

NEWSLETTER **NO.2**

St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

FEB 2024

Welcome to our second Newsletter. We aim to produce three newsletters a year to keep you updated on the progress to achieving our goal – *‘the preservation for the public benefit of St Madoc of Ferns Church (St Madoc’s), a medieval church to ensure the continued use of the church as a place of worship, and reflection as well as find new uses for it’*

Each newsletter will feature an aspect of the church. This edition covers the history of one of the five beautiful stained-glass windows.

Latest News.....

In November 2023 we launched our membership appeal. The response has been good – with nearly 40 new members. Thank you to each and everyone of you.

For £1, annually renewable, members will receive a copy of this newsletter, and advance notification of any St Madoc’s event.

We also registered as a charitable body and now have a dedicated bank account. Seven people have volunteered as trustees (identified in Newsletter #1) Nicola Morton, as treasurer, has sketched out a five year business plan.

NEW WEBSITE:

Our chairman Gareth Morgan has produced the new, all singing, all dancing, interactive website. It has a form for comments and we’d like to hear your views. Is there something we should include that is not currently there?

<https://stmadocofferns.wales>

OPEN MEETING - PLANS FOR 2024:

On a cold, damp, late-January night sixteen people attended a meeting, chaired by Gareth Morgan, to discuss ideas on what we should do with the church. The positive meeting was helped with welcome refreshments.

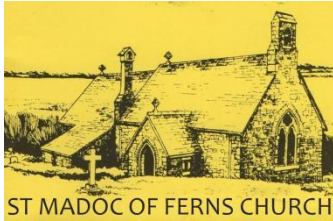
A variety of ideas were suggested: a practice space for ukulele players as well as a link to the local school; a small exhibition space; photography and music; a festival to coincide with those of Little and Broad Haven; a location for film shoots and exploiting the link with the Woodland Walk; various craft workshops and coffee mornings were also suggested.



St Madoc’s in the snow

Shirley Norman stressed the need for working groups and the desirability of hanging artwork for sale on the walls, but only when the damp problems had been eliminated. She also suggested we start a database of people who might be interested in physically helping out – carpentry was mentioned – as well as speakers who might deliver talks. Ideas about workshops for pottery, arts and crafts were also mooted.

Visit our new website - <https://stmadocofferns.wales>



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Christine Link reminded the meeting of the commitment to six services a year.

Nicola Morton summarised the business plan for the next few years. Following a number of surveys, we need, initially to update fire safety including emergency lighting and signage etc. Next, we'll address the damp problems, but this will need further significant grant funding which will only be forthcoming if we can demonstrate that St Madocs is providing a "public benefit". Further down the list of necessary actions came: repairing the timber floor, stained glass windows and restoring and rehangng the bell. Finally we will undertake internal works to make the space more user friendly (toilet, kitchenette and running water).

A significant grant from the Benefact Trust towards up coming legal, promotional and survey fees has been won through the diligent work of Alison Gibby.

The trustees need to be assured they are on solid ground and understand all the challenges as they negotiate a long lease with the Church in Wales (CIW).

In order to be successful, we need to show that we are relevant to the community. Please help us by showing your support.

More ideas are welcome. Please send any comments to <https://stmadocofferns.wales>

THIS MONTHS FEATURE: Christ in the Carpenter's Workshop - stained glass window

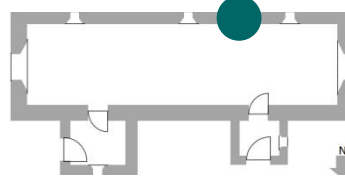
One of the crowning glories of any church is the stained glass window. Humble St Madoc's has five windows, each with it's own particular history.

Christ in the Carpenter's Workshop.

This window is dedicated "to the Glory of God and in dear memory of William Howell Walters, Kt. Of Haroldston Hall in this Parish. Born March 1st 1857, died March 31st 1934. This window is erected by his widow Mary Frances Howell Walters." Installed in 1936, the window features



Christ in the Carpenter's Workshop



Plan showing location

Jesus, himself a carpenter, watching a fellow workman saw wood and in the background is a view of Broad Haven beach.

William Howell Walters was the only son of William Walters of Haverfordwest. After attending Cheltenham College, he went to Trinity Hall, Cambridge in 1879. He was awarded a BA and became a student of the Inner Temple. After six years as a junior, he became a fully-fledged barrister when he was called to the bar in 1883. He

became sheriff of Pembrokeshire and justice of the peace for Haverfordwest and Pembrokeshire in 1898.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

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