunt was a big success in attracting children into the Church for an event emphasising in a fun way the true meaning of Easter.

The small congregation has participated in a weekly Eucharist. During the time services were suspended due to the pandemic, parishioners were able to join remotely with services from around the Mission Area, which was greatly appreciated. A few members of the congregation have joined in with MA events on Zoom such as the current Leading your Church into growth course and the Alpha course. Being able to join remotely is wonderful but there are a number of people with no broadband or broadband of such low speed that it is unable to support Zoom.

Outreach to the community included Ascension Day service followed by bacon baps, our annual Harvest service and supper, Remembrance Day service and a St David’s Day lunch. There has been, understandably, some reluctance to participate in group events particularly indoors. The Christmas Fair was surprisingly successful despite Covid as we used the Church as a larger, better ventilated space than the Schoolroom, which we used for teas. The wider community are always generous with time and help for this event. The Mothers Union has not run for the past two years but is hoping to restart in September.

Our financial position remains finely balanced. We have a number of generous regular donors but as numbers have fallen so has our income. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Diocese, we had a small loss of £200. We have a projected loss of about £4000 this year so urgent action is needed. We have a number of fundraising events planned.

The Church building is in fair repair. We are awaiting some minor but urgent roof and gutter repairs which will cost £430. We’re hoping to get some grant funding for this.

**Clocaenog Church wardens report 2021-2022**

**What’s the average attendance over the last year?**

Wild church adults – 12 average

Wild Church children – 7 average child

Average attendance - 19

Eucharist adults - 8

Children - 6

Average attendance 7

**How has this changed?**

A great increase with attendence for Wild church not as much for Eucharist.

**How has the congregation sought to grow your church numberically in the last 12 months?**

Church growth is focused on being sparked through- our hospitality and in services that are accessible and through which, we rely on our Celtic tradition, to find Christ in the world in which we live. We are also telling our story to those we encounter through Facebook.

We will continue to focus on building on the success of the Wild Church and in seeking to serve the community we serve through events such as; All Souls Light a Candle service, Christmas lantern event, Maundy Thursday shared meal – and through the development of a community garden on the Glebe land and through the recommencement of ministry to the school.

**How has the congregation sought to grow spiritually in the last 12 months?**

Focus has been made on methods of prayer that are kinetic and bring the importance of simple prayer in our every day lives.

Teaching whilst informal has been designed to illustrate the gospel through what we do together in community and in bringing new light to the faith we have.

**How have you sought to serve the community outside of the congregation?**

We have had a number of events such as a Scarecrow Competition and Halloween mask competition to engage with the community outside the church. Serving breakfast before the service.

The church hall continues to be used for a number of community uses eg Community Council, Ti a Fi group, Adran yr Urdd, Birthday Parties. uses which will be transferred to the church building once the re-ordering work has been completed. The church will also then be available as both a community venue and as a meeting point where tea and coffee will be available. Offer services special for the school, Cylch and the Ti a Fi.

**How have you sought to grow financially in the last 12 months?**

Our focus has been on growing the numbers of people who engage in our worship and with are church community. We believe that by increasing the number of people within our worship and enabling as many as people as possible to contribute to the work of the church in our village and surrounding area, that financial resources will then flow into the church in the future.

**What are the plans for the coming year? (you can refer to the Mission Action Plan here)**

We are planning to continue with developing our Wild Church and family Eucharist services to meet the spiritual needs of as many people as possible. We will follow up the success of last year’s pilgrimage walk last year with a further walk this year. We are also having a Wild Church camp on the Glebe over the August bank holiday.

We are planning to build on the success of the Urdd activities to start a Choir School for all at Clocaenog after Pentecost.

We hope that the re-ordering of our church can progress soon and that our plans for the Glebe land will start to be finally formulated and implemented in the coming year.

We are hoping to re-start a group for teenagers and a second group for those who wish to look at the bible in greater depth.

We will seek to start fundraising events during the year now that Covid is less of a problem than in the last couple of years – fundraising through a fete, coffee mornings etc. We also need to address our finances so that they are less reliant on the gifts that we have received in previous years.

***Consult with treasurers***

There will be no income from the Cylch as they have moved to the school.

***Consult Quinquennial Report***

What state are the church buildings in. Are there any upcoming issues or plans for your church buildings (church and hall).

We will are in the process of fitting a kitchen and toilet in the church.

Both church and Hall are in a good condition.

We are very grateful for everyone’s help and support.

**Heledd Rees Churchwarden.**

**St Peter’s Church, Ruthin**

The figures for average attendance have been affected by a number of issues and are therefore atypical for our Church over earlier years. On 17th March 2020 public worship was prohibited in response to the pandemic and the congregation were invited to join the Mission Area streamed Eucharist.

Worshippers who were unable to join Zoom services were kept in touch by telephone by the Church Wardens and a network of callers.

From 20th July 2020 distanced worship resumed in church via a booking system, and the average figure for the remainder of this period was 22.

Another factor that wrought a change upon the attendance figures was the dissolution of the existing adult choir in February 2021, as some worshippers were affected by the change and some chose not to return for worship as part of the congregation only.

We have sought to grow the congregation in a number of ways, through LyCig and the Alpha group and also through prayer to encourage those who may have considered attendance but do not have a clear path as yet.

The appointment of our Verger, Jayne Greening, has resulted in an increase in the number of children visiting church for some services and for other purposes.

Spiritual growth has occurred in several ways, chiefly through the successful development of the Bridge Service with an attendance of 63 for the 2022 Easter Sunday Eucharist (evidence of the ongoing work throughout the period of the report and despite the influence of the pandemic). The congregation has been invited to reflect upon this form of worship and comment upon its development and further scope.

Plans have been put in place to develop spirituality at St Meugan’s as a bereavement centre and at St Mwrog’s to welcome non-worshippers to enjoy the space and reflect upon the builders of our faith through the ages.

We have been in a journey to explore different patterns and times of worship, exploring the efficacy of silence, music and a number of other elements that may be pleasing to God.

We have also attempted to serve the community outside the immediate congregation by planning for a new event that is called Drop In Friday. This has now opened up the building to serve families, especially those with pre-school age children, and the set-up for this falls within the time-scale of this report.

Whilst we have sought to grow financially there have been a number of issues that have affected the picture overall. I have included below the observations of David Smart, who carries out sterling work in managing our accounts although he is not officially a treasurer:

‘As we discussed, it’s very hard to get a true picture of the finances looking back over the past few years, because two big capital projects (roof and bells), followed immediately by the epidemic (which has distorted things, both by reducing income from normal sources but also by boosting it through the various very generous Share rebates from the Diocese).

It’s also true that the year-end figures are misleading, because they only provide a snapshot. If a large invoice is paid in December it produces an apparent deficit for that year, but the grant to cover that cost is then received in January and provides an apparent boost to the next year’s figures.

As a result it may look as if one year has a substantial deficit and the following year a tidy surplus, but the actual effect is neutral. The only way to get a true picture is to do a rolling analysis, but this would take hours of work (I have had a go at this - it’s not a trivial task).’

We have a number of plans for the coming year which include St Peter’s having a presence at Ruthin Festival in July 2022 with a float and a stall on Carnival Day to provide shelter from the sun for families with young children and nursing mothers.

For the main event on the top of town we will provide a Fun Day with activities for young people on the softer grass area by the main gate.

We are also hoping to encourage some of the regular attenders at Drop In Friday to step up and take responsibility for planning, to take some of the pressure off the regular volunteers from the congregation.

This also forms a part of the plan to honour the words of Jesus to be called out as witnesses, to form the bridge between those who hear and believe the word and those still searching.

As has been stated above St Peter’s does not have a treasurer but David Smart has put forward the following for consideration:

‘While emphasising the difficulty of producing a valid analysis, it looks to me as if St Peter’s finances were breaking even up until the end of 2020.

In 2021 the large Share increase produced a substantial deficit. Unless there is a very big boost to income in 2022, the further Share increase for this year will result in an even bigger deficit, and this will have to be met from reserves. The “good” news is that those reserves are sufficient to cover such deficits for several years. But the bad news is that obviously it is not good practice to do this: eventually those reserves will run out, and money spent plugging a deficit is not available to invest in projects to advance the mission of the Church, which is both a Gospel imperative, and the only means to ensure our long-term future.’

In terms of the state of the Church buildings we are excited to be a part of the Levelling Up project which may see a major re-ordering development if the bid is successful.

There is ingress of rainwater to the spire which needs to be addressed speedily but we do not do God’s work on our own, He is with us.

**Lois Hubbard Churchwarden**

**St Hychan’s Church**

For normal Sunday Services the average attendance has been 11. Special Services and those we had to hold outdoors due to Covid restrictions had much larger numbers attending

A few members did not attend services due to the pandemic and the restrictions in place. We keep in touch regularly with these members hope to see them return this year.

Worship at Llanychan continues to be of a Traditional Style using the 1984 Prayer Book and King James Bible which most members find spiritually uplifting. We feel fortunate to have been able to hold a variety of services each month- Eucharist,Matins and Evensong. Thanks to Father Huw for making this possible.

The service of Lessons and Carols in the churchyard was well attended. At the Hymns and Pimms event We all had an opportunity to sing our favourite Hymns and speak about the spiritual significance they hold for us.

We planned to have a votive candle stand in church to enable visitors and church members to spend time in private prayer. This has now been installed thanks to the generosity of Barbara Major.

We supported two charities in 2021. Ty Gobaith Children’s Hospice and the RBL

We have had a church presence in the community providing and running stalls at a National Open Garden Scheme event at Plas Coch We were please to accept the invitation to have a stall in St Peter’s Church at the Ruthin Christmas Market and took part in the Denbigh Open Doors weekend last Autumn. Two church members are volunteers with the Cafe Cof initiative and we intend to increase this number in 2022.

The church building is in fairly good condition with no outstanding urgent works required. The Quinquennial inspection is due this year.

The church organ continues to be a problem. Keeping it working satisfactorily takes a lot of time and effort.

The fact that our expenditure exceeds our income continues to be a worry. There was a deficit of £750 for the year. More church members are now giving through the Cardiff Direct Giving scheme We hope to increase income through more fund raising events this year. This is on the agenda for discussion at the next CC meeting.

Our plans for the future, following the LYCIG course involve seeking to grow our church through more engagement with the community eg personal invitations sent out for special services and events. Increasing the information and literature available in church for visitors, Adding lighting, Exploring how we can offer refreshments after services. We also need an accessible toilet

**Judith Davies Churchwarden**

**St. Michael and All Angels Church, Efenechtyd**

Here at St. Michael and All Angels, a Festival Church, in the hamlet of Efenechtyd, we continue to hold our annual special events. Gwylmabsant in September, October Harvest Soup and Christmas Readings and Carols were well attended and supported by the people of the old parish of Efenechtyd and Pwllglas and by people from further afield.

At Gwylmabsant, we enjoyed the service celebrating St. Michael, our patron Saint, and refreshments in the Lytch gate. Paul Thorpe has become our regular stone thrower – we raised money for the charity close to Paul’s heart – the Wrexham homeless charity, The Wallich.

Last year in October (due to Covid at the Old Rectory!) Harvest Soup and bread was served at the church door after the service and was enjoyed by all.

The Christmas Readings and Carols was a wonderful celebration in the churchyard, lit by lanterns, candles and torches. Geraint Woolford joined us and wowed us with his singing. Winter punch and mince pies refreshed us after the service.

There were bulb planting afternoons over the autumn and early winter period. Friends and neighbours joined the sessions – a lovely reason to come together – and we are enjoying the results right now. Special thanks to the Efenechtyd Community Council for their generous donation of daffodils, tulips and crocuses in memory of Olivia.

Olivia remains close in our thoughts and hearts. The church is a place where family, friends and the community come together to talk about her and celebrate her life. A very much anticipated event in the life of the church will be the dedication of a window in her memory which will be based closely on a piece of her artwork. The funds for this have been raised across the whole Ruthin area, thanks to the hard work of her mother and father, Jo and Mesut.

Other people come to the churchyard, and the church, to find peace and to sit in quiet reflection and prayer. It is not unusual to find our two benches occupied by lunching hikers and many comment on the sense of peace and calm at St. Michaels.

Expensive, extensive and major structural work is being undertaken at Efenechtyd church. We’re looking forward to the day when the scaffolding will come down, the Portaloo will vanish from the lych gate and we can put the church back to rights once again – when we’ll be coming together, worshiping, praying, singing and hosting imaginative and new events.

We’re looking forward with much hope in our hearts.

Fabric Report by Charles Henshaw (Church Committee Member)

The basic fabric of the church is in good order (apart from some structural work as described below). The church is dry with no ingress of water. The electrics (lighting and heating) are in good working order. The roof tiles and guttering are all sound. There are some water marks on the external lime-wash coating due to the heavy storms encountered over the last few years.

Major Projects

1. Woodworm Treatment & Structural Repairs.

A woodworm treatment project was initiated last year after sawdust was found on the church floor and a Faculty obtained. During the investigation it was discovered that a number of roof trusses and beams were in urgent need of structural attention both from the damage caused by woodworm and general movement of the roof causing roof timber joints to come apart. A full structural survey was initiated and the repair work to the majority of roof beams is ongoing. The presence of bats has been discovered and this has caused the full spray woodworm treatment to be postponed until the end of breeding season. Our church architect, Robin Wolley, is monitoring the work.

1. The Olivia Window

A memorial window for Olivia Alkir has been commissioned with public funding. A Faculty has been obtained and currently the design and production of the window is ongoing. The estimated date of installation and dedication service is in July 2022.

Minor Projects

1. New Church Front Door Key

A new spare front door key was commissioned and delivered.

1. Repainting of the Church Sign

With the new “Events” status of the church and the new logos for Church in Wales, St. Asaph Diocese and Mission Area, the existing church sign is being repainted to illustrate this new information. Production is ongoing and should be ready by May 2022.

1. New Church Notice Board

The existing porch notice board needs replacing and this work will be done in conjunction with the repainting of the church sign. Awaiting a quotation.

Forthcoming Projects

1. Touching up of external wall lime-wash coating.
2. Minor repairs to church yard wall where large vehicles have knocked the stone work.

**St Peter’s church Llanbedr D.C.**

**The year 2020-2021 attendance figures**

The services during this period were badly affected by the Covid pandemic.

The country was put in lockdown from the end of March and congregations were not allowed to go into church until October , thanks to the hard work of all the clergy during this time we were able to watch services on line. We were not of course able to know how many people watched.

Apart from a period after Christmas when we were locked out again due to a surge in Covid we started to get back to some sort of normality.

Over the whole year our Sunday services had 144 attending an average per service of 8.47

We also had Tuesday evening services, 118 attended an average per service of 8.5

There were some services during the rest of the week and including the Easter week the average was 5.6 people

We had one Wedding during the year.

Changes during 2021-2022

Over 52 weeks Sunday services had 721 attending an average per service of 14

We also had Tuesday evening services 336 attended an average of 6.7

Our weekday services 291 attended an average per service of 7.46

We had our usual Christingle 43 people attended

Wild church had 151 attending 7 events

Two Christenings

One visit by Llanbedr School

**How has the congregation sought to grow our church in the last 12 months?**

Our small team has started to provide refreshments after the services, we have realized that being part of the church family is incredibly important to members and they need time to chat!. In the last few months we have purchased a drinks machine to provide a facility to the wider community who may be visiting and also to the song school which is beginning to thrive and is holding weekly practices in the church.

Every two months we have a special church aimed at families who do not necessarily attend church services, these events are held in our church yard and have been named Forest church. They are generally well attended with a total of 20 people on average.

We have seen a small but significant increase in the number of young people coming to our church services in the last two years. The cause-

Our clergy are going into Llanbedr school weekly. Some children are attending wild church, some are starting with the song school. Children who come to services are allowed to receive the sacrament. They are given server’s duties and feel they are taking part. Confirmation classes are now being offered in the mission area.

The people of the community have joined with us during services at Old St Peter’s and the children have been involved in making new gardens and planting bulbs and wild flowers in both the church yards

**How has the congregation sought to grow spiritually in the last 12 months?**

A small group started to gather in the pub on a Tuesday evening to have theological discussion,

We have a new seasonal Celtic liturgy on Tuesday evenings which has been welcomed by the congregation.

We have become more outward looking, contacting people who are confined to their homes for a variety of reasons and every Wednesday the church has a team in the local pub taking part in the quiz

Our weekly newsletter which goes out on line has provided a vital link for the whole community.

With tad Huw several services have been held up at Old St Peter’s. The community welcome the events and they are well attended. Donations of food were taken to the food bank after harvest 2021

In 2021 for the first time a remembrance service was held.

**To grow our funds** our treasurer has encouraged people to give regularly, she has been careful to thank people for their donations as often as she can! Fund raising events planned for the coming year include coffee mornings and concerts.

Thanks to Reico’s dedication we have been able to offer cakes for sale in the church porch throughout lockdown

In the coming year we will continue to try and get grants for the reordering of our church, we now have the faculty we require but as yet no tenders . the aim is to install a toilet and a drinks area at the back of the church and to remove most of the pews and replace them with chairs which will make a more useable space, we would like to put in a ramp outside the church door for disabled access.

**Church buildings.**

In 2021 a complete rewiring of the church was carried out we are now using LED lights and have more sockets and a safer environment.

**Future projects**

The interior of the church needs replastering and decorating, but we would like to do that at the same time that we do reordering.

By 2030 we will need to replace our oil heating with a greener alternative.

**Sincere thanks** to all our clergy for their ministry and to those who help with the running of the church, with cleaning, flower arranging and housekeeping.

**Fiona Calver Church warden**

**Llangynhafal church warden’s report 2021-2022**

 Since reopening last summer after refurbishment our weekly Sunday morning service has the same average attendance of 10 adults.

Once a month  on a  Sunday morning we have Club Cynhafal and Children's creative Bible activities  Led by our curate Natasha and a core group of volunteers. Numbers coming to this are 10 Children accompanied by a parent therefore doubling the congregation.

Recently we started a Taize style short service (held on the 4th Wednesday of each month). We hope it will attract both regular Parishioners & new seekers.

**Serving The Community**

Since November we started Cafe Cof  (Dementia friendly support group ) The local community are encouraged to come along for a coffee & chat

whilst also enjoying some creative art ,board games, jigsaws etc. One of our regulars brings his guitar to play. This group currently running fortnightly

has an attendance of 8-10 people plus volunteers. We hope  to run this group weekly once more volunteers have been identified.

**Church Spiritual Growth**

 Lent 2021 our 12 Churches  completed the Divine Renovation course run by our Leader Tad Huw

 Autumn 2021 Tad Huw & Natasha  led us through the Sycamore course (for those seeking to know more about the Christian Faith)

**Mair Ansell Churchwarden**

**St Cynfarch & St Mary’s Church Llanfair DC**

The most exciting news for us this year has been the completion of the new facilities (meeting room, kitchen, toilet & storeroom) within the church in January 2022. It has been a long journey from initial planning in 2017 through to finally being completed; the building work was begun in September 2019 and was delayed by Covid so the eventual completion of the work was welcomed by all the congregation. The facilities are being used at all services and most of our congregation now stay after the service for tea & biscuits and a chance to catch up.

Our congregation has returned following Covid and over the last 12 months we have averaged 15 members at our Sunday services; this compares with 12 the previous year when we held fewer services due to the pandemic. This small growth has happened without any actions on our part so we are hopeful that the implementation of our LYCIG action plan following the recent Lent course will sow the seeds for further growth in the future.

During the past year the church has been used by the Mission Area for a Confirmation Class and for the first time in a few years we will be able to welcome some newly confirmed members of the Llanfair congregation. We are particularly blessed and honoured that they will be confirmed here at Llanfair by Bishop Gregory in a few weeks’ time.

In May we organised a litter pick of the village in conjunction with Ruthin Friends of the Earth and additional litter picks have been done since by a member of the congregation.

Collections for Ruthin Foodbank were presented at our Harvest service in October and in response to the conflict in Ukraine our church school, Ysgol Llanfair, organised a collection of essential items with the church being used as a collection point for items of clothing, sleeping bags etc.

In November we received confirmation that we had been awarded our Bronze Eco Church Award and we will be making plans towards our Silver Award over the coming months.

From next month we will be starting weekly Saturday coffee mornings for the community and later in the year we will be holding exhibitions for the Queen’s Jubilee and Remembrance Sunday.

Unfortunately, whilst there are signs of growth of the congregation the church finances (See Treasurer’s report) are in a precarious state and at the current rate of expenditure our reserves will be exhausted within a couple of years. In response to this threat a giving campaign was launched within our church community which resulted in an additional three Gift Direct donors.

Following the Quinquennial inspection in November 2020 the main item needing attention was the guttering which, at the time, was thought to need replacing but subsequent discussions have revealed that they are repairable. Additional work which is planned is the removal of the roof valley duckboards to improve the flow of water and the replacing of a few roof tiles which have slipped.

Finally, we would like to thank Rev Richard and the whole Shared Ministry Team for their support and commitment in ensuring that church services are available to the community in Llanfair every week of the year.

Mark Randall

Churchwarden

28/04/22