



AGM 2024 SECRETARY'S REPORT

ST MADOC OF FERNS COMMUNITY GROUP

REGISTERED CHARITY 1204104

As mentioned in the Chair's Report, we are still waiting for the lease. The trustees and committee members held a very productive zoom meeting with the Representative Body of the Church in Wales in November 2023 to set out the basic terms for the lease of St Madoc's. From that meeting, we expect to get a long-term lease (around 30 years) for the actual church building at a peppercorn rent, on condition that we pay for agreed repairs and the insurance on the church. The churchyard will continue to be under the control of the local active churches.

The St Madoc's group has been very busy. We held two very successful coffee and music fundraising events with the help of the Little Haven Fundraising Group. One of our members, Juliet Heslewood, kindly gave a very informative fundraising talk on art history and churches in June. And we held a very enjoyable cheese and wine quiz evening in August, raising a great deal of money for St Madoc's.

The Cadw Open Doors event in September went very well, with about 60 people attending over the weekend, in addition to the many volunteers who turned up to help us. It was lovely to be able to open the church and allow people in, to see the exhibitions, listen to the talks, take part in the guided walks, and enjoy the free refreshments.

We have taken every available opportunity to engage with our community, at our many public meetings, and around and about in The Havens, to listen to what you would like to see happening at St Madoc's. We are very pleased to have been able to welcome so many people as members, and to see so much community support for the church.

We are gradually tackling the vast number of jobs concerning compliance with various regulations, including those on Data Protection, Health & Safety and Safeguarding. PAVS and the Plunkett Foundation have helped us with this, with their advice and zoom teaching sessions, including those on how to apply for grants and complete a business plan.

Future events will include another cheese and wine quiz evening on Tuesday 6th August, and a 3-day local history exhibition from the 20th to the 22nd of August in Little Haven Hall. We are also hoping to take part in the Cadw Open Doors scheme again, during the weekend of 21st and 22nd September.

Future projects include creating a car park for the church, installing a compostable toilet, mains water, and building renovation work. We will continue to engage with the community and seek your help and ideas on future uses for St Madoc's, which will include holding 6 church services per year and developing it as a centre for local heritage.

Alison Gibby

Secretary of St Madoc of Ferns Community Group.