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**Ardal Genhadaeth Wrecsam**

**Wrexham Mission Area**

Eglwysi Anglicanaidd Wrecsam: Escobaeth Llanelwy, Eglwys yng Nghymru Wrexham Anglican Churches: Diocese of St Asaph, Church in Wales

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING** 9.30am Sunday 2 March 2025 **St Margaret’s Church Garden Village**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024**

**NOTE ON NOMINATION FOR OFFICE:**

The system in practice is that each year 3 of the 9 elected members step down for at least one year after serving 3 years allowing 3 new members to be elected.

A nominations sheet has been posted on the notice board.

**ST MARGARET’S CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024**

**Ex Officio:** Rev’d Canon Jonathan Smith(Vicar); Dr Wayne Morris (Lay Reader); Mrs Helen Davies (Vicar’s Warden) – 6th year; Mr Michael Mullen (People’s Warden) - 9th year.

**Present elected members:**

*To retire 2025:* Mr Matthew Cooke, Mrs Rebecca Cooke & Mrs Hazel Phillips

*To retire 2026:* Mrs Anne Whitehand, Mrs Elaine Hughes, Mr David Evans

*To Retire 2027:* Mrs Francis Dawson; Mrs Kathryn Jackson: Vacancy.

**Co-opted members:** Treasurer: Mr Gwyn Edwards; Secretary: Mrs Jean Morris; Sunday Club Representative: Mrs Chris Smith: MAC Representative: Mr Stephen Cannon (to retire)

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# AVM AGENDA 2024

* + 1. **Welcome and opening Prayers.**
    2. **Attendance and Apologies.**
    3. **Confirmation of Minutes of AVM 7 April 2024** (page 3).
    4. **Receive Reports** with any questions. Please submit these in advance to aid with timekeeping

and enable considered responses.

* + 1. **Elections:** The AVM is responsible for the election of the following:

**5.1 The People’s Warden:**

Many thanks to Mike for his 9 years in office.

The Vicar’s Warden is appointed by the Vicar. Helen Davies is also thanked for her sixth year in office.

**5.2 Members of the Church** **Council Committee:**

A nominations sheet has been posted on the notice board.

Those standing down after 3 years are Mr Matthew Cooke, Mrs Rebecca Cooke & Mrs Hazel Phillips which allows 3 fresh places on the Church Council for a 3-year term. There is also a vacancy for a 2-year term.

**5.3 The person to be elected to the Mission Area Conference for the triennial period 2025 – 2026 – 20247**:

**5.4 The person to be elected to the Diocesan Conference for the triennial period 2025 – 2026 – 2027**:

**5.5 Appointment of Sidespersons:**

* + 1. **6. Presentation of the Accounts**

Thanks to Gwyn Edwards and Stephen Cannon for their work.

**6.1 Church Accounts.**

**6.2 Church Hall Accounts.**

**7. Any Other Business previously notified to the Secretary**

**AGENDA for the meeting of the Church Council Committee**

to be held immediately following the AVM with all remaining present

1. **Co-options to Church Council:**
   1. The Treasurer
   2. The Secretary
   3. The MAC Representaive
2. **Formal Acceptance of Report**

**ST. MARGARET’S CHURCH ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024**

1. **WELCOME & OPENING PRAYERS:** Rev’d Canon Jonathan Smith welcomed everyone to the AVM within the service of Morning Prayer asking God’s blessings on this time together, to open hearts and minds to His vision for us.

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:** There were 43 people present including the Rev’d Canon Jonathan Smith.

Apologies were received from Mike Mullen, Janet Cannon, Maureen Dodd and Chris Smith who was taking Sunday Club.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AVM 17 APRIL 2023:** Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by Stephen Slade, seconded by Helen Davies and duly signed by Rev’d Canon Jonathan Smith.

**4. RECEIVE REPORTS:** Jonathan said the reports for 2023 are presented in the booklets which were circulated well in advance of this meeting.

**(a) Vicar’s Report:** Further to his report Jonathan reiterated there were many good things to be thankful for in 2023 with continued growth in numbers, regular study groups and prayer meetings. There were a number of points he wished to stress:

* Prayer should be the life blood of our church. It would be good to have more members commit to the monthly Prayer Walks and Prayer Meetings. The next Prayer Meeting is this Wednesday from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and includes a short act of Worship and reflection.
* The outer porch will be fixed win the next few weeks.
* There are one or two challenges. Finances are better if not brilliant: some form of planned giving is needed. Gift Direct is the preferred way as |gift Aid is automatically refunded from Cardiff which helps Gwyn. Weekly and monthly envelopes are just starting now.
* Hopefully, Open the Book is going to restart when the team enacts Bible stories at the local schools.
* There remains a gap from Lunch Club.
* Baptism and Confirmation Classes will begin in November.
* There is the challenge of the Centenary year in 2028. The church committee aim to raise funds to get the church building in better shape, with regards to the roof and heating, for the next 100 years.

**(b) Sunday Club Report:** Sunday Club numbers are reduced; prayers are needed for more young families to attend.

**(c) Wardens Report:** Nothing further to add.

**(d) Church Council Report:** This gives some idea of the work of the committee. Three fresh members are needed for this year.

**(e) Altar Guild:** Nothing further to add.

**(f) Bethel:** Our sister church in the village. There was a successful Lent Group with Bethel and St Mark’s, our other sister church.

**(g) Mission Area Conference:** This is the formal PCC and legal body for all the churches in the benefice of Wrexham. Stephen Cannon would like to draw peoples’ attention to the last paragraph; his retirement next year.

**(h) Diocesan Conference:** Nothing further to add.

**(i) Christian Aid:** 12-20 May 2024

**(j) Craft Group:** A very full report. The group fills some of the gap left by Lunch Club.

**(k) Choir:** Needs more members!

**(l) 80 Club:** Has financed some projects the church was unable to fund.

**(m) Christians together in Wrexham:** Elaine Smith has submitted this report for both St Mark’s and St Margaret’s. The Walk of Witness was the last event; on Good Friday 100-150 members of various churches walked through Wrexham with the Salvation Army Band and with some stories of the Crucifixion.

Katherine Jackson would like to point out that the Craft Group and Sunday Club also contributed a display to the Nativity Trail.

**(n) Walking Group:** The Walking Group are still walking.

No further questions or comments were received, and Jonathan commended the reports to the meeting. Acceptance was proposed by David Evans, seconded by Ian Williams and agreed by those present.

1. **ELECTIONS:** 
   1. **The People’s Warden**: Michael Mullen has held this position for the last 8 years. The post is normally limited to 6 years and Mike is over the magic age of 75 which would preclude him from the MA PCC but as this is a sub-committee it is permitted.

Mike Mullen was nominated by Jean Morris, seconded by Christine Smith and agreed by all present. There were no other nominations and Mike duly elected as Peoples’ Warden for the next 12 months.

**(b) Sunday Club Report:** Sunday Club numbers are reduced; prayers are needed for more young families to attend.

**(c) Wardens Report:** Nothing further to add.

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Jonathan thanked Gwyn for his work.

**8.2. Hall Accounts:**

The Church Hall Accounts have been passed by the Auditors. Stephen Cannon said that 2023 was a good year with respect to income and expenditure. The Reserve Account is separate and records the money paid towards the church lounge roof repair. The lounge can now be rented out. The white lining in the car park was a large expense. At the start of the year the hall struggled with energy costs which reduced mid-year and continued to fall. Hire charges remain the same. It has been a successful and busy year.

The work done in previous years by John Page, John White and Anne Casey must be acknowledged. All three retired at the end of the year and Shaun Davies was appointed as Booking Officer. Stephen encouraged everyone to look at the church hall which has been painted and refreshed. Shaun has done all the work and Stephen paid the bills.

At the end of last year Stephen applied for a grant for automated doors to the hall. The grant must be used by September. He has received proposals from 3 contractors and the work will be completed by the end of September. Stehen concluded that everything is working well – so far!

Jonathan thanked John Page, John White and Anne Casey for their work in previous years. A new Hall Treasurer will be needed next year as Stephen is retiring. Jonathan thanked Graham Wright for the work he had done in earlier years which was applauded by the congregation.

John White said it was good to see Graham Wright present, and thanked Stephen Cannon for taking up the reins of Treasurer, and he was pleased that the hall continued to be successful. However, he noted that the Reserves were considerably less, by about £6,000 per year, leaving only £6,000. It had gone to support the church but the situation cannot carry on and everyone should be mindful of their giving in Stewardship.

1. **AOB:** None

This concluded the official AVM

**Church Council Meeting immediately following the AVM**

1. **Co-options to Church Council:**
   1. **Treasurer:** Gwyn Edwards agreed to continue for a further year.
   2. **Secretary:** Jean Morris agreed to remain another year but said she would be retiring in 18 months’ time.

Their appointments were agreed by the committee members present.

Jonathan thanked everyone for attending and remarked that the church is no good for another year – in our Lord’s hands and ours. The Kingdom of God is greater than St Margaret’s. His will is for the church to continue and to support the committee. Our weaknesses are in giving and in prayer. Let us try to improve our giving and increase our prayers.

This completed the AVM for 2024 and the meeting closed and Morning Prayer resumed.

**ST MARGARET’S VICAR’S REPORT 2024**

Throughout 2024, St Margaret’s has sustained its regular congregations and seen growth in some areas. Highlights have included:

* Some impressive community events involving musical entertainment, notably, musical coffee mornings, the Last Night of the Proms concert and ‘Garden Village Remembers’.
* Hosting a confirmation service for the Mission Area and preparing 3 candidates from St Margaret’s.
* New people training as worship leaders, reading and leading intercession.
* Offering courses to both introduce and grow faith including the Romans Course, 321 and ‘The Bible Series’.
* Good levels of engagement with the Lent Course in which Peter Walker led us around some of the sites associated with the passion and death of Jesus along with Holy Week and Easter.
* Welcoming Maria as our Pastoral Chaplain and Sarah as our placement student.
* Launching the Centenary Appeal on St Margaret’s Day.
* Welcoming new people to church on a regular basis.
* Sharing worship with St Mark’s and Bethel.
* Continuing to develop the Church Hall with the fitting of automatic doors and the transition to Shaun acting as booking officer.

There is much to be thankful for. We bless God and pray for our Sunday Club, weekly worship and the regular weekday activities. Yet, like many churches, there are two areas where there is scope for improvement and growth.

1. God really does covet our prayers as I do. Yes, he knows what we need before we ask him, but he does want us to ask. Fruitful churches are always birthed in a life of prayer, not just our private prayer, but corporate prayer too. If we really desire to see a flourishing church, then we need to be ready to make sacrifices to come together for prayer. Currently, we have a prayer walk and an evening prayer meeting alternating monthly. Is this a helpful pattern? Would something online work better?
2. Our financial giving. I am especially grateful for all the gifts to the Centenary Fund and to all of you who give regularly to the life of our church in whatever way you choose to do it. We are still a little short of what we need to pay our ‘share’ to the Mission Area which in turn supports our ministry. Once again, if you have not reviewed your giving for a while, could this be a gentle reminder? If you are new to St Margaret’s, do you know it is possible to give via Direct Debit through the Church in Wales ‘Gift Direct’ scheme. Do ask for details or go online: [Online Giving by Gift Direct - The Church in Wales](https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/gift-direct/) Thank you

Looking back at last year’s report, we have taken forward things which we identified then, and they will continue to be worked on as we move through 2025. These include a ‘Warm Space’ which will help us support and care for some of the more elderly and isolated members of our community. The Centenary Fund and the associated working group will, I hope, be able to address some of the issues our now nearly 100 year old church faces. Paramount is ensuring that the roof and spire are in good condition to preserve the rest of the fabric. Beyond that, the heating system is in desperate need of renewal as the persistently chilly weather this winter has demonstrated. Along with all this activity, may our prayer, worship, sharing and growing in the faith be maintained and strengthened for all ages within our church.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has served with me in the life of St Margaret’s, wardens, secretary and treasurers. I remain appreciative of all who enable the various groups to function and take part in ensuring the building is fit for worship each week. Sunday Club, David and the choir, my gratitude to you all.

May Jesus be exalted, the sinner humbled and the needy blessed by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father.

Jonathan

**WARDENS’ REPORT 2024**

It does not seem like 12 months has passed since our last Wardens’ Report. It has and we are delighted to say that St Margaret’s Church is still going from strength to strength; with God’s blessing we pray it will continue to do so.

Much work has been completed on the Fabric of the church; a new lounge roof in the lounge area of the church has been completed, although it still had areas which were letting in water. These have now been attended to, and we are waiting for the contractor to return to redecorate the ceiling at their expense.

The wall at the side of the Ladt Chapel is still in a damp condition. Hopefully, it will continue to dry out during the summer months, at which time a decision will be made as to how to proceed forward with this work.

The roofs of the choir vestry and the Vicar‘s vestry have had remedial work carried out on them. The Vicar’s vestry became an emergency due to water dripping on the power supply box. Both areas are now drying out but will need replastering and painting at some time.

Outside church the guttering has all been cleared out and repairs made as required and ridge tiles have been repointed. Piping from the lounge has been repaired and replaced and water is now dispersing into the ground soakaway rather than causing flooding against the church wall.

May we thank the following church fellowship groups for continuing to support the events which are put on to raise much-needed funds, but also, they create times of fellowship for our church friends and others from our local community. Long may the events continue.

We are sure you are all aware of the fund raising which has started to assist with the task of bringing our church up to today’s standards for our church’s 100th birthday in approximately 4 years’ time. The work required would fill a page of this report on its own. Anyone wanting to know specifics please ask me. We are not exactly falling down but God is challenging us to maintain the building for the next 100 years, safeguarding the future ministry here for our children and their children to come.

We have a target of £100,000 to raise. If anyone has any ideas which they would like to bring to the attention of the church committee, or if you prefer to run your idea to the Wardens or Jonathan in the first instance, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Finally, on behalf of Helen and myself as Wardens and welcomers, may we thank you for your help and continued support.

God Bless you all. Michael Mullen (Peoples’ Warden) Helen Davies (Vicar’s Warden)

**SUNDAY CLUB 2024**

The weather is a popular topic which crops up in conversation daily. We have had some weather events to deal with over the past twelve months relating to church and Sunday Club. In September two of our young people, and a parent too, joined with others from the Mission Area to be confirmed at a service in St. Margarets. The rain that fell that afternoon was biblical! It failed to have a dampening effect on those inside church and the service, led by Bishop Gregory was a warm, welcoming and memorable one. At Christmas it was cold, wet and windy weather that we contended with but again we didn’t allow it to interfere with preparations for the Crib Service, after all I am sure the shepherds and the Wise Men had problems to overcome on their journey to Bethlehem! Although we were small in number for the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve the story of the Grumpy Innkeeper was told with humour and lots of enthusiasm.  
  
The teachers continue to deliver stories from the Old and New Testaments with enthusiasm too. These have included Jesus turning water into wine, the Good Shepherd and discovering ways to pray including the Lord’s Prayer. From the Old Testament we had stories about Joshua and Samuel and will be looking at the story of Abraham in the weeks ahead. Whatever our focus a range of activities are offered including craft, drama, puzzles and games as we want learning about God to be fun.  
  
Throughout the year we join with the congregation in church to celebrate such events as Pentecost, Christingle, Christmas and Candlemas. In September we were involved in the Act of Remembrance for the Gresford Colliery disaster by making flowers, models of miners’ lamps and creating a poem. At Harvest the children performed a sketch about a family of Harvest Mice, illustrating that Harvest is a happy time made even happier when we share what we have with others. Likewise at Christmas we were involved in arranging flowers and candles to decorate the church windowsills. The children make a beautiful job of these arrangements and they made one each to take home as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world.  
  
One of the joys of working with children is seeing them grow in confidence over time. Every session in the hall begins with prayer and the children are encouraged to help with the reading of these. Little by little the number of hands going up in the air to offer to do this increases. The shyer members gain confidence from the older members of the group and over time transfer that confidence to reading prayers in the Family Service in church.  
  
Sincere thanks go to Jonathan, the Sunday Club teachers and our young helper, the congregation and parents for all their encouragement which underpins that growth in self-confidence. Learning about God really is a “family affair “.

Looking forward with confidence to the next twelve months and the opportunities that God will present us with.  
  
                                                  Chris Smith

**DIOCESAN CONFERENCE 2024**

The Diocesan Conference took place on two dates, the first part on Zoom on 17th October 2024, concerning business such as constitutional amendments, accepting the accounts and budget. The second part was held at Llanfyllin High School in Tanat-Vyrnwy Mission Area, on Saturday 19th. It was in-person with speakers and worship and included the presidential address and an address by the keynote speaker, the Venerable Mones Farah, Archdeacon Missioner in the Diocese of St David’s.

The theme of the Bishop’s Presidential address was ‘Growing Faith’; the first part of the church’s motto devised after Covid ‘Growing Faith, bringing Hope and demonstrating Love’. Growing Faith being the centre of our life and mission.

There were two examples the Bishop had experienced during the past year. Firstly, Leonella, born in 1940, a religious Sister who devoted her life to caring for others, showing her love to God. She trained in UK and was first sent to Kenya, then in 2002 to Somalia. It was not a good time for a Christian woman in Somalia. Islam was being encouraged by the Government while discouraging Christianity. Leonella was aware of the violence, and during an Italian TV interview she said ‘I know there’s a bullet with my name on, but it hasn’t arrived yet and as long as it hasn’t arrived I will stay in Somalia. I cannot be afraid and at the same time, love other people. I chose to love’. She remained in Somalia working at a children’s hospital, showing God’s love. In 2006, while returning home during her lunch break, she was shot four times in the back and killed. Her last words were ‘I forgive, I forgive, I forgive’. Remarkably, she had been recorded a month before saying, ‘I pray that one day, the Lord will take my life as a sacrifice, this is my desire’. Faith is seen in Leonella. Even the threat of her life being taken was showing that her Faith in God was strong.

The second example was of a college friend of his, Tim Cox who had been living with cancer from the age of 10. He had survived 4 further diagnoses of cancer. Earlier in 2024 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was given weeks to live. In February Bishop Gregory went to visit him and was privileged to give Tim the Last Rites. Though the Bishop does not proclaim any healing powers Tim lived for another six months. Tim and his wife were filled with light, able to receive visitors and to speak openly about his death & funeral. In August ‘24 he received the Last Rites for a second time. Although unable to speak, during the Last Rites Tim himself professed clearly ‘I believe and trust in Him’. Tim’s Faith was transparent, clear and firm, and he died later that night. The Bishop said we can learn from these two stories, as it states in Hebrew’s ‘now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction not seen’.

Leonella and Tim both exhibited Faith, having more love and trust for the Lord through persecution and illness. A Faith rooted in Love, and in Jesus. They may have had fear, doubts or anxiety but they had the belief that their Faith was strong, that love is stronger than death and in Jesus we have Hope & promise, which is worth more than anything in the world. We must grow our Faith into a Leonella & Tim and help people around us, deepening our trust in God who will see us through life, death and beyond. The bishop didn’t want to excite us with the parish share or growth strategies but by the love of God, and if we can be transparent in our own Faith then we can call others to the excitement of the immensity of Faith. The bishop ended with the fact that if we Love God, everything else will fall into place in our Diocese.

The Keynote address from Archdeacon Mones Farah followed. He was a non-believer but once converted to Christianity was called to the Ministry. His family was Lebanese and were made refugees in Palestine, returning to Beirut years later. His parents now live in Nazareth. He spoke of the atrocious events since October 2023 when bombs had destroyed his family homes. We are already Growing Faith having seen it and exercised it. Is it healthy or unhealthy growth? There was a reading from Acts of Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus; God telling Paul of believers being sanctified by God. The word Faith is mentioned as Faithfulness in the Old Testament. Trust allows us to lean on God and leads to Faith, and Faith to Growth. Confidence is mentioned a lot in the Old Testament. We are invited to Grow in Faith. In the New

Testament the word Faithful is used a lot. We must be bold in our Faith to navigate our last steps of life; too many Christians are fearful of death. We must focus on God who will never let us down. We have information-based Faith in the Creed to remind us to what we believe. Faith assures us that God will not let us down. We need to develop this Trust in Him and share this knowledge with others. Faith is like muscles, the more we practise the stronger we’ll be. Then celebrate! You don’t have to work too hard as Faith is as small as a mustard seed!

Following this, there were videos from across the Diocese showing Growth. We had a lovely lunch followed by question time with the Bishop and Archdeacon Moles Farah. We split into small groups for a discussion session - What Christian Faith is?

The recipient of the 2025 Diocesan Offering will be the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), a charity providing crucial support to the farming community. The meeting ended with closing Worship and a vote of thanks.

Helen Davies

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# ST MARGARET’S CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 2024

The Church Council now has 9 elected members which with the *Ex Officio* members of Vicar, Lay Reader and Wardens plus the co-opted Treasurer, Sunday Club Leader, MA Representative and Secretary comprise the Church Council. Each year 3 members step down for at least one year allowing 3 new members to be elected.

There were no meetings with Bethel Elders during 2024, although the members of both churches met to celebrate Harvest and for the Lent Course.

The present Church Council met 5 times in 2024. The average attendance was 11 or 76%. The topics discussed are varied and include:

* Christmas, Easter & Harvest services
* Baptism & Confirmation
* Advent, Lent and other study groups & courses
* Prayer
* 5th Sundays
* Open church & warm space
* Church Finances
* Church Hall Matters
* Church buildings & fabric including Fire Drill & Safety
* Safeguarding & Conflicts of Interest
* Church Centenary 2028
* Social & Outreach

At the AVM on 2 March there are 3 vacancies on the council, plus one remaining unfilled since the last AVM. Do give some thought to becoming a member of the Church Council; it will give you a better idea of how the church is run and its finances.

Jean Morris, Church Council Secretary

# WREXHAM MISSION AREA CONFERENCE 2024

During 2024 the Wrexham Mission Area has lost a church, St James; lost two clerics Sarah and Jason, one to Salisbury, the other to Llandaff; St Giles has become a “hub church” and has received financial support from the diocese to employ Rev Petra Goodband. She is charged with re-introducing a musical culture back to the Parish Church. Regardless of these significant changes to the structure of the Mission Area we will still struggle to meet our financial commitments to the Diocese. In future, staffing could perhaps be sustained by three stipendiary priests plus a house-for-duty appointment.

On a positive note, the building project at St Mark’s Church started in the last quarter with a completion date planned for Easter 2025; meanwhile the congregation meets in the Caia Park Hwb. The MAC has appointed a part-time admin assistant Karen Reynolds to assist the treasurer, secretary, and MA Leader. We have also regularized Shaun Davies position as an employee of the MA to manage operations/bookings at the three Church Halls.

Steve Cannon

# ST MARGARET’S AND BETHEL CHURCHES 2023

Previously, the Elders of Bethel, Rev’d Jonathan with some members of St Margaret’s Council and congregation met 4 times a year to discuss the organisation of joint events for the coming year with the venue alternates between the two churches.

Following the Covid infection these meetings have not yet resumed. However, Bethel members have joined with us for the Lent Course and other study groups.

The Lent course was held on Wednesday evenings during Lent at Bethel. It was a good and informative course with interesting films of the country of Jesus’ ministry.

The Harvest Supper began with a short Act of Worship followed by the shared meal. This year was St Margaret’s turn to prepare the cooked meal and Bethel provided the desserts. A good time was had by all.

Jean Morris, Church Council Secretary

At present, our Altar Guild meetings have been merged into Craft Club. The weekly meetings for craft and fellowship were originally started as a more informal way for Altar Guild members to meet together. After five years of still having separate meetings, with most of our members in both groups, it seemed to be a logical move to meet jointly and we now do this, usually every alternate month.

We continue to ensure that the altar linen and brasses are cleaned and, thanks to our willing team of volunteers, the church is kept clean. We have some very faithful members who arrange flowers and help to decorate the church for Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Everyone is encouraged to add their name to the Flower Rota in the Lounge, should they wish to put flowers in church on a particular date. We also continue with the traditional Altar Guild task of making posies for Mothering Sunday and we now also assemble Christingles for the annual service.

New members and ideas are always welcome, so if you are interested in getting involved with any of the above, please speak to one of our members. Doris White

CHURCH HALL – TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024

# Summary of Accounts for 2024

The combined total of the current and savings accounts at the end of the year (£8061.12) was £971.62 more than at the beginning of the year (£7089.50). The operating profit for the Hall alone over the 12 months amounts to £1,130.74. The full details of income and expenditure for 2024, compared with 2023, are provided on the next page.

# A tale of 2024

The last 12 months have been a period of consolidation while Shaun has grown into his role as Operations Manager for the three MAC Church Halls and our bookings officer. Steve has continued his role as treasurer for the Hall and has agreed to continue in the role while a deputy and future treasurer comes forward. Nev continues as caretaker and assistant to Shaun.

Our income through 2024 was significantly up from 2023, as were expenses; we received £33,674.64 from all rental sources against £32,178.84 in expenses, excluding the grant money spent on the automatic doors (£14,028.29). We have maintained the rental fees for the main hall to £18.00 per hour and do not foresee an increase during 2025 as long as economic conditions remain stable. We must give thanks to all our regular clients who support the Hall by their regular use and timely payments. We have also been the venue of choice for 32 children’s parties over the year, a sizable source of income. We have also been able to attract several new clients from the health service and other community groups. The St Margaret’s Church and Community Hall is flourishing at the moment for which we give thanks.

We have continued with window cleaning, gutter cleaning and grass and hedge cutting around the Church and the Hall. We have a duty to carry out safety checks on our gas and electricity equipment as well fire extinguishers and safety lights. We undertook a BAFE fire safety report prior to progressing the project to install the new automatic doors to the main entrance. While the project was significantly over budget because of architect fees and project management that had not been included in the estimate, we were awarded additional funds to cover these costs. While doing this work, we decided to replace the entrance mat and the carpet.

Finally, my thanks again must go the Neville and Shaun who have worked with Committee to run the booking operations for the Hall.

**ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HALL ACCOUNTS from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2024**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | |
|  | **ST MARGARET'S CHURCH HALL ACCOUNTS from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023** | | |  | |
|  |  | **2024** | **2023** |  | |
|  | **RECEIPTS** |  |  |  | |
|  | Hire of Hall | £32.254.64 | £ 26,306.80 |  |
|  | Hire of Church building | £1,420.00 | £ 960.00 |  |
|  | Patronal Festival/LNOP | nil | £ 932.88 |  |
|  | Donations | nil | £ 150.00 |  |
|  | Interest on Savings Account | £102.60 | £ 146.98 |  |
|  | Transfer from Deposit account | nil | £ 6,000.00 |  |
|  | Grant from Cadwyn Cymru | £14,028.29 | nil |  |
|  | **Total Receipts** | **£47,805.53** | **£ 34,496.66** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **PAYMENTS** |  |  |  |
|  | Insurance | £ 1,819.09 | £ 1,841.85 |  |
|  | Wages | £ 14,099.35 | £ 12,753.00 |  |
|  | Water & Sewerage | £ 728.43 | £ 548.44 |  |
|  | Electricity | £ 3,681.00 | £ 3,610.09 |  |
|  | Gas | £ 2,511.84 | £ 4,105.87 |  |
|  | Building Maintenance & Repairs | £ 3,310.00 | £ 1,546.94 |  |
|  | Fire Safety & First Aid | £ 510.00 | £ 1,036.46 |  |
|  | Premises Licence | £ 70.00 | £ 70.00 |  |
|  | Hall equipment repair and renewal | £ 1,548.55 | £ 70.79 |  |
|  | Cleaning materials & Services | £ 492.49 | £ 1,204.87 |  |
|  | Grounds Maintenance | £ 981.00 | £ 900.00 |  |
|  | Patronal Concert expenses | £ 207.27 | £ 108.09 |  |
|  | Office, Administration & IT | £ 41.89 | £ 1,273.68 |  |
|  | Telephone & Broadband | £ 682.11 | £ 728.06 |  |
|  | Petty Cash & Miscellaneous | £ 362.64 | £ 100.00 |  |
|  | Bank charges | £ 105.04 | £ 97.43 |  |
|  | Church Lounge roof | nil | £ 5,000.00 |  |
|  | Hall doors | £ 15,524.09 | £ - |  |
|  | **Total Payments** | **£46,674.79** | **£ 34,995.57** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Net of Receipts/Payments** | **£1130.74** | **£ (498.91)** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Funds - last year end brought forward** | **£7,089.50** | **£13,119.76** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total Funds - this year end to carry forward** | **£8,061.12** | **£ £7,089.50** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Current Account - included in Total Funds** | **£2755.28** | **£ 1,877.69** |  |
|  | **Savings Account - included in Total Funds** | **£5305.84** | **£ 5,211.81** |  |
|  | **Petty Cash - not included in Total Funds** | **nil** | **£ 23.88** |  |

**ST MARGARET’S CRAFT GROUP 2024**

"Let Your Light Shine" Matthew 5:16

Our Craft Group continues to thrive, with a busy year enjoying creative fellowship. Here are some of the activities we have shared. **Feb:** Coffee Morning with Choir, Soloist and Organ. **March:** Stall promoting activities in St Margaret's Church and selling Easter crafts and cakes at Easter event in Acton Park. **April:** Easter party making origami rabbits, an Easter quiz and wearing our Easter bonnets. Attended Simon and Garfunkel tribute act in William Aston Hall.  **May:** Sewing knitted squares to make blankets. We welcomed two new members from St James Church. **June:** Coffee Morning with a talk from Richard Hainsworth. Afternoon tea at Bellis’s. **July:** Coffee Morning with Church Choir to promote Proms concert in Sept. **Aug:** Garden Village fete, we had a Teddy Tombola stall. **Sept:** Gresford Colliery Disaster 90th Anniversary Display in Church. Open 3 days over 2 weeks, 266 flowers made to represent all the Miners killed in the disaster. 350 to represent members of families affected. Made a Harvest Loaf. **October:** Mandy, community agent for Garden Village & Rhosddu visited. She can be contacted if help is needed in the home, companionship etc. Simon Cooke from Teams4U visited. Paul, a church member showed us how to tie ribbon bows. **Nov:** 60 Shoeboxes filled for Teams4U & collected by Simon going to Bosnia. Wooden Christmas tree decorations made for Christians together in Wrexham display. MIND Craft Sale. **Dec:** Made table decorations to take home. Christmas Lunch at Café Cwtch. Chris and Christine Knitted Angels for people to find and take home in Garden Village and Acton. **Made by Members:** Twiddle Muffs, blankets, Baptism Teddies, Prayer Squares and Prayer Shawls. Craft Group Members with other Members of our congregation kindly make cakes for sale every Sunday, all proceeds to Church Funds.

We give an enormous thankyou to our Church family and wider community for their continued love and support.

Helen Curly Williams

**CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN WREXHAM REPORT 2024**

The following events and activities took place in 2024

* 4 Quarterly meetings providing a voice for the various shared projects and chaplaincies in Wrexham and an opportunity for churches to learn from each other.
* 3 United services: for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at the Methodist Church, for Christian Aid Week in Capel y Groes and at the end of November in Bethel Church, Garden Village.
* Good Friday walk of Witness
* Consideration of a new website
* Planning of a visit of Oddments Theatre Company
* A seat on the Town Board
* Provision of a City Prayer Guide and App

**CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2024**

On behalf of the choir, I would like to say a big thank you to all of our congregation, for the kind words of appreciation for the music the choir provides for our worship all year round. It is reassuring and rewarding when somebody comments that they liked a piece or even a newish hymn! I am always open to music suggestions from the congregation.

I would also like to add my sincere thanks to all the choir for their unfailing dedication throughout the year. 'Rain, hail or snow' they are here Sundays and Thursdays, often rehearsing - even in deepest Winter - in what can only be described as a very 'fresh' atmosphere in church!

We have all been saddened at the start of this new year, with the passing of our dear friend and dedicated choir member Alys. Despite the difficult circumstances the choir sang beautifully at the funeral. The family wrote to say we had 'done her proud' and there is no higher praise.

The choir always offer a warm welcome to new members - even if you would just like to come along one Thursday and see what happens - there is no obligation. Singing is now known to help with a person's mental health, (excepting choirmasters!) as well as physical health - from the necessity for deep breathing. So it's a 'win, win' scenario, and best of all it is completely free. Please see any of the choir or myself for further details.

Thank you. David.

**80 CLUB REPORT 2024**

On behalf of Gwyn and myself, I would like to say a very sincere thank you for your continued support to the 80 Club. This is a valuable source of funds to the church in looking after the fabric of our building, which as any householder knows, is an ongoing expense.

In the last financial year the 80 Club paid for a new humidifier in the organ which helps to regulate the humidity and prevent the leather and woodwork from drying out and thus saving yet more expense. With the VAT this cost £1018. Whilst quite an expense, this is something that hasn't been replaced in the 25 (plus) years I've been playing it, so it should be good for another few years! We also had the organ tuned in the Autumn which cost £240.

We currently have 52 subscribers (65%) of the 80 numbers available, a very good return. However if you are not a member or have family or friends who perhaps don't come to church every week, but would like to help in a small way, it's only £1 per week! Or why not have an extra number - one member has 4 numbers!

Thank you again for your continued support and - Good Luck with your number(s)!

Gwyn and David.

**WALKING GROUP 2024**

****During the past year, we have completed fewer walks than usual, but they were all well attended and enjoyed by everyone who came.

Many of our walkers have been members of the group since it was formed 27 years ago. To record past achievements, we have expanded and updated the group’s page on the Church’s website, so please do take a look.

Details of any future walks are sent by email to members on our circulation list and are also shown on the notice board in the church lounge. For various reasons, our walks are not as challenging as they once were and usually end at a place of refreshment. New members are always welcome, so please let us know if you are interested in joining us.

John & Doris

ST MARGARET’S SIDESPERSONS & READERS 2024

**8.15am**

Mr Gwyn Edwards

Mrs Shirley Edwards Mrs Kath Prince

Mrs Beryl Kaye Mrs Doris White

Mrs Rose Mathew Mr John White

**9.30am**

Mrs Heather Baxter Mrs Jenny Lloyd

Mrs Francis Dawson Mrs Eileen Mullen

Mrs Anne Casey Mr Mike Mullen

Mr Malcolm Casey Mrs Anthea Neill

Mrs Eileen Evans Mrs Hazel Phillips

Mrs Marian Garrett Mrs Adele Price

Mr David Hopkin Mrs Joan Roberts

Mrs Elaine Hughes Mrs Patricia Williams

**Readers 8.15am**

Mr Gwyn Edwards Mrs Doris White

Mrs Rose Matthew Mr Eric Wilson

**Readers 9.30am**

Mrs Heather Baxter Mrs Jean Morris

Mrs Anne Casey Mr Mike Mullen

Mr Stephen Cannon Mrs Florence Probert

Mrs Francis Dawson Mrs Mary Shaw

Mr David Evans Mr Stephen Slade

Mrs Sandra Jones Mrs Chris Smith