

# NEWSLETTER NO.1

St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

OCT 2023

**Welcome to the first edition of St Madoc of Ferns Community Group newsletter. The aim of this initiative is to keep you informed of our activities and the background to the church at Haroldston West as we try to save it.**

*Under the chairmanship of Gareth Morgan, we have achieved charitable status and are now officially **The St Madoc of Ferns Community Group.***

The aim of our charity is **‘the preservation for the public benefit of St Madoc of Ferns Church (St Madoc’s), a medieval church and site of local and historic interest, thereby helping to ensure the continued use of the church as a place of worship, and to educate the public in its history and heritage.’**

## MEET THE TRUSTEES:



**GARETH MORGAN - CHAIRMAN** Walking the dog from his home in Haroldston West, Gareth sees the Church every day and has become fascinated with its history and the Age of Saints. St Madoc’s is a vital local asset and he is

very keen to help the Group preserve it and perform the role of Chair.



**ALISON GIBBY – SECRETARY** Alison has walked past Haroldston Church literally hundreds of times on the ancient footpath from her farmhouse. She loves the way it belongs to the land, the people, and the community.

She wants to keep it safe and open to all and is willing to help in any way she can.



**NICKY MORTON - TREASURER** Nicky lives close to the church and would love to see its doors re-open. The church is a beautiful and atmospheric part of the Welsh culture, heritage and landscape. Nicky is an architect,

experienced mostly in airports and schools but knows a beautiful historic building when she sees one!!



**SALLY MORGAN - TRUSTEE** Sally is a local resident and when she’s not trying to save our lovely church she works as a psychologist, in the local council and further afield. Having grown up in Australia she feels very lucky to be living

here with all the rich heritage locally. Often spotted on the beach - do go and say hello if you spot her!



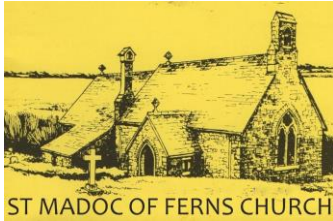
**RICHARD BAKER - TRUSTEE** Richard studied chemistry at Oxford University. He worked for many years in international business before finally becoming a teacher. On retirement to Pembrokeshire,

he became a local parishioner of St Madoc’s church. He loves gardening and writing.



**IAIN TWEEDALE - TRUSTEE** Iain is the manager of Caldey Island and has years of experience in the tourism industry. He recently worked with the British Pilgrimage Trust and Pembrokeshire Council to establish the

Wexford- Pembrokeshire Pilgrim Way. Before that he was the head of Online Services and the Education Department at BBC Wales.



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### **CHRISTINE LINK - TRUSTEE**

Christine has been involved in the local community through worshipping in the Havens Beacon Churches, including at St Madoc of Ferns until its closure in 2022. She finds Haroldston West Church a little gem, which should not be taken away from the Havens Community. She joined StMoFCG as a trustee to help to secure a new life for this lovely building.

### ***The trustees have been working towards several immediate goals.***

**Firstly**, we needed to raise some short-term funds for surveyors and architectural specialists to advise us on the state of the building. Thanks to work by Alison Gibby, we have gained significant financial and intellectual support and now have a good idea of the structural challenges – damp, subsidence and a dodgy bell tower – which face us.

**Secondly**, we need to negotiate a long-term lease with the Church in Wales. They have requested a business plan. Thanks to Nicky Morton, we have produced a three-year business plan which identified probable sources of income. We will use local solicitors to help us negotiate the lease.

**Finally, and most importantly**, we have to show that we have community support for all our plans. On 14th September, we launched a membership drive and signed up a number of members. Being a member will assure participation in Annual General Meetings and the receipt of newsletters. If you have not signed up, the membership form and a community survey will be online shortly at our web address: <https://stmadocofferns.wales>

Obtaining local support is essential, as it makes getting grants easier if we can show we are meeting a community need.

### ***Over the summer, we have not been idle.....***

In June, pilgrims led by St David's Cathedral Pilgrim Officer Janet Ingram visited St Madoc's,

walking up through Haroldston woods from Broad Haven. We also held a fundraising coffee morning with live music in Bowen Memorial Hall and, to complete a busy month, Juliet Heslewood gave a lecture on art in churches, at St David's Oriel y Parc.

In July, the group received a £5,000 grant from the Benefact Trust via the Plunkett Foundation for feasibility works noted above.

*CADW Open Day attendees listen to history of St Madocs from Gareth Morgan*



In August, we held a cheese and wine quiz evening and, in September, we featured in the CADW Open Doors weekend, which featured a guided walk up the Woodland Way to St Madoc's, where people were shown around the Mediaeval and Victorian church.

Throughout the recent months, we have held several committee meetings and have become familiar with Zoom! In the coming months, we will hopefully conclude lease negotiations.

Richard Baker

### **HOW TO CONTACT US:**

**Website:** [stmadocofferns.wales](https://stmadocofferns.wales)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/stmadocofferns](https://twitter.com/stmadocofferns)

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