

ST MADOC OF FERNS CHURCH

NEWSLETTER NO.6

St Madoc of Ferns Community Group

October 2025

We're well on the way into 2025. We're excited to tell you everything we've been up to and tell you where we've got to with getting the church reopened.

Latest News...

Our Activities

We finally have some positive progress to report – the draft lease is with our solicitors and we are currently reviewing the contents. No doubt there will be some extended refining, but at least there is now something concrete to negotiate about.

We are continuing to prepare for reopening the church, including investigating insurance and getting the relevant policies in place. As soon as the lease is organised we will be in a good position to open quickly and to start the much needed remedial building works in place.

We attended a number of events, including The Broad Haven Carnival, which was a lovely opportunity to engage with our local community.



Ally and Christine flying the flag for St Madoc's at the Broad Haven Carnival

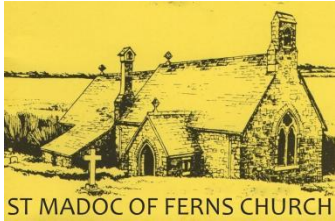
Those of you who came to our history exhibition this year no doubt enjoyed it – it was a special look into 'The Havens at War'. Timed to coincide with other events commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Our exhibition included stories of people in the local area with some touching stories of locally posted servicemen enjoying some leisure time in the area and some wartime romances that are part of local family's history. We also had our AGM with our first round of elections. Both Gareth Morgan, Chair and Alison Gibby, Secretary were returned unopposed.

We also ran a treasure hunt for the first time, with many thanks to Lisa Barrett for organising it all and to Hasguard Cross Caravan Park for hosting. It was a brilliant event that everyone enjoyed so we're hoping to make it an annual event.



Some of our volunteers helping at the cheese and wine evening

Something that very definitely is a well established annual event for us is our wine and cheese evening. Once again this was a full house and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone – including one family that requested a quiz to do at home! As ever many thanks to Richard Baker for running such an entertaining quiz and to all the volunteers who came along to help. Including the raffle this event alone raised over



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£800 pounds, which will be going towards the immediate repair works needed to reopen the church

We also participated in Cadw Open Doors again this year. It was a fantastic opportunity to publicise the work we are doing to get the church reopened to a wider audience and both days were packed. We were joined again this year by Greenala music who provided an atmospheric musical background to the event and this year also had storytelling by Semele Xerri whose talented telling of 'The Spirit of the Land' was appreciated by a full church on both days. It was so lovely to see the church full of people again and gave us added motivation to see this happening regularly.



Packed pews for the storytelling at Cadw Open Doors

This Month's Feature: Our Patron Saint – What's in a name?

You no doubt have noticed that our patron saint seems to go by many names – for example you can find examples of him being called 'Saint Madoc' and Saint Madog' just on the church site!

His given name was Aed (or Aodh – even this name has various spellings), named after an Irish god of the underworld, and gives us a glimpse of where he belongs in history, fitting between old faiths and Christianity. An early adaptation to this name was Mo-Aed-Og, literally 'My little Aed' in old Irish, and there are variations on this, including Mogue and Madog, later Anglicised to Madoc. Another ending, still affectionately indicating little (we do this in Welsh as well as in 'bois bach') is Aed-en, giving us Saint Aidan as he is known in Ferns. You will find many spelling variations on all these names, and confusingly there are different saints of the same time with the same names. Whatever your favourite variation is, we are proud to have been founded in the age of Saints by this Saint of many names!

Upcoming Events

We have finished the last of our planned events for 2025. Keep a look out for our 2026 events, including the return of old favourites such as the Wine and Cheese evening. In the meantime do support the autumn and winter events in the Havens area and support our local community.



St Madoc