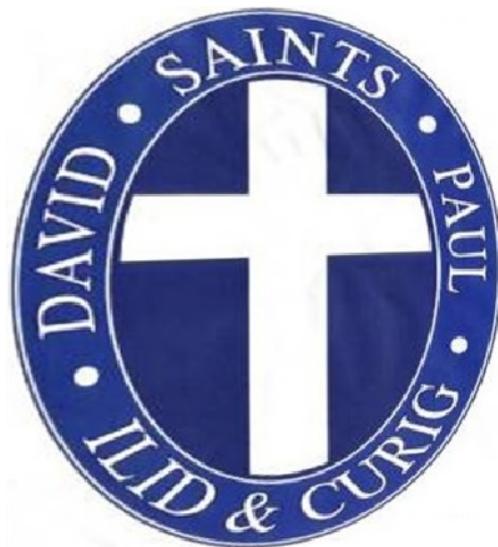


**Parish of Llanilid with
Pencoed & Heol-Y-Cyw**

Report to the Annual Vestry
of St Illid & Curig, Llanilid

Meeting at
St David's Church Hall, Pencoed
Monday April 26th 2021
at 7pm



Llanilid is a rural parish between Pencoed and Llanharan, in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taff. It is in the Church in Wales Diocese of Llandaff and part of the Deanery of Bridgend. The 12th Century Church is dedicated to Saint Ilud and Saint Curig and is situated in a small woodland near to the "Old Rectory" in the community area of Llanilid.

The Incumbent is:

Revd Ian Hodges
The Rectory
60 Coychurch Road
Pencoed
Bridgend CF35 5NA

Independent Examiner:

Graham Paul, Chartered Accountants

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank Plc
28 Adare Street
Bridgend

PCC Members:

Jean Clanfield, Cynthia Thomas, Kathleen Evans

Churchwardens:

Marlene Liley, Janet Nichol, Nigel Ritchie (emeritus)

Treasurer:

Diane Morris

Curate:

Rev Glenda Oglesbee

The Annual Vestry Meeting of the Parish of Llanilid
Monday 26th April 2021 at 7p.m. in St David's Church Hall

AGENDA

- 1 Prayers
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Chairman's welcome

- 4 To receive and confirm the minutes of the last meeting

- 5 To receive and discuss the Parish Report
(Including the Accounts)

- 6 To receive and discuss other reports:
 - a. Area Deanery Conference
 - b. Diocesan Conference

- 7 Elections:
 - a. The People's Warden
 - b. Parochial Church Councillors
 - c. Sides men/women

- 8 Representatives for Conferences to check those elected are still serving
 - a. Diocesan Conference (1)
 - b. Area Deanery Conference (5 + 2 supplemental)

- 9 To appoint the Auditor

- 10 To set the Date & Time for the First PCC Meeting

- 11 Any other business (for which notice has been given to the secretary and to which the meeting consents).

- 12 Closing Prayers

The Minutes Of The Easter Vestry Meeting Held At St.Davids Hall, Pencoed
On Tuesday 24th November 2020

1. Opening Prayers.
2. Present: Rev.Ian Hodges, Rev. Glenda, Mrs D Morris. Mrs M Liley. Mrs K Evans. Mrs C Thomas. Mr K Murphy. Mr N Ritchie. Mr M Oglesbee.
3. Apologies: Mrs J Nicol.
4. Chairman's Welcome.

The Rector welcomed everyone to the meeting under these difficult situations, and during the year in which Covid 19 ruled our lives. He then went on to thank everyone for all their help and financial contributions.

5. The minutes of the last Easter Vestry were read out and accepted as true record by Mrs M Liley and seconded by Mr N Ritchie.
6. The accounts were read out and accepted by the PCC, the Rector signed them.
7. The Parish report was read out and accepted by the PCC, Rev Glenda was thanked for her report .
8. The wardens report was presented and accepted by the PCC.

9. To receive other reports.

Area Deanery Conference and Diocesan Conference, the Rector thanked all those who were able to attend the first two conferences which were very successful, the following conferences were all done on line which was worked out very well.

10. Representatives for the Conferences as follows:-

Area Deanery. Mrs Jean Clanfield. Mrs Marleen Liley. Mrs Cynthia Thomas. Mrs Diane Morris. Mr Kevin Murphy

Elections:

Peoples Warden : Mrs Jan Nicol.

Rectors Warden : Mrs Marleen Liley

Side persons continuation of existing arrangements.

11. The Following were elected to the PCC:

Mrs D Morris. Mrs J Clanfield, Mrs C Thomas. Mr N Ritchie Mrs K Evans

12. To appoint an Examiner.

Graham Paul & Company were elected to continue with the existing arrangements, the PCC expressed their thanks in preparing the accounts.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 with prayers read out.
Date of next meeting – To follow this Easter Vestry Meeting.

The year 2020 Annual Vestry Report (and a bit of 2021 too)

It's that time of year again when we need to look back through the diary and mark what has been happening in the life of the parish over the last 12 months. We are in the peculiar position of reflecting this year whilst still living in lockdown conditions due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and because it was only a few months back in November 2020 that we had the last Annual Vestry, albeit six months late. When I cast my mind back, aided by my diary, this is what I see.

When I arrived here in 2011, I said to God that I would use every avenue, push every door, and develop every opportunity that I was allowed to, to grow the kingdom. I like to think I have done that every year. Indeed, there were great plans for the parish and the deanery for 2020, with a pair of Teds ready to roam, as the designated year of pilgrimage got off to a flying start. On 17th March though that funny flu that was moving across the globe from East to West had got to our shores and we were told that we could no longer have church services. We were still allowed to open so I kept the churches open for private prayer at the normal service times. On 24th March though the Prime Minister commanded us all to "Stay at home" and with that all the churches were shut.

The technology and notice board and telephone avenues were still open and so I recorded my Passion Sunday sermon to camera and the parish went live on YouTube on 29th March. 180 times that video was viewed as people from all over started looking around for spiritual sustenance in the light of the church doors closing. I also began slowly ringing around to find out how you all were and the notice boards and Facebook and Twitter feeds became the way the church communicated along with YouTube. I know from feedback that these sermon videos have now got a regular audience that includes many people outside the parish boundaries who particularly enjoy not just the sermon but the questions and other activities that are bundled in too.

In the background in between the many funerals that inevitably came my way I spent the early pandemic months upskilling and so my website programming and video editing skills are much improved. Of those funerals many were brutal (we have sadly lost a few of our own) with only a handful of people being able to attend them and with each service having to be organised completely by phone. Outside funerals became more popular as a larger number could join in and so rain or shine the church continued to lay people to rest as best as it could.

In April we began the weekly Zoom virtual coffee mornings where we would gather virtually for an hour or so to have a natter and check up on each other. They have developed into times of not just chat but singing and praying and have meant that some of our housebound members have been able to connect in ways that were not possible before. Long may these sessions continue. In the same way as the sermon videos have gone wider than the parish so too has the Zoom coffee – one regular attender joins us from Suffolk each week!

June arrived and through many negotiations with the Welsh Government, Glenda was allowed to be ordained in the cathedral (you would not believe the hoops that had to be jumped through to get a handful of people into the same building for an hour for that) so that we could slip her into parish life. The whole idea of being a clergy person is the ability to build relationships with people and so considering Rev Glenda has had to do the first few months of her time with us in socially distant handcuffs, so to speak, I think she has done an excellent job of bedding in to parish life. Well done, God, well done Glenda.

In Llanilid at this time we found that the planned roof work was going to be bigger and more expensive than planned and so found Diane the secretary and treasurer not just overseeing the work but trying to work out where the funding from it was going to come from. I want to publicly say thank you to her for her tenacity and initiative with the project and a huge thank you to all who put their hands in their pockets in response to ensure that Llanilid as a building is fit for the next 1000 years of its life. Well done, God, well done Diane.

July saw restrictions easing and the trio of myself and Geoff and Kevin poring through the rules and regulations and writing risk assessments and measuring every direction of every building so we could reopen for private prayer. It was a real cross parish effort because once open a regular rota of volunteers were needed to supplement me and Rev Glenda to ensure we were safe for opening not only from a health point of view but also from a safeguarding point of view. We tried first with St David's on Sunday mornings and three times on a Wednesday to see how it went. I know of many churches that are effectively still closed or only open online because there are not enough volunteers to allow for regular opening. For us we have opened and never really closed. Well done, God, well done all you volunteers.

As well as St David's private prayer we managed to get an outdoor praise time at St David's in August another in St Paul's in September and had the outdoor Rogation service in Llanilid in October. For each of these services, if my memory serves me right, we had excellent weather. The Lord as well as the sun shone on us. Part of my hope was that come September and the schools reopening this pandemic would have passed its worst and normal life would be able to be resumed slowly. In September then we drew up plans and got risk assessments passed so we could open all churches for private prayer on rotation and try communion in the church hall (which is our biggest and therefore safest indoor space) and balance this with weekly video podcasts or online worship services. The plans were all approved, everything was ready to go, confidence was high. We had even been able to liaise with the schools for some extra Remembrance activities and a Messy Church type service when - the Firebreak happened. So, from 23rd October to 8th November, we had to shut our doors again.

Remembrance Sunday fell on the 8th November and so all public activities were cancelled by the council, even though there was special dispensation by the Welsh Government to allow them to go ahead. Myself and Rev Glenda decided to go to the cenotaph anyway as it just did not seem right to not remember. We were joined by the police, who we initially thought may cart us off, the local biker gang (who timed their drive-by to perfection as I was just about to start the impromptu service), and maybe a hundred socially distanced others who also felt it was wrong not to remember. We met again on the 11th for Armistice Day itself and this time the local dignitaries turned up as well at the cenotaph. Sometimes you just have to take a stand, I think. With the lifting of the Firebreak, we went ahead with our plans and began the cycle of churches open for private prayer and monthly communion in the church hall that is still the backbone of our worship cycle today. We were promised a relaxation of rules over the Christmas period and so with the reluctant approval from the Diocese, myself and Rev Glenda organised Christmas to include outdoor praise at St David's after a Messy Church Looong day and outdoor praise at Llanilid the Sunday after Christmas. We were also able to plan an Advent Challenge event on social media asking people to find a picture to match a different word each day as we approached Jesus' birthday. We decided to make an outdoor crib at St David's to remind people that Jesus is the reason for the season of Christmas. So, Geoff with his artistic skills made a

Mary and Joseph scene which really caught the imagination of all who passed by. Simon (more about him later) made a stable to keep everything dry and we put up fairy lights on the tree bush thing too. It was the best we could do and I like to think sent a message out to the community that we were pushing against the regulations to be as flexible as possible whilst always putting people's safety first. Well done, God, well done Geoff and Simon.

2021 has seen Wales moved into Level 4 of 4 with regards to restrictions and with this no outdoor activities became possible. As well as these Level 4 Welsh Government restrictions the Church in Wales has expressly forbidden any type of Messy Church activity. So for Easter, we were not able to do anything more than open the church for private prayer on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in addition to an Easter Communion. We did manage an online Ash Wednesday retreat day which included three reflections from the three shiny new curates in the Deanery, which I thought was wonderful, and produced a feeling of community as we all began Lent together.

Where there is a will there is a way and so we have continued to explore what we can do within the rules. Rev Glenda felt a God nudge to have a quiet afternoon service where we could come together to listen to some bible, hum a few hymns and think about a few questions together in a socially distance way in the church hall. Just Breathe was therefore born and those who have partaken of this experimental style of service has said it was been an excellent opportunity to sit in God's presence with others of Jesus family and just breathe. Well done, God, well done Rev Glenda.

With Rick needing to move on from being St David's treasurer Simon felt a God nudge to take on that role. He was already well known to me through mine and his work in the ATC and already well known to many in the parish through being in the Messy Church team. He has swiftly slotted into parish life and his new set of eyes has made many of the backroom financial activities smoother. At the end of 2020 after many years' service Diane stepped down as St Paul's treasurer and when it became apparent that there was no replacement Simon offered to take on that role too. Well done, God, well done Simon.

The 4th April 2021 was Easter Sunday and by quirk of fate marked my 10th anniversary as your Rector/Vicar/Leader/Nemesis* (delete as applicable) and though it was a real pity we could not gather together for a knees up to celebrate all that God has achieved through the last decade, at least we were able to worship together to mark the date passing. For me I do not see my position as being a king in charge of a kingdom but as the first among equals or the one who speaks the last word if there is need to. All the growth, all the depth, all that is positive that has happened in the last 10 years is in part to me trying to lead us in God's way but in equal part to you all being willing to walk that way too.

Oh, and one last small thing. You may remember it was declared by the Diocese that the deadline for all parishes to group into Ministry Areas was to be set at 1st January 2022. I had presumed that we would naturally join with Brynna & Llanharan but that option was, in my opinion sneakily, taken away from us when Brynna & Llanharan joined the Llantrisant Ministry area on 1st March 2020. In September then the Archdeacon suggested that we explore joining with Aberkenfig, Ogwr valley and Garw valley to build a Ministry Area with +June rubber stamping this idea by asking me to be the Ministry Area Leader. So since then, myself, Rev Suzanne, Rev Julian and Rev Roger have begun meeting and talking. It's become apparent that though none of us had seen this coming it did feel like God was up to something in all the

surprise and to date we have met nine times to explore our individual ministry's, the parishes, how we each best work etc. This new Ministry Area may be fully formed by 1st January 2022 but from the offset I explained to +June I am not rushing this to tick a box. All of the parishes need to move at a steady pace to explore and learn and share and build this. It has to be done together.

Finally then, as I said last year, it is a vicar's worst nightmare when he cannot easily find out how his parishioners are bearing up or when he is not allowed to open the church for worship and praise and thanksgiving. So, for your willingness to keep in contact, your determination to keep the money flowing in, your love and care for each other and your patience as myself and Rev Glenda try to come up with a pattern of worship that allows us to gather as much as possible whilst keeping on the right side of the rules (mostly) I say again, a hearty thank you.

God Bless

Rev Ian Hodges

April 2021

Curates Report

It seems strange to be having an AVM so soon after the last one, but I think it shows what strange times we are in. I am sure we are all praying that the vaccine will enable us to look forward and perhaps escape another lockdown this coming winter.

However, looking back over the past few months, I can see that things were not as bad as they could have been. We were able to run a socially distant, covid secure, sort of messy church for Christmas. It was a joyous occasion that was enjoyed by all who came, especially me! I have to say, the children's acceptance of the rules of socially distancing and hand sanitizing was impressive. They were all very aware of how to behave and stuck to the rules. They also enjoyed learning about the true meaning of Christmas and the baby born in a stable. We were also able to have some carol singing outside. It was dark and cold, even snowing. but many people came, and it was a lovely chance to get that Christmas feeling. Unfortunately, the restrictions tightened once again, and we were unable to do the same for Easter.

We have been able to continue with our monthly communion services which are a joy, despite the fact that we cannot hold them in church. The restrictions have also allowed us to introduce our 'Just Breathe' service which happens with a free Sunday either side to allow for any virus to die off. 'Just Breathe' has proved to be a popular service as it is a chance to spend some quiet time in prayer with others. A chance to relax without the hustle and bustle of life going on around!

It is frustrating to have to think of restrictions and covid every time we do something but at least churches have not been closed down completely and we are able to worship in community even if it is not in the way we are used to doing so.

I am hopeful for the future now. I am sure that the community will be able to settle down and usual activities resumed, with a bit of extra care and attention. This is also true of the church. Weddings, baptisms, messy church and much else will be able to resume and I am looking forward to each new experience.

Every blessing to you all

Rev Glenda

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means preventing harm to children and adults at risk by protecting them from abuse or neglect.

The Church in Wales is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life, mission and ministry.



The Church in Wales will:

- promote the wellbeing of children and adults at risk
- raise awareness of safeguarding within the Church
- work to prevent abuse or harm from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions on churches opening as normal, we may think that safeguarding has not been an issue this year. This is far from the truth and unfortunately there has been a rise in abuse of children and vulnerable adults in their own homes during lockdown.

Being more confined, those at risk, may simply not have had the opportunity to speak to someone they trust to voice their predicament, without seeing their wider family or friends or not attending school or clubs and the places they would normally go to be safe. Those unable to speak for themselves face an even greater danger of abuse.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and something we should not ignore, however painful or embarrassing it may be.

The latest **Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy** can be found online via this link <https://churcheinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/2064 - NEW Safeguarding Policy only i.pdf>

Since the last Annual Vestry Meeting, the Church in Wales published a new newsletter, **Safe Spaces**, at the end of 2020. Safe Spaces is a service delivered by Victim Support and funded by the Church of England and the Catholic Church of England and Wales, providing a confidential service for anyone who has experienced any kind of abuse within, or as a result of, their relationship with the Church of England, the Church in Wales, or the Catholic Church of England and Wales. For further information

<https://churcheinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Safe Spaces Newsletter Issue 1.pdf>

Other recent developments include a reorganisation of **Safeguarding Governance** within the national church office, in February 2021. The key change is that all safeguarding services (policy & procedure, casework and training) are to be united into one team under one leader. The Church in Wales is currently in the process of recruiting a Director of Safeguarding to lead the combined team. In March 2021 a new DBS & Safeguarding Training Database was launched. This provides a single, national database of clergy, church officers and DBS-checked volunteers, together with details of their DBS status and safeguarding training accreditations. It also includes records of all attendees of Church in Wales safeguarding training, whether in-person or online. The system provides for automatic reminders and prompts for follow-up/enforcement

when DBS checks or safeguarding training is due for renewal.

The latest safeguarding publication is ***Working Together for A Safer Church***, published April 2021, which is the response of the Church in Wales to the recommendations in the Investigation Report (October 2020) of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse into Safeguarding in the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

<https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/2103 - IICSA Response - English.pdf>

We pray for all victims of maltreatment that they receive the help and support they need to live happy and healthy lives; for justice and safe rescue from their abusers. Amen.

Jayne Jenkins,

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Conference 2020 – Cancelled due to Covid

**Diocesan Conference Thursday 24th & Saturday 26th September 2020
by Zoom online**

Due to the ongoing pandemic this conference was hosted online. It was still done over two days like the previous year. This time the focus was on ensuring that the Ministry Area project which the Diocese has started after its major review was going to be completed by the end of 2021 when new and significant Charity Commission regulations come into force.

The conference broadly worked around two sessions:

Meeting the Challenge: how we will bring the Vision to life in our communities, working together in Ministry Areas.

Learning from others: what the formation of Ministry Areas elsewhere in the Province has meant for all areas of church life, including ministry and worship, education and young people, outreach, social justice.

WARDENS' REPORT FOR LLANILID CHURCH

As the Annual Vestry Meeting approaches, we look back on the last year. In Llanilid we are fortunate in having a devoted team of people to help in maintaining the building and grounds. We would like to thank all those who have given support during these difficult times. Special thanks go to Rector and Kevin for the ongoing private prayer sessions, and also Rev Glenda for her support. Thanks also to Kevin for his contributions to the magazine and the delivery service he has set up to distribute it.

The churchyard has been maintained throughout by the efforts of the Liley family and visitors to the church frequently comment favourably. We would like to thank Ralph for organising the cleaning of the path through the churchyard, the team of ladies who regularly clean the church for services, and also Nigel for his support.

Special thanks go to Diane our secretary who works tirelessly on behalf of the PCC and also decorates the church with spectacular flower arrangements.

We also thank Peter and Colin our organists and look forward to a time when services with music can return.

Thank you and stay safe

Marlene and Jan.

Because the Church has been empty for most of the past year, there is little to report as far as I am concerned.

My biggest concern was that because there would be no regular heating in the Church, the general overall paintwork and structure would suffer, but it doesn't appear to have been affected to any great extent. There has been some surface suppuration on some of the walls but nothing of any consequence.

Although the power has been off most of the time this past 12 months, we still have to pay the standing charges to the supplier, and there was quite some usage made by the builders with their electric tools, cement mixer and so on. However, our last quarterly statement for the year showed us in credit by c£125. The suppliers also over-estimated our use in that bill by 626 units! On receipt of our next bill I will see if we can get a partial refund, and an adjustment of our monthly payment.

Id est omnia dicam!

Nigel Ritchie

TREASURERS / SECRETARY REPORT

We started looking into doing the repairs needed at the end of 2019 and had everything we needed to carry on with the work and Covid hit, so no work started until June 2020, after the builder started to strip off sections of roof it was found we had a big problem, we had rot in part of the roof approx. 4ft in length on all four sides, and this was not visible prior to being exposed, the cost was going to be £12,826.80 extra, we had no choice, the work had to be done, I chased around for grants and any other charity body who could help but due to covid all help aid are closed so we were left with a problem, the only money we could borrow from was our Church Yard account (which we are not supposed to use on the church) as it would be a short term loan this is what we had to do.

I would like to bring to your attention that even though we were awarded grant we cannot claim them until all work has been completed, and we have paid the builder in full, we have to provide proof of payment by bank statements.

So, I had to move finances to help pay the builder, but unfortunately, we were left with a deficit of £10,695.00 from the reserve account, I then decided that I would try to raise some funds.

I sent out letters to all local businesses and persons who I felt may help us with a donation, I have so far had £2560.00 not bad for a start.

Which leaves to date with a deficit of £8145.00.

I would like to draw your attention that we had no income coming in for 8 months but from the accounts we have not been at a loss, so well done to all our communicants who have helped us out of this situation.

I was also lucky that we had 100% VAT payments back so that helped

I do hope you will find that I have tried to explain everything it was not easy.

Thank you all for your help and support

Diane Morris

The Journal of the Plague Year

The COVID virus shut down Europe. The government shut down the hospitality industry, non-essential shops and, not really knowing what we are about, the churches.

When the restrictions eased, we attempted to open the churches. Armed with a measuring stick and a set of regulations that changed so often they were only valid if the ink was still wet, we surveyed all three churches.

Social distancing, a new creed of the church, put severe restrictions on services. However, with strong leadership, a desire to do something, and with willing volunteers we got the churches open. We have followed the regulations to the letter and the churches are probably safer than supermarkets. We have achieved much more than most parishes that I know. This may be due to determination, pure luck with the buildings and the health of the people involved.

We moved from private prayer to outdoor services, communion and even a mini messy church.

The government restrictions allowed us much over Christmas.

Over Easter, the Church in Wales curtailed anything resembling worship or joy. It seemed a systematic way of closing loopholes to any sort of semblance of normality. I do not know why.

I am reminded of the words of Jesus when repeatedly asks, "where were you...?"

If the health minister allowed it, why not the Church in Wales. Perhaps we are not told the full story and it was another reason rather than a lack of courage.

The benefice has seen courage. In the leadership, who has said, 'let's do this.' In the volunteers who have said, 'we will help.' In those who have decided to come and worship. In those who have decided not to come and worship, to deny themselves for their own health and more courageously for the health of others. All have shown courage in their own way.

I must also say that in this dark time, people who have walked past the three churches, and seen them open, it has put a smile on their face. These are people who would no more enter a church than fly to the moon yet they see the church open and it gives them a beacon of hope.

With us opening they see the dawn after this dark time and a return to normality.

Kevin Murphy