

Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 31st December 2024

Church In Wales

The Diocese Of Monmouth

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Information

Name Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area

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Trustees

Ex-Officio

The Revd Matthew Davis
The Revd Elizabeth Jones
Andrea Thomas (Churchwarden)
The Rev'd Raphael Gbenga Aladese
The Revd Rachel Nelemes

Co- Opted

Gaynor Williams (Treasurer)

Elected Members

Peter Harrington (Churchwarden)
Kathy Rist (Lay Co-Chair)
Corrine Robertson (Secretary)
Gerald Hales
Stephen Holdroyd
Sarah Jones
David Mayne
Mark Gwynne
Alwyn Robertson

Bank

Lloyds Bank

Independent Examiners

Lewis & Co

Trustees Report 2024

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and financial statements for the charity for the year ending 31st December 2024.

Structure and Governance.

The Mynydd Bedwellte Ministry Area is a grouping of five churches in the Archdeaconry of the Valleys, part of the Diocese of Monmouth in the Anglican province of the Church in Wales.

It comprises of the churches of St David's Rhymney, St Dingat's New Tredegar, St George's Tredegar, St Paul's Abertysswg and St Sannan's Bedwellty.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, they are an exempt Charity set up under Section 13(2) of the Welsh Churches Act 1914. They act on behalf of the province in paying the stipends of the full-time clergy and administering the Church in Wales's scheme of gift aid.

The Ministry Area Council act as Parochial Church Council and Charity Trustees for the entire Ministry Area. It is not a body corporate, and its composition, procedure and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales. Trustees met five times in 2024.

The clergy team consists of the Ministry Area Leader (Rev'd Matthew Davis) one non-stipendiary priest (Rev'd Elizabeth Jones). Rev Rachel Nelmes was completing her final year as curate with us. We were supported by Rev'd Joe Hasler and Rev Ralph Aladese who became our curate at in. the summer of 2024.

The ministry area has the secretary as Corinne Robertson and Gaynor Williams is the treasurer for the Ministry Area Council.

The Ministry Area Leader appointed Andrea Thomas as his Ministry Area Warden and the AGM elected Peter Harrington as people's warden.

Summary

The Finances of the charity are currently fair as we have seen a good amount of giving and fundraising effort, therefore we were able to meet our financial liabilities.

Significant levels of expenditure have been identified for building repairs and projects in 3 churches and plans have been put in place to address shortfalls to avoid future liabilities.

We have met our charitable objectives this year and had good work go on help with grant funding from various sources.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are achieved by promoting our aims and objectives across the ministry area and these include the following:

- Conducting regular Christian worship including the Holy Eucharist, marriages, funerals and baptisms.
- The provision and maintenance of the fabric of each of the six churches, churchyards and associated buildings.
- The maintenance of Christian burial places.
- Promoting the study of Christian teaching, practices and Scripture.
- The provision of means and encouragement to promote fellowship within the membership of the Churches and the wider community.
- Pastoral care and visiting the sick & dying.
- Fostering ecumenical links between differing Christian denominations.
- Supporting the work of other charities.

In preparing this report, the Ministry Area Council have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. In each decision made, we have sought to weigh up the benefit and/or detriment both for those who join us for public worship within our congregations and those resident in our communities.

Monies are raised by freewill offertory, fundraising activities and specific appeals. These are used to support the work and administration of the churches and wider mission. Both the Ministry Area, and its constituent local churches, continue to actively increase attendance and develop mission work in the community. Many of those involved in the main functions of the churches are volunteers. The Ministry Area is grateful to all of those who freely give of their time on a voluntary basis.

Activities

Activities within the Ministry Area can be split broadly into three categories:

1. Worship, prayer and pastoral care
2. Fundraising and social events
3. Mission and community outreach.

Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care

- Church attendance numbers are slowly increasing across demographics.
- Baptisms, weddings and funerals took place in our church buildings and funeral services were also conducted in local crematoria and private chapels.
- The Electoral Roll consists of 195 members.
- A number of study and prayer groups were held in person.
- Activities for children including a weekly St David's Den and Art club.
- We hold groups such as the The Mothers Union.
- The Ministry Area collaborates closely with the Making Space Community.
- The ministry team endeavoured to support those who were bereaved or sick at home or in hospital both over the phone and also in person.
- Family church events and services were held throughout the year.
- Several ministry area services were successfully held, including harvest and patronal festivals.
- We enjoyed well attended Remembrance Day services across the Ministry Area.
- We partnered with the diocese to launch the saints Fresh expression project. Employing Adrian Davila.
- Schools engagements with a particularly good uptake .

Fundraising & Social Events

Many social and fund-raising activities were able to go on in 2023 building on the strength of previous years.

- Craft and Food Fairs
- Bake sales
- Fun days and Children's activities
- Male Voice Choir evenings and Concerts
- Bingo nights
- Fish and chip suppers
- Raffles
- Hall hire by various groups and occasions e.g. birthdays, Polling booths and community groups.
- History evenings

Mission & Community Outreach

The ministry area to reach out to our local communities through organisations and events such as:

- schools work including serving on boards of governors.
- Baby & Toddler Group.
- Lunch clubs in St George's and St Dingats
- Special gatherings such as harvest lunches
- Coffee Mornings
- Rhymney Valley Foodbank
- Mothers Union
- Christian Aid appeals
- Growing Space Allotment
- Crochet cafe - Woolcraft and chatting
- Time To Be - Reflection Days.
- Art Clubs for children- TredegART
- St Davids Space for nature community nature reserve.
- Nativity LIVE interactive nativity story.
- Concerts and fundays

Risk Review

The Ministry Area Council is responsible for ensuring that reviews of all major risks are conducted and that wherever possible systems have been established to mitigate these risks. The risks facing the Charity include the state of repair of the churches, churchyards, church halls and the financial requirements to meet its stated activities. Each local church is encouraged to conduct a review of its own risks and this is periodically an agenda item for the Ministry Area Council.

Our income was less than our expenditure this last year due to rising costs inc. utilities and reduced attendance and giving. We have aimed to remedy this with increasing numbers of attendance and reviewing spending. In 2024 an increased focus on this has helped significantly in our churches.

The ministry area has adopted the Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy. Sarah Jones is the Safeguarding Officer for the Ministry Area. A new General Data Protection Policy (GDPR) was adopted in 2021 and the Ministry Area fully complies with GDPR legislation.

There have been no serious incidents or other matters relating to this charity over the previous financial year that we should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commissioners.

St Peter's was highlighted as being a financial risk and as the foodbank was operating from the premises there was an application for the change of boundaries and handing over the premises to the Islwyn Ministry area which happened in the summer of 2024.

Fabric

Three out of the five churches in the ministry area are listed buildings (2 grade 2*, 1 grade 2). Each local church congregation is encouraged to carry out regular inspections and maintenance as required. Quinquennial inspections are carried out by an independent architect.

Whilst most of the church buildings are considered to be in a good/ reasonable condition for their age. There were minor repairs carried out throughout the year on top of general maintenance.

Graveyard maintenance has been a highlighted issue with gravestones in St David's and St Sannan's needing attention. St Sannan's graveyard was cleared for inspection of graves.

Reserves Policy

Due to restructuring in the Ministry Area the trustees are in the process of reviewing our reserves policy to balance our commitment to both achieving the Charity's aims in the present and ensuring the viability of the Ministry Area in the long term.

This will involve identifying appropriate uses for the restricted funds available to us, in order to ensure sufficient unrestricted reserves are available to deal with any unforeseen or unplanned events as and when they arise while ensuring the aims are attainable.

Investment Policy

The financial assets of the Ministry Area are maintained at a local church level, splitting equitably payments such as ministry share, clergy expenses etc. Each church committee seeks to achieve the best available interest rate from bank accounts.

The Ministry Area Council (trustees) retain overall responsibility for all the finances and investments of the charity.

Assets are also held in agreement with the Representative Body of The Church In Wales.

Volunteers

We are very grateful for the commitment of the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly with such love and energy for our churches to be the best they can possibly be.

Statement Of Ministry Area Council Responsibilities

The Charities Act requires the Council to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year which comply with the regulations made under the Act.

The Council is responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and contain entries showing from day to day all monies received and monies expended by the charity and the matters in respect of which those transactions took place and also contain a record of the assets and liabilities of the charity. The law also sets out the responsibilities for the preparation and content of the Annual Report.

The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and ensuring their proper application under charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Looking Forward ~ 2025

We have a lot of opportunities to grow in faith, number and activity in 2025 we look forward to prayerfully move forward into what God has in store for us together.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Rev'd Matthew Davis