

NEWSLETTER NO.3

St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

JUNE 2024

Welcome to our third Newsletter. We aim to produce three newsletters a year to keep you updated on the progress to achieving our goal. We would love to hear your feedback - please send us a message at <https://stmadocofferns.wales/contact-2/>

Each newsletter will feature an aspect of the church. This edition covers the history of the beautiful stained glass window in our west wall.

Latest News.....

OUR FIRST AGM

On 15 May in Little Haven Village Hall, we held our first AGM. It was very well attended and much enjoyed by everyone who especially appreciated the buffet and talk. Many thanks to those who came or supported us in other ways.

Chair, Gareth Morgan opened the meeting and briefly summarised the main achievement of obtaining charitable status. The St Madoc of Ferns Community Group came into effect on 23 July 2023. It aims to preserve, for the public benefit, St Madoc of Ferns Church. The new status will help ensure the continued use of the church as a place of worship, and educate the public in its history and heritage.

Secretary, Alison Gibby confirmed the Chair's statement that the next step was the agreement to a 30-year lease from the Church in Wales. She outlined all our actions and events in 2023-24 including unblocking a drain which has helped to ease the damp problem!

There was a brief discussion about membership. 42 people had paid £1 to become members for the first year. However, given the difficulty of collecting the small amount annually, it was decided to hold over the membership for 2024-25 and review it at the next AGM.

Treasurer, Nicky Morton outlined the finances which currently show a positive balance of £11k. There were minimal running costs in 2023-24 because the group does not currently have any responsibility for the church. Once the lease is agreed, Nicky estimated the annual running costs to be about £3.6k. In addition grants will be needed to repair the damp problems and the floor. Other projects will also need to be addressed.

The AGM was followed by a fascinating talk about life on Caldey by Iain Tweedale, Island Manager and one of our trustees..

We are now negotiating the terms of the lease with the Church in Wales which is a significant step forward towards re-opening the church.

A complete set of documents relating to the AGM can be found on our website at:

<https://stmadocofferns.wales/agm-2024/>



Iain Tweedale - 'Life on Caldey' talk at the AGM

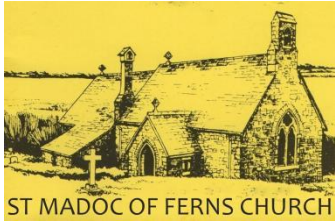
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Cheese and Wine evening with Peter Connell Memorial Quiz, 6 August, Little Haven Village Hall. 7:00 pm

For many years, Peter Connell produced a monthly quiz for the Havens Diary. It was appreciated by many "Havenites" who would wonder about the question for a while and then turn to the answers. Very sadly, he died in January last year.

In addition to the quiz, which will include a selection of Peter's more memorable questions, the cheese and wine evening will feature a raffle with an impressive first prize. It promises to be a fun night with teams of up to six people. Please come and support us. There will be a prize for the winning team.

CADW Open Doors

Following last year's successful Open Doors event, we are applying to CADW to repeat the Open Doors weekend on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September.

As last year, we will meet by the Broad Haven Youth Hostel and walk up to church for refreshments and a talk on the church on our progress so far. There will be a return leg to Broad Haven via two local gardens. More information will be issued nearer the date.

THIS MONTHS FEATURE: The St Mary and St Cecilia double stained glass window

The double "Walters Window" at the West end of the church was probably the work of Robert Newbery (1861-1940). Installed in 1920, it is dedicated "to the glory of God in loving memory of Mary Laura. Sir Wm Howell Walters Kt. Of Haroldston Hall in this parish, Born 1860, Died 1920. RIP." It shows St Mary (right) holding the baby Jesus and St Cecilia (left), the patron saint of musicians, poets and hymns, holding a portative organ.

Cecilia was believed to be a Roman noble lady, martyred in 230. It is written that as the musicians played at her wedding, she was singing to God in her

heart. Consequently, she became the Patron Saint of Musicians.



St Mary and St Cecilia window

Around 1881, William Howell Walters married twenty-one-year-old Mary Laura Davies, the daughter of a wealthy solicitor and banker, who lived in Spring Gardens, Haverfordwest (opposite the Mariners) which is notable for all its elaborate ironwork facade, which remains unchanged today. Mrs Walters started the Sunday School, built in 1908 close to the church, which has unfortunately been completely

demolished. The couple generously distributed gifts to the poor at Christmas. They also held theatrical events to raise money for the St Madoc's schoolroom.

William Walters was sheriff for Pembrokeshire in 1866. His son William Howell became sheriff for Pembrokeshire in 1898, and a justice of the peace for Haverfordwest and Pembrokeshire.



St Cecilia



St Mary and Child