

# NEWSLETTER **NO.5**

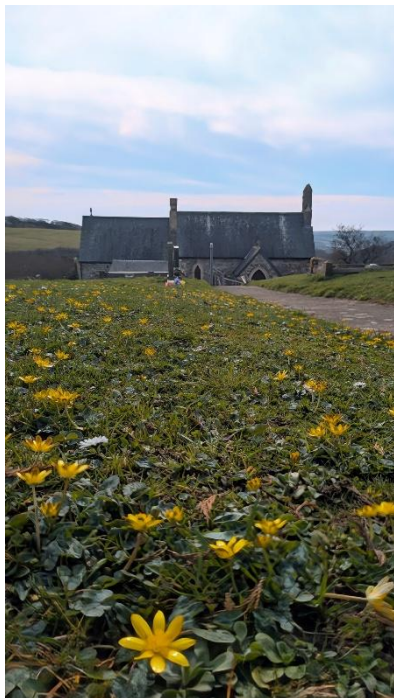
## St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

April 2025

***Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025. We are hopeful this will be the year the church will be reopened and we have lots of news on what we've been doing to make that happen!***

### ***Latest News.....***

#### **Our Activities**



Celandine heralds the arrival of spring

We have been working with the Church in Wales on the details of the lease for the church and are pleased to say that this is now at the stage where both parties have sent the lease to their respective solicitors. It would be fair to say that progress has been slower than we'd like, however we do have a robust lease in progress that should help us ensure the church is open for many years to come.

Given our cautious optimism over being able to reopen the church this year we have been putting a number of important policies in place that will help

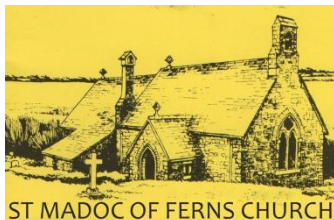
us with decision making when we have a lease. We'll be putting these up on our website in due course and would appreciate your feedback on them. We have also submitted our annual report to the Charity Commission.



Pilgrims enjoying the view at St Non's Well

It hasn't all been admin and paperwork though. A number of trustees joined the pilgrimage to St Non's well and it was a lovely insight into the sort of activities we may be able to run. Highlights included meeting people instrumental in setting up the Wexford link that is a relationship we are hoping to build on. Many of you will know that St Madoc, also known as St Aidan, was born in Ireland and went back to Ireland from here to found the Abbey at Ferns, so we are hoping to develop our joint understanding of our history. We also enjoyed eating our packed lunch in the recently reopened St Non's retreat

We have also attended a number of free courses. These included two trustees attending a lime rendering course which will give us a good insight into how to sensitively maintain and repair the church building. Two trustees also attended a Social Value Engine workshop run by PAVS which gave us some information about how to show the value of the social benefit of our work. There was also a webinar on Church insurance which will help us to



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get this in place so that we can reopen to the public as quickly as possible.

### Upcoming Events

We are running another history exhibition and this year's theme will be 'The Havens at War' to fit in with this year being the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. This will be Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> April in Little Haven Hall. Please do contact us if you have any memories or possible items for the exhibition and of course it would be lovely to see you all there. If you are able to spare some time to volunteer or run the exhibition please do let us know, but if not do pop in and say hello.

As part of this we will also be holding our Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>, also in Little Haven Hall. In accordance with our constitution two trustees will be standing down and seeking re-election. If you are interested in becoming a trustee do get in touch – we would love to have you join us!

Do 'save the date' of our very popular Cheese and Wine and Quiz event which will be on Friday 15th August. We sold out last year – on tickets and on wine! We'll make sure the bar is fully stocked this year so don't worry about running dry.

### THIS MONTHS FEATURE: Window dedicated to St Madoc of Ferns

This window, close to the altar in the church, is dedicated to St Madoc of Ferns. The inscription has 3 dates, c (circa – about) 583 the founding of the church, 1893, the rebuilding of the church and 1983, when this window was installed.

The artist is Paul Quail and his monogram can be seen on the right hand side of the window, near St Madoc's foot. Quail studied art at the Chelsea School of Art and then qualified as an Art Teacher

[www.stmadocofferns.wales](http://www.stmadocofferns.wales)

at Brighton School of Art He then had an apprenticeship at the stained-glass studios of Lowndes & Drury, Francis Spear and Eddie Nuttgens. He was elected a fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters also and was a member of Christian Arts and the Society of Catholic Artists. His work can be found all over the world and there are a number of his windows in churches in Norfolk, where his studio was.



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As this is the last of our windows our future newsletter features will be on the people in our graveyard. If you have someone there and would like to have them celebrated in our newsletter then do get in touch.