



The Parish of
Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon

THE PARISH OF TREHARRIS TRELEWIS BEDLINOG AND LLANFABON

Saint Matthias, Treharris | Saint Mabon, Llanfabon | Saint John the Baptist, Nelson

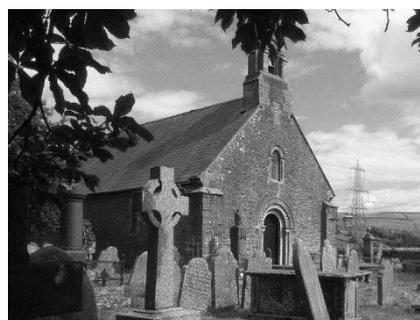
PARISH ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev'd. Gareth J. Coombes
The Vicarage
13 The Oaks
Quakers Yard
TREHARRIS
CF46 5HQ

Independent Examiner:

Gary Meredith IPFA
Park Lane
TREHARRIS
CF46 5LT



THE PARISH OF TREHARRIS TRELEWIS BEDLINOG AND LLANFABON

Saint Matthias, Treharris | Saint Mabon, Llanfabon | Saint John the Baptist, Nelson

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Parish will be held on Tuesday the 25th of April 2017 at 6:00pm in Saint Matthias Church, Treharris.

All lay people whose names are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish are entitled to speak and vote and are strongly urged to attend.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To receive and confirm the minutes of the last Vestry Meeting.
3. The Parish Report
 - [3.1] The Chairperson's Report
 - [3.2] The Parish Accounts and Treasurer's Report
 - [3.3] To receive the 2016 Parish Report
4. To receive any reports from the Deanery and Diocesan Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales.
5. Elections
 - [5.1] People's Parish Warden (1)
 - [5.2] People's Sub Warden - St. Matthias (1)
 - [5.3] People's Sub Warden - St. John's (1)
 - [5.4] People's Sub Warden - St Mabon's (1)
 - [5.5] Parochial Church Councillors (2) (2) (2)
 - [5.6] Sides-persons
 - [5.7] Triennial elections as are necessary
6. To appoint an Independent Examiner of the accounts.
7. To consider any other business of which notice has been given to the Chairperson and to which the meeting consents.
8. The Blessing



The Reverend Gareth Coombes
Priest in Charge | Chairperson of the Vestry Meeting

The Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon
Easter Vestry Meeting
held on the 17th of April 2016
at St. John The Baptist, Nelson at 3:00pm

Father Steven commenced the meeting with prayer.

Present:

Reverend Canon Steven Kirk

(Area Dean for the Deanery of Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil)

Parish Secretary: Mrs Patreesa Humphreys.

(A copy of all in attendance attached)

1. There were no apologies.
2. Receive and confirm the minutes of last Vestry Meeting

(Monday 13th April 2015 at 6.00 pm at St, Johns Church Nelson)

The Parish Report was distributed to all at meeting for their consideration.

3. The Parish Report.

(a) Chairmans address:

As there was no Priest in the Parish, at this present time, the Area Dean (Fr Steven Kirk) chaired the meeting and thanked everyone in the Parish for their support - he thanked all officers - Wardens and Sub Wardens for their work during the interregnum, Patreesa as Parish Secretary for administration support and Simon Shaw the Treasurer for looking after our finances.

He mentioned that as a Parish we were very fortunate to be having a new Priest in Charge very soon (20th June 2016).

The licensing will be held at St. Matthias Church and conducted by Bishop David Wilbourne.

He stressed that now is the time to move forward and in welcoming our Priest we would grow in faith. He asked that we accept our changes and seek to proclaim the Gospel - and be witnesses in our lives to accept all the new challenges in front of us and to work together.

During the interregnum Father Steven had recognised the wonderful sense of community spirit in the desire to work together in our team work and fellowship. Fr Steven also hoped that in the future there would be ways of this Parish working together with Gelligaer and Ystrad Mynach .

3(b) Audited Accounts.

The accounts had been audited by Mr Gary Meredith but Mr Shaw did find a discrepancy of 40p. in the accounts.

Mr Shaw stated that it is imperative that we keep a careful watch on our spending. He stated that things had improved since we had sorted our printing costs (which had been extreme in the last year).

We have suffered as a Parish at the loss of rent in St. Johns Church Hall. He suggested that we should go on a marketing drive to consider this in future.

Mr Michael Lewton stated that he thought all people should be charged for using the Parish Halls. (eg.Treharris Male Voice Choir).

Father Steven took all the points on board but suggested that all these should be discussed in the next PCC Meeting and were not relevant to the actual Easter Vestry. The Audited Reports were accepted by Father Steven Kirk and seconded by Mrs Kate Thomas - all in agreement.

3 (c) To receive Parish Accounts

The Parish Report was accepted by Mrs Alison Francis and second by Mr Richard Thomas - all in agreement.

Father Steven thanked all once again for their comments, work and contribution to the Parish - he stated that he found the Reports interesting and encouraging.

4. To receive reports from the Deanery and Diocesan and Conferences and the Governing Body of the Church in Wales

5. To make the following elections:

(a) A Church Warden

(b) Parochial Church Councillors

(c) Sideman

(d) Such triennial election as necessary.

(a) Alison Francis (Priests Warden)

Lynn Farr (Peoples Warden)

(b) Chrissie Stock (Vicars sub-warden) St Johns

Pauline Faulkner (Peoples sub-warden) St. Johns

Alison Knight (Priest Sub-warden) St Matthias

Dennis Sullivan (Peoples Sub-warden) St Matthias

A ballot was necessary to vote for PCC members

(these results are also attached for future reference)

Father Steven asked Alison Knight and Kate Thomas to take the papers into the Vestry and count.

The following were noted as PCC members:

Audrey Wiltshire	Mary Williams
Vicky Morgan	Margaret Edwards
Sue Carlick	Richard Thomas
Kate Thomas	Simon Shaw

- (c) Fr Steven suggested Sides persons be decided by wardens.
- (d) Mrs Sue Carlick - Diocesan Conference Member.
Mrs Audrey Wiltshire, Dr Fiona Parsons, Mrs Donna Lloyd, Mrs Vicky Morgan
all Deanery Conference Members.

6. Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

It was proposed by Mr Simon Shaw and seconded by Mr Len Jones that Mr Gary Meredith be asked. - All in agreement.

7. Any other business:

Dr Fiona Parson enquired about the position at present regarding the church at St Mabons.

Father Steven stated that the last PCC had originally agreed that this Church be made into a Pilgrim Church - this has not happened. Fr Steven agreed that this is a very important issue and needs to be explored.

He suggested that the Easter Vestry was not the place for these discussions and hoped that when our new Priest Father Gareth starts all these issues could be discussed further.

8. The Blessing

The Meeting ended with the Grace.

INTRODUCTION

The three churches that make up the Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon are Saint Matthias, Treharris; St. Mabon, Llanfabon; and Saint John the Baptist, Nelson which are in the Archdeaconry of Morganwng, in the Deanery of Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil, in the Diocese of Llandaff in the Church in Wales.

Priest in Charge: Father Gareth Coombes

Independent Examiner: Gary Meredith, IPFA

Bank: Barclays Bank

Architect: Hook Mason Ltd.

The Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon is part of the Diocese of Llandaff within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a province within the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian religion through world-wide mission. The object of the Parochial Church Council, hereafter the PCC is to ensure that the life and work of the Church within the parish helps to fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The PCC is not a body corporate. Its composition, procedures and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales, as amended from time to time by its Governing Body, set up in section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. Elections are held at the Annual Vestry Meeting which must take place on or before the 30th of April. All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and to stand for election, age restrictions apply. Before assuming office, every member of the Council must sign a declaration that he or she will be bound by the Constitution.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including the churches of St. Matthias, St. John the Baptist and St. Mabon's their contents and churchyards. The Representative Body is an Exempt Charity and was set up under sections 13(2) of the Welsh Church Act 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the Stipends of full-time clergy; and administers the Church in Wales' Gift Aid scheme and recovers tax on behalf of parishes.

The PCC is responsible, inter alia, for promoting the mission of the Church, the parochial budget and all expenditure thereunder, the care and maintenance of the church fabric and of the churchyards, and for action on any other matter referred to it in accordance with the Constitution. The Council is also the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the Diocese.

MEMBERSHIP

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council.

Parish Priest and Chairperson: Father Matthew Gibbon (until February 2016)
Father Gareth Coombes (from June 2016)

Vicar's Warden: Mrs. Alison Francis

People's Warden: Mrs. Lynne Farr

Sub Wardens: Mrs. Alison Knight
Mr. Dennis Sullivan
Mrs. Crissie Stock
Mrs. Pauline Faulkner

Treasurer: Mr. Simon Shaw

Secretary to the PCC: Mrs. Patreesa Humphreys

Vicar's Secretary: Mrs. Patreesa Humphreys

PCC Members: Mrs. Audrey Wiltshire
Mrs. Vicky Morgan
Mrs. Sue Carlick
Mrs. Kathryn Thomas
Mrs. Mary Williams
Mrs. Margaret Edwards
Mr. Richard Thomas

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There were **116** parishioners on the Electoral Roll at the end of 2016.

The number of communicants at Easter 2016 was **68**.

The number of communicants at Christmas 2016 was **115**.

The average Sunday attendance figures for 2016 was

45 at St. Matthias, Treharris

23 at St. John the Baptist, Nelson

11 at St. Mabon, Llanfabon

During 2016 the following liturgies have been offered by the parish:

Holy Baptism **13**

Confirmations **0**

Holy Matrimony **7**

Christian Funeral **31**

THE CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

I'm sure you'll agree that 2016 has been another busy year. As we take this opportunity to look back, we can recognise those various opportunities and events that have continued to shape and build the parish as we reach out into the communities of which we are a part. All of this is achieved by working together as we continue in that mission of building the kingdom of God amongst us.

Since joining you in June 2016 and hitting the road running, the busyness of the parish is not only a challenge, but full of exciting and rewarding opportunities. The Church throughout the parish continues to be an important aspect of community life, which allows us to reach out in traditional, different and exciting ways reflecting the example of Christ himself.

Before I arrived, I began to look at ways of communication; the setting up of a basic webpage and establishing regular use of social media highlighted the parish with an immediate effect. The setting up and promotion of an online donation page has also brought significant financial benefit primarily with regards to maintenance of churchyards and cemetery's. The webpage is a source of basic information and mode of signposting enquiries in an efficient and effective way.

When I arrived in the parish I was overwhelmed by your welcome, which continues to shine out from each of the congregations around the parish; such an aspect of church life that frequently gets taken for granted or even forgotten altogether.

During my relatively short time with you I have been grateful of your generosity in altering the service times slightly to allow time to get from one church to another on a Sunday morning. This allows for any enquiries and conversations after the service at St. John's, before leaving for the service at St. Matthias.

As well as the everyday challenges, opportunities and privileges of being in parish ministry, there are a few events that I feel should be highlighted. Firstly, from September regular Sunday worship was re-introduced at St. Mabon's; allowing this very special and sacred place to open its doors once again every week. The church continues to be open daily from 10.30am and continues to be a place of prayer, reflection and contemplation on many occasions. This has not only been well received in the parish, but in the wider communities; this church is considered to be our 'gem'. There has also been the introduction of a new service to re-connect those who have received the funeral ministry in the parish; such an overwhelming response that will almost certainly grow and develop further. There has also been successful grant applications that enabled the parish to develop links with the local communities during the lead up to Christmas; Festive Family Fun Days in both Nelson and Treharris and the switching on of the Christmas Lights at Treharris. The Christmas liturgies, although a challenge were extremely well received and well supported.

During my short time in the parish my main focus has been that of looking outwards and seeking those often neglected yet important opportunities to re-connect; building up and strengthening those important links within each of the communities the Church serves. So far, this has been with local businesses, schools, clubs, organisations, churches and local key individuals; as well as developing our relationship within the 'Cluster'; where the parishes of Gelligaer, Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach, naturally link with ourselves.

The willingness, positivity and support that I have experienced and felt is to be our encouragement as we continue to move forward together through 2017; building up the Kingdom of God in this place.

I feel a great sense of joy, excitement and privilege to be a priest among you, and to have been able to share so many joys in such a short time together.

As we reflect and take this opportunity to pause and reflect, may our hopes and prayers unite as we continue to listen, discern and respond to everything that God calls us to do.

May I take this final opportunity to thank each and every person who has supported the mission and ministry of the parish throughout 2016; serving the communities of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog Nelson and Llanfabon.

Rev'd. Fr. Gareth J. Coombes
Priest in Charge | Parish Priest

THE TREASURERS REPORT

Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon

Treasurers Report for Year End 31/12/2016

Executive Summary

I am very pleased to report that, after a challenging period for cashflow during the middle of 2016, the parish finances stabilised towards the end of the year. The parish net worth rose from £7,191.73 at the start of the year to £11,996.11 at the end of December.

Major Expenditure Items

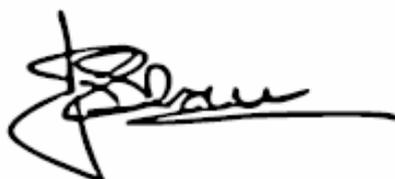
- The *Parish Share* totalled £41,409.50 - representing 63.5% of expenditure.
- Utility costs, insurances and repairs came to £11,810.14 - 19% of expenditure.
- The parish spent £1,514.77 on printing costs in 2016. The current arrangements are under review and alternatives are being considered.

Income

Envelope and loose cash amounts totalled £39,333.12 and Gift-Aid amounted to £7,996.10. It is essential we continue to promote the benefits of Gift Aid to maximise the opportunity it presents.

Rental Income was well down on 2015 due to the loss of *Weight-Watchers* at St. John's but still generated £4,310 in revenue. The St Matthias Church Hall generated only £1,570 of this total suggesting that it is under-utilised. Opportunities to market the building should be pursued.

Fr Gareth's online fund raising initiatives for the graveyards were a huge success generating £2,546.26 towards grass-cutting costs. I very much hope this will continue in 2017.



Simon Shaw - Treasurer

20 Mar 2017

Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon

Financial Statement 31/12/2016

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993 using the Receipts & Payments basis

The Parish has no outstanding loans or liabilities.

Receipt & Payments of Accounts

Account	Balance at 01/Jan/2016	Receipts	Payments	Adjustment	Balance at 31/Dec/2016
Barclays 70582956 <i>Current Account</i>	£7,181.00	£66,334.90	£65,208.83		£8,307.07
Barclays 60582883 <i>Llanfabon Churchyard</i>	£0.00	£1,392.38	£0.00		£1,392.38
Barclays 73623203 <i>St Mabon's Restricted</i>	£2.66	£0.01	£0.00		£2.67
Barclays 83726673 <i>Mission</i>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Barclays 73473104 <i>St Mabon's Buildings</i>	£0.30	£0.00	£0.00		£0.30
Barclays 33931803 <i>Grant Monies</i>	£0.15	£1,800.77	£0.00		£1,800.92
Barclays 93498875 <i>To Be Repaid</i>	£7.57	£1,700.18	£1,707.57		£0.18
Barclays 23971074 <i>St Cynon's Churchyard</i>	£0.00	£492.59	£0.00		£492.59
Barclays <i>Friends of St Matthias (Now Closed)</i>	£0.05	£0.00	£0.05		£0.00
Total	£7,191.73	£71,720.83	£66,916.45	£0.00	£11,996.11

The amount paid to the Clergy to cover costs & expenses was £1,316.36

There were no other payments to employees during the year.

Approved by the PCC of the Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog & Llanfabon on

.....

and signed on their behalf by Position

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon

Independent Examiners Report to the Members of the Parochial Church Council

I report on the Financial Statement of the Parish for the year ended 31/Dec/ 2016 which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

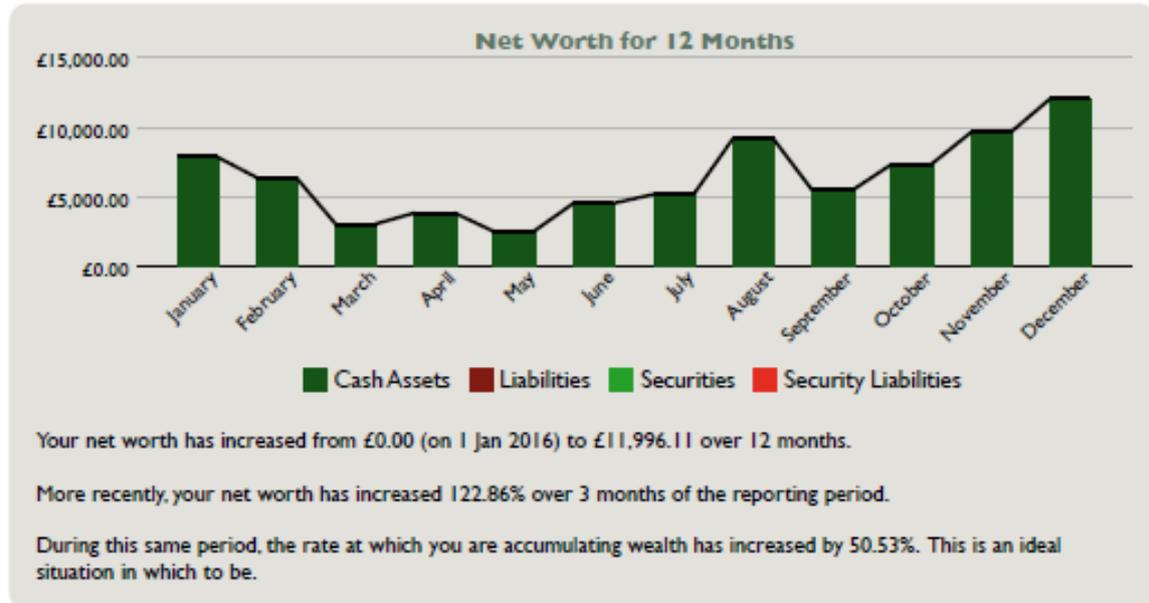
Independent Examiner:

Signature G. W. Meredith Date: 3 April 2017
Name: GARETH WILLIAM MEREDITH
Address: THE WILLOWS, BLACKBROOK, TRESHARRIS CF465LY

Net Worth - Balance Sheet Report

Summary Between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2016

This report shows a chart of your net worth for 12 months, as well as a balance sheet for 31/12/2016. The net worth chart allows you to see trends in your accumulation or loss of wealth. The balance sheet shows your assets and liabilities, subdivided into cash and security values.

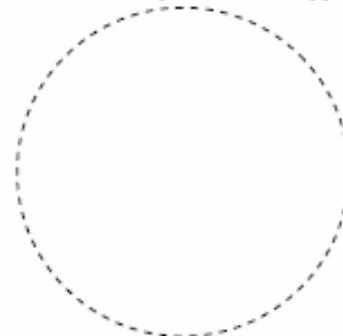


Assets by Account Type



● Current £10,192.04 ● Savings £1,804.07

Liabilities by Account Type



Balance Sheet as of 31/12/2016

Account	Amount
Cash Assets - UK Pounds	
Current Account	£8,307.07
Grant Monies	£1,800.92

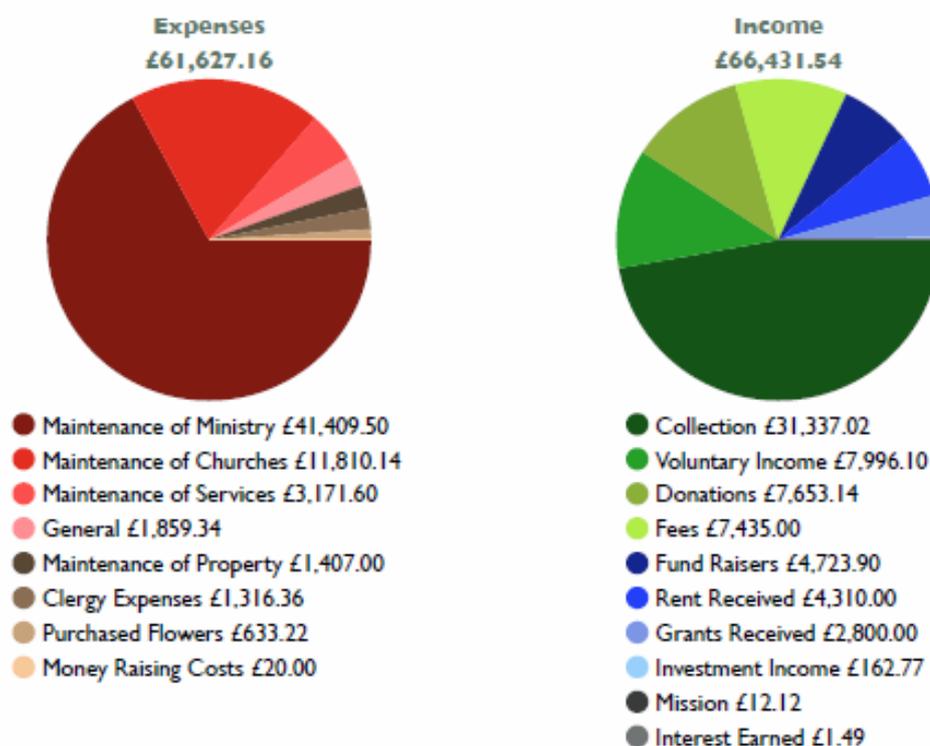
NetWorth Report

Balance Sheet as of 31/12/2016 (Continued)

Account	Amount
Llanfabon Churchyard Account	£1,392.38
Mission Acct	£0.00
St Cynon Church Yard Account	£492.59
St Mabon's Buildings	£0.30
St Mabon's Restricted	£2.67
To Be Repaid	£0.18
Total Cash Assets - UK Pounds	£11,996.11
Total - UK Pounds	£11,996.11

Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog & Llanfabon - Income & Expense Report

Summary Between 01/01/2016 and 31/12/2016



Income & Expenses by Category

Category	Total
Income	
Collection	£31,337.02
Collection:Envelopes:St John's	£6,443.90
Collection:Envelopes:St Mabon's	£569.83
Collection:Envelopes:St Matthias	£16,708.23
Collection:Plate:St John's	£3,252.21
Collection:Plate:St Mabon's	£822.81
Collection:Plate:St Matthias	£3,540.04

Income & Expenses by Category (Continued)

Category	Total
Donations	£7,653.14
Donations:1st St Matthias Scouts	£520.00
Donations:Cemetery	£140.00
Donations:Churchyards:Llanfabon	£1,964.20
Donations:Churchyards:St Cynons	£582.06
Donations:Flowers:Gift Aid:St John's - Other	£70.00
Donations:Flowers:Gift Aid:St Matthias	£5.00
Donations:Flowers:St John's - Other	£80.00
Donations:Flowers:St Matthias - Other	£448.00
Donations:Flowers - Other	£40.00
Donations:Gift-Aid:St John's	£939.46
Donations:Gift-Aid:St Matthias	£1,152.00
Donations:Nelson Community Council	£300.00
Donations:Sanctuary Lamp	£68.00
Donations:St John's	£18.00
Donations:St Matthias	£121.54
Donations:Votive Candles:St Matthias	£464.28
Donations - Other	£740.60
Fees	£7,435.00
Fees:Funerals	£4,825.00
Fees:Weddings:Banns	£175.00
Fees:Weddings - Other	£2,295.00
Fees - Other	£140.00
Fund Raisers	£4,723.90
Fund Raisers:Christmas Fayre:St John's	£852.02
Fund Raisers:Christmas Fayre:St Matthias	£1,078.02
Fund Raisers:Christmas Fayre - Other	-£904.39
Fund Raisers:Christmas Raffle:St Johns & St Mabons	£924.00
Fund Raisers:Christmas Raffle:St Matthias	£940.00
Fund Raisers:Marmalade	£65.03
Fund Raisers:Refreshments:St Matthias	£382.49
Fund Raisers:Refreshments - Other	£54.17
Fund Raisers:St Mathias:Bonus Ball	£1,360.00
Fund Raisers:Traidcraft:Invoices Paid	-£113.08
Fund Raisers:Traidcraft:Orders Taken	£93.64
Fund Raisers:Trips:Mamma Mia	-£8.00
Grants Received	£2,800.00
Grants Received:MTCBC	£800.00
Grants Received - Other	£2,000.00
Interest Earned	£1.49
Investment Income	£162.77

Income & Expenses by Category (Continued)

Category	Total
Mission	£12.12
Mission:Home	-£347.88
Mission:World:Christian Aid Week	£100.00
Mission:World - Other	£260.00
Rent Received	£4,310.00
Rent Received:St John's:2nd Nelson Brownies	£420.00
Rent Received:St John's:Slimming World	£2,120.00
Rent Received:St John's:Young Farmers	£200.00
Rent Received:St Matthias:Local Health Board	£720.00
Rent Received:St Matthias:MTBC Polling Station	£400.00
Rent Received:St Matthias:Public Health Wales	£350.00
Rent Received:St Matthias - Other	£100.00
Voluntary Income	£7,996.10
Voluntary Income:Tax Refunds:Indirect Giving	£6,484.91
Voluntary Income:Tax Refunds - Other	£1,511.19
Income Total	£66,431.54
Expenses	
Clergy Expenses	-£1,316.36
Clergy Expenses:Father Matthew:Mileage	-£306.11
Clergy Expenses:Father Matthew:Telecomms	-£313.99
Clergy Expenses:Father Matthew - Other	-£400.00
Clergy Expenses:Fr Gareth Coombes	-£296.26
General	-£1,859.34
General:Coach Hire	-£50.00
General:Printing:Hire Charge	-£768.00
General:Printing:Usage Charge	-£90.76
General:Printing - Other	-£610.99
General:Stationery	-£45.02
General:purchased food & drink	-£294.57
Maintenance of Churches	-£11,810.14
Maintenance of Churches:Electricity:St John's:Church	-£132.28
Maintenance of Churches:Electricity:St John's:Church Hall	-£249.19
Maintenance of Churches:Electricity:St Mabon's:Church	-£167.97
Maintenance of Churches:Electricity:St Mabon's:Parish Room	-£6.03
Maintenance of Churches:Electricity:St Matthias:Church	-£624.57
Maintenance of Churches:Gas:St John's	-£2,061.05
Maintenance of Churches:Gas:St Matthias:Church	-£2,672.86
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St John's:Church	-£647.80
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St John's:Church Hall	-£699.27
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St Mabon's:Church	-£454.26
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St Mabon's:Parish Room	£0.12
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St Matthias:Church	-£967.57
Maintenance of Churches:Insurance:St Matthias:Church Hall	-£1,036.20



Income & Expenses by Category (Continued)

Category	Total
Maintenance of Churches:Repairs:St John's	-£560.00
Maintenance of Churches:Repairs:St Mabons	-£180.91
Maintenance of Churches:Repairs:St Matthias	-£72.60
Maintenance of Churches:Vicarage	-£476.18
Maintenance of Churches:Water:St Matthias Church Hall	-£266.65
Maintenance of Churches:Water:Vicarage	-£534.87
Maintenance of Ministry	-£41,409.50
Maintenance of Ministry:Parish Share	-£41,409.50
Maintenance of Property	-£1,407.00
Maintenance of Property:Churchyard:Llanfabon	-£900.00
Maintenance of Property:Churchyard:St Cynons	-£360.00
Maintenance of Property:St John's - Other	-£34.20
Maintenance of Property:St Mabon's - Other	-£33.60
Maintenance of Property:St Matthias	-£79.20
Maintenance of Services	-£3,171.60
Maintenance of Services:Altar Requisites	-£1,877.60
Maintenance of Services:Cleaning	-£795.00
Maintenance of Services:Organist	-£400.00
Maintenance of Services - Other	-£99.00
Money Raising Costs	-£20.00
Money Raising Costs:Licences	-£20.00
Purchased Flowers	-£633.22
Purchased Flowers:St Johns	-£335.00
Purchased Flowers:St Matthias	-£298.22
Expenses Total	-£61,627.16
TOTAL	£4,804.38

THE CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

2016 was a year of change both nationally and internationally, and the parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon was very much on trend.

Late in 2015 Fr. Matthew Gibbon announced that he was moving on to pastures new and would be leaving us early on in 2016. He was some time before he had the date for his move to Aberaman and finally left us in March 2016. We then moved into interregnum and were all hoping that this would not be a long one. In the Llanfabon half of the parish we felt that it had only been a relatively short time since we had been in this position before. During the interregnum we were well looked after by our Area Dean, Canon Steven Kirk, and continuity of services was maintained by Fr. Bernard Jones, Fr. Tony Stevens and Canon Michael Short in St. Matthias; Fr. Alan Silverthorne (plus Basil Brush!) and Fr. Keith Hemmings in St. John's. Services at Llanfabon were suspended until the new incumbent took up their post.

Just after the Easter Vestry we were very pleased to hear that Fr. Gareth Coombes and his family would soon be with us. There was standing room only in St. Matthias on the 20th of June when Fr. Gareth was licensed as our new parish priest by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff David Willbourne. Fr. Gareth, Emma and Tom were welcomed soon after their arrival with a concert given for them in St. Matthias by Treharris Male Voice Choir. This was closely followed by Caerphilly Ladies' Choir and The Francis family Quartet who gave a concert in St. John's; all concerts were very successful.

Services at Llanfabon resumed in September following a Quiet Day of prayer and reflection. A well-attended service was held for St. Mabon's Day on the 19th of September and regular Sunday worship has been re-introduced at St. Mabon's every Sunday at 4.30pm; a Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month and evening prayer on the other Sundays. The church was full for an evening of Readings and Music for Christmas on the 18th of December followed by fellowship and refreshments as well as the Grand Prize Draw which was the most successful one so far. The First Eucharist of Christmas was at 10pm on Christmas Eve which was also very well attended.

Services around the parish continue as before with some new seasonal services being introduced. Another Day of Prayer was held at Llanfabon at the beginning of Advent and in November at St. John's we welcomed people who had been bereaved during the year together for a service of remembrance: 'In Loving Memory'. This, again, was extremely well attended and Fr. Gareth was supported by Marika Savage-Lewis, a retired hospital chaplain. Many who attended this poignant service assured us that they will be attending again this year.

On Remembrance Sunday services were held in St. John's and St. Matthias before joining others at the Cenotaphs in Nelson and Treharris. At Treharris we were joined by the Salvation Army Band. In St. Mabon's there was Evening Prayer with the Act of Remembrance.

The Parish Room in Llanfabon was eventually sold at the beginning of the year so now we have some money to build on to seriously think about the work of refurbishing St. John's. We met with the architect and reviewed the plans. We can now begin the faculty process, apply for grants, as well as develop our fundraising and 'crack on' with this important work. The Church Hall at St. John's continues to be used regularly by Mothers' Union, Slimming World, Brownies and Young Farmers but, unfortunately Weight Watchers decided to abandon their attempt to reduce the weight of the people of Nelson and closed both classes, resulting in a loss of significant revenue for us.

Our thanks go to everyone who helps by contributing to the Food bank in both churches and to Dennis Sullivan and Mildred Hughes who transport all the goods to Treharris and Merthyr Tydfil. In St. John's the Food bank had been neglected until Mildred took up the cause and with the help of Mothers' Union made sure that we all do our part to fill the baskets.

Our Christmas Festive Fun Days and our Grand Christmas Draw were a resounding success and brought in many people from the community who had possibly not been to our churches before. They definitely enjoyed the hot dogs and chips not to mention the warming mulled wine and mince pies! In St. John's the addition of windowsill flowers have made a big difference to the welcoming feel of the building.

The graveyard and churchyard at Llanfabon have for several years been a challenge both financially and physically, resulting in various complaints. Thanks to Fr. Gareth for setting up our ongoing appeals on social media, which has helped improve this issue during 2016. Social media has proved a welcome source of information about the parish, including services and activities as well as those of our 'Cluster' churches of the Parishes of Ystrad Mynach and Llanbradach and the Parish of Gelligaer.

We have valued and enjoyed joining together on special days during the year e.g. All Saints' Day, or St. David's Day among others. In the cluster we have introduced 'Cluster News' so we all know what is going on in the other parishes. We also share Messy Church on the first Saturday of every month, which we host as a parish once in every three months and is enjoyed by the growing number who attend. Thanks to all those who give their time and gifts to further our mission and ministry in this important area of parish life.

And, finally, a special thank you to everyone in the parish who contribute so much to the welfare and well-being of church life throughout the parish: people who give so generously with a willingness to contribute to the welcoming, growing community it is.

Alison Francis and Lynne Farr | Churchwardens'

TREHARRIS MOTHERS UNION

The year began in February with our AGM and the Branch Leader Vicky Morgan, Secretary Audrey Wiltshire and Treasurer Shirley Drane were duly re-elected for another year. Unfortunately one of our members was unable to continue as a paid up member due to family commitments decreasing our membership to eleven. Our indoor member, Mrs Jean Hunt, was in hospital at the beginning of the year and then moved to a nursing home in May so our regular house meetings ceased. We continued to meet as a group every fortnight on a Tuesday at 6.30pm in the scout hall.

As a branch we supported various parish, deanery and diocesan events. The first of these was the Shrove Tuesday social evening in February – an evening of fellowship and fun with pancakes and fancy cakes followed by a quiz, bingo and raffle. Members of Llanfabon branch joined with us and we raised £110 for the Parish's Lenten mission.

At the end of February we said farewell to Fr Matthew and our members provided the refreshments after mass. Fr Matthew was licensed as Priest in Charge of Aberaman and Cwmaman at the beginning of March and some of our members attended. On Mothering Sunday there was a parish mass at St Johns church and we gave MU bookmarks to members of the congregation. In early April both MU branches joined together at St Johns for a short service of prayer and reflection to celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lady.

The Deanery Festival was held at the beginning of May at St Tyfaelog Church Pontlottyn. The service was well attended as usual by the branches in our deanery. The homily was given by the new incumbent Fr Robert Lindsay who also commissioned Judy Hopkins as our new Deanery Leader. Also in May, St Matthias Patronal Festival was led by Revd Canon Steven Kirk and members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament joined us. Afterwards we had a buffet lunch in the church hall and everyone was appreciative and thanked MU members as many people had travelled a fair distance to celebrate with us.

In June our branch was invited to St Johns for a Dutch auction and strawberry tea. Over £160 was raised in aid of the MU AFIA caravan in Porthcawl. Our branch sponsored one family from Treharris to enjoy a well-earned break at the caravan.

Also in June the whole parish was united at St Matthias church for the licensing of Fr Gareth Coombes as priest in charge. Both branches collaborated on making the night unforgettable by providing two buffet tables – one in the lower hall and one in the scout hall. At the end of June our branch set up a book lending library in the church hall. Books can be loaned and/or donated and any money raised will go to MU projects. During the second half of the year our members had been visible at weddings and baptisms as requested by Fr Gareth. One important aim of the MU is to support marriage and family life.

At the beginning of July we organised a joint summer trip to Brecon with Llanfabon MU. We began with a visit to the Cathedral & Pilgrims coffee shop after which some of our members attended mass. Then we strolled down to Brecon town for lunch and a browse around the shops. The weather was inclement and a broly was needed but it didn't dampen our spirits. Also in July our branch was invited to join Llanfabon MU at St Johns to enroll two new members, followed by refreshments to celebrate a special birthday for one of their long serving members and it was an opportunity for Fr Gareth to meet with all the MU members in his parish.

In September after the summer break some of our members attended the Deanery Eucharist at Llandaff Cathedral. It was held in the Lady Chapel and Fr Steven Kirk presided. Vicky Morgan, branch leader, read the intercessions.

At the end of September we organised a collection of items for the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child. We filled 29 boxes and took them to Holy Trinity Ystrad Mynach at the beginning of November before being transported to the warehouse. We were also given over £150 towards the cost of items and transport. Our congregation has been very generous once again.

At the end of November Fr Gareth led us in Advent Devotions in St Matthias, some members from Llanfabon MU joined with us and afterwards we enjoyed a mince pie and a cup of tea. At the beginning of December St Matthias held a Festive Family Fun Day, which did exceptionally well. Fr Gareth had organised lots of children's activities and our church hall was turned into a café. Our members set up a gift bag stall with craft, which was very popular and helped to raise much needed funds for the parish. We also helped with the mulled wine and mince pies for the Christmas Lights and Santa's grotto. Also in December our members enjoyed a Christmas carvery meal at the Navigation Hotel's new restaurant "Tommy Box". It was good to support a local business.

Audrey Wiltshire | Branch Secretary

LLANFABON MOTHERS UNION

The AGM took place on February 5th. Two long standing officers resigned: Wynne Pugh as Branch Leader and Sandra Smith as Secretary. All present thanked them for their valuable contribution and long service in their respective roles. Fr Matthew Gibbon appointed Lynne Farr as Branch Leader and the other two officers were elected unopposed: Crissie Stock as Treasurer and Mildred Hughes as Secretary. We had 21 members listed for 2016.

The new Secretary presented a programme of events for 2016 based on community and action. Our first meeting was a visiting speaker to tell us about the Food Bank and to guide us in renewing our contributions as an MU within the Parish. I am pleased to report that every week since then our basket (donated by Lynne) has been full on Sunday. It is taken to St Matthias and Dennis delivers it to the Food Bank in Merthyr.

A team effort by the Parish to support families at a time of need, and fully in tune with the role of Mothers Union in the community Also in February we attended a Shrove Party organised by St Matthias MU. An article and photographs were sent to "In Touch" and the article was published.

March 2016: Continuing with our theme we had a talk by Yvonne Gwinnett on community life in Bargoed in the 50's and the role of a community policeman. On Mothering Sunday we had a Parish service at St John's and the two Parish MU's gave a bookmark as a gift to each member of the congregation. In March we enjoyed a Quiz evening prepared by Sadie. Also during March the MU donated flowers for the Easter family service. Members prepared arrangements for the windows, Wynne and Marjorie arranged the stands and Lynne, Mary and Marjorie prepared the Easter Garden. It was a joint effort under Lynne's leadership with a beautiful result to celebrate Easter Day at St John's. On March 30th Roy and Margaret Matthews celebrated 70 years of marriage. They received many congratulations and congratulations appeared in "In Touch" with a beautiful photograph of their wedding

April 2016: We began with a service to celebrate 140 years of the Mothers Union. We had a service at St John's prepared by Crissie and we were joined for the service by St Matthias MU and enjoyed buffet following the service. Later in April continuing our theme of community we looked at memorabilia of church life and the discussed an Action Plan for today. We decided to produce a recipe book. This has been done successfully and £110 raised so far for the Diocesan Caravan. A second edition is due in early 2017

May 2016: During May we welcomed two speakers Judy Hopkins our Deanery President "Meditations on Julian of Norwich" Anne Butler also of the MU with her Workshop "Widowhood and the single life" At her talk Judy arranged for Wynne and Marjorie to help with the Deanery flower arranging at Llandaff Cathedral.

June 2016: We made an enjoyable visit to St Tyfylog's, Pontlloyn to the Deanery Festival. Fourteen Members attended. In June we also held a 'Dutch Auction' and Strawberry Tea. St Matthias joined us and we had an enjoyable and successful evening and raised £200 for the caravan and in addition received a donation from Islwyn Bowl Club (via Crissie) for an additional £200. Later in the month we had the privilege of our Diocesan President Lynne Davies giving a talk on "MU and Me". It was an inspiring talk In June we welcomed Fr Gareth, Emma and Tom to the Parish and Llanfabon MU played a full part in the catering and the service. A wonderful evening to welcome a new stage in the Parish. We all enjoyed a Darts evening in Gilfach and came home with the prize!!!

July 2016: We enjoyed a joint visit with St Matthias to Brecon. It was a good day out and we were able to take part in a service in Brecon Cathedral. We will hopefully be making this an annual event.

A group of 15 visited the Deanery Caravan at Porthcawl followed by lunch at the Atlantic Hotel, it included two ladies from Islwyn Indoor Bowls Club so that they could see first-hand how their donation was being used. This July Llanfabon also went on the Caravan Rota in order to prepare the caravan for new holiday makers. In July also we had our flower arranging evening organised by Wynne as Marjorie was on holiday. A very popular evening and many of our displays could be seen on Face Book throughout the week. A photo was sent to "In Touch" of members, Sadie, Audrey and Margaret and their flower arrangements. They are our role models and the piece is entitled Flower power at Llanfabon MU. It was published in September. Our last meeting in July was a celebration of Mary Williams' 80th birthday. It was preceded by the enrolment of our 4 new members in St John's, the service taken by Fr Gareth. We had a really good party and also congratulated Ken and Crissie on their Golden Wedding in August. Both announcements have published in "In Touch"

There were no meetings in August

September 2016: 2016 September began with a cheese and Wine evening where Sadie presented a Quiz .It was an enjoyable evening and good to get together after our summer break. Our second meeting was a Prayer Workshop led by Fiona Parsons. It was a very successful meeting producing a prayer booklet and an article has been sent to "In Touch". We hope to read some of the prayers at a Sunday service in 2017 During September some members joined the Deanery Service at Llandaff Cathedral followed by lunch at the Ty Nant.

October 2016: This month we had a talk by Yvonne Gwinnitt about her days as a young teacher in the early 1960's in Birmingham it was an evocative picture of the times and women's lives. The second meeting was in the form of an Any Questions where we discussed questions asked by the members.

November 2016: This began with an Avon Party which included a makeover and was a relaxed pleasant evening During November the Parish sent 57 Christmas Boxes to Zambia and Albania Including a few boxes from Penuel Church. It was a joint effort by the two Mothers Union in the Parish and a member went along to help the checking of the boxes in Llantrisant where their target this year was 30,000 boxes in fact they sent 36,000 boxes. In November also the Mothers Union helped with the Church Family Fun Day hosted in St John's. There was an amazing support from the community and hopefully the church will continue to be a centre for community events in the village.

December 2016: Our last meeting was a Christmas get together with mince pies and The Hundred Club draw. Finally we enjoyed our annual Christmas Dinner at Llanfabon Inn where Lynne held our usual Raffle. It was a lovely evening.

In conclusion we have had a very positive year at Llanfabon MU members have given generously to the community with the Food Bank and the Samaritan Boxes.

We have also raised over £700 for the Diocesan Caravan and taken part in everything listed above. Four new members have been enrolled this year. There has been excellent attendance at meetings and events and a warm welcome extended to all our speakers. All this is possible only with the support of our members.

Mildred Hughes | Branch Secretary

ST MATTHIAS CHURCH CHOIR

We are still very fortunate to have a ladies choir in Saint Matthias. Although mainly a liturgical choir we occasionally have the opportunity to sing a few Anthems or Sacred Songs during relevant services.

We sing at Weddings and funerals wherever asked.

The choir are always ready at hand, and I again would like to thank them for their support over the years.

We are very fortunate to have our organist with us and I personally once again would like to thank Martin for his continued support and for his travelling from Penarth each Sunday. His organ playing and sense of humour are invaluable.

Patreesa Humphreys | Choir Mistress

GIFT AID

This past year has been a fallow year for gift aid contributions. We have just about held our own but not seen any significant increase. Indeed, this year the parish has received £8948 which is £458 less than the last claim. Please remember that this sum of money is a free gift from Her Majesty's Treasury.

Once again, I would take this opportunity of commending the Direct Debit scheme to all. You do not have to pay income tax to gift aid by Direct Debit but the Direct Debit scheme has the very great advantage of giving the parish a guaranteed monthly income.

Once again this year I have made two half yearly claims, in an attempt to improve cash flow for the treasurer.

Can I take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their generosity in making their weekly contributions, without which the important work of the church's mission within the community would be extremely difficult.

Richard Thomas | Gift Aid Secretary

MESSY CHURCH

The small and committed group of helpers continue to work with groups from around the 'Cluster' and meet in rotation on a monthly basis.

There has been a number of sessions held at St. Matthias; yet there is potential to grow and develop our ministry to families, children and young people through the concept of Messy Church.

Thank you to those who have supported the mission and ministry of Messy Church in the parish during 2016.

CHURCHYARD & CEMETERY MAINTAINENCE

The parish has the responsibility of maintaining the old St. Cynon's Churchyard, St. Mabon's Churchyard and part of Llanfabon Cemetery; all of which continue to hold a special place in the heart of many of the communities we serve.

The challenge of maintaining these sacred places has been met with the use of social media, and an online donation process hosted by BTmydonte; a non-commissioned method of processing donations online.

The parish acknowledges the generosity of kind donors; all of which have allowed us to maintain these important and significant places with respect.

The parish also acknowledges those who have carried out this work on behalf of the PCC at the graveyards at both St Cynon's and St. Mabon's; together with the cemetery at Llanfabon during 2016.