



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Diocesan Vision Prayer

**Father, we hold before you our family, in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, and
we open our hearts and minds to your spirit.**

Bless us as we gather in your name.

Guide us as we grow into the likeness of your son.

Lead us by your Spirit to go out and make disciples of others.

God of our journeying, be our way and our truth and our life,

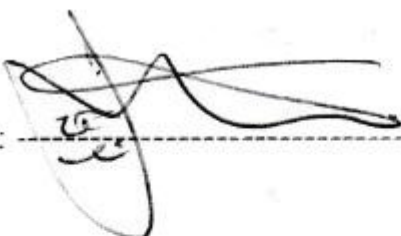
Our beginning and our end.


We pray through Jesus our Lord. Amen

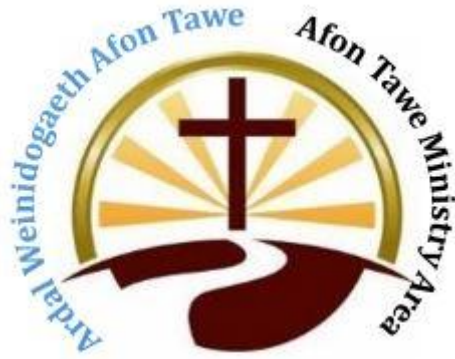
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Signature:  MAC Chair

Signature: 
Rev A Butler Ministry Area Lead



Afon Tawe Annual Vestry Meeting 2025

Date: Sunday 8th June 2025

Time: 3.30pm

Venue: Llangyfelach Church

Agenda

- 1. Opening prayer**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Present**
- 5. Ministry Area Leader opening words of thanks to all**
- 6. Presentation of Annual Report**
- 7 Presentation of Financial Report**
- 8. Vote on MA Churchwarden posts.**
- 9 Accept Nomination of local church wardens for local churches.**
- 10. Vote Ministry Area Council Members/ Trustees MAC**
- 11. AOB**
- 12. Closing prayer**



Introduction from Reverend Anthony Porter

Dear Friends.

It gives me great pleasure as your Ministry Area Leader to commend this annual report to you all. This last year has been a year of profound change; embedding ourselves, our churches, and our communities into the new Ministry Area Structure. For some, this has been a period of great unsettlement, whilst for others, it has been a time of opportunity to express faith and unity in new ways. Either way, we must remember that we are the body of Christ and as St Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 12, we all have a role to play in the collective. “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”

Our vision for the year has focussed on bringing our resources, our gifts and our talents together to focus on growing all the churches across our Ministry Area. Several of our church family attended the Leading Your Church in Growth course with the hope that they will bring fresh ideas and support leading us forward in the building of the Kingdom. We have also recognised in our infancy as a Ministry Area that we have much work to do across our communities to share the Good News of the Gospel. Our plans must be focussed on the needs of the communities we serve and not our own needs to preserve what we have come to know and like. Our work is one of service reflecting the work of Christ to be a servant to all.

We have shared some wonderful times together throughout the year. We have travelled around of MA churches for Songs of Praise and prayer. These events should wonderful attendance as well as the huge talents of our musicians; organist, pianist, and choirs. It was so lovely to see our choirs joining together to lead our praise at such an early stage in our collective journey. Another success of working together was the beautiful Harvest Meal we enjoyed at the Manor Park Country Club. So well organised by members from across the MA. The entertainment showed off many interesting skills from within our church family, especially those of dramatics!! The Ministry Area has also engaged in fellowship trips; to Tenby and to Worcester Christmas Market. The photographs show the wonderful enjoyment experienced by being together in such considerable numbers. It was also incredibly positive to see invitation to community members join in with the trips.

We all acknowledge we have a lot of work to achieve in the coming years to be sustainable in sharing Christ’s mission across our communities. Finances are difficult; but we must also celebrate the generosity of those who give each week to support the ministry and mission of our churches. We do need to review our giving each year to reflect inflation, remembering that we can never give back the abundance of generosity we receive from God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Stewardship must continue to be a priority for us as a Ministry Area as we move forward in growing the Kingdom of God.

As Ministry Area Leader, I thank you all for your support and patience during the year past. A particular thank you goes to Reverend Geraint Wathan, Vicar of Llansamlet Group of Churches for sharing the load with me. I also share thanks to all those retired priest who have helped cover the interregnum at St David's Church, Morriston. Without your generosity and commitment, covering services would be so much more difficult. The positive news is that early in 2025, we will welcome Father Mark William's to the Ministry Area as Vicar with responsibility for Morriston. Please hold in prayer the Ministry Area Council, the sub-committees, Ministry Area Wardens and Local Church Wardens, Our Ministry Area Administrator, and our Lay Chair Man who have worked extremely hard this year for the benefit of the Ministry Area. We all continue to work in unity for the furtherance of faith and the Gospel. May we each hear the voice of God speaking in the still small spaces of our prayer life, guiding us, and strengthening us to building His Kingdom. May we take the love we receive from Christ out into the world to share with everyone we know and connect with. May we be a blessing through the gift of the Holy Spirit to our communities. May God bless you all.

Reverend Anthony Porter

Ministry Area Leader Afon Tawe Ministry Area

Vicar of Llangyfelach

Ministry Area Vicar's reports.

Report from Reverend Anthony Porter

We have shared another wonderful year as a church community at Llangyfelach where everyone looks out and cares for each other.

This year we have continued to see growth in numbers and spirituality. New people have become part of our worshipping community and have become an integral part of our fellowship.

We often forget how we all have different gifts and talents which come together for the glory of God. We therefore offer thanks to everyone who uses their gifts in our church and community life. To everyone who offers personal support to me as your vicar, thank you. Together we are on a wonderful journey, the best in fact, building the Kingdom of God.

As I mention every year, we have great challenges with managing our finances simply because everything is rapidly increasing in cost. May we all therefore prayerfully consider our sacrificial offerings to God and ensure that we are all making up missed weeks in our offerings. It would be even better for financial planning that we all switch to standing order giving.

May God bless you all richly.

Rev Anthony (Vicar) Llangyfelach

Report from Reverend Geraint Wathan

Another year has passed and as we look at the churches in the Llansamlet group we see both challenges and opportunities. Over the year we have had a steady growth in attendance at St Samlet's, as we welcome both new people into the congregation, also welcoming back some who have not been able to join us since the Covid restrictions. St Paul's attendance has taken a drop in attendance for a number of reasons and St John's has maintained its level.

St Samlet's hosted the Ministry Area Confirmation service, and it was wonderful to see so many people making a commitment of faith, especially some of our young people who had been waiting a number of years for this to take place.

This year we have continued to hold Advent and Lent study groups, looking at the songs of Advent such as the Benediction and the Magnificat and then we studied some of God's covenants from Noah to Christ.

I am thankful for the Pastoral Visiting group who have reached out to many of those who are ill or housebound, taking them the love of God and the fellowship of the church. The young people in our Sunday School and On Call youth group have continued to participate in the life of the church. We have also looked to have an increased involvement of lay members in services through increased training.

Over the year we have celebrated 90th birthdays, a 102nd birthday, along with the baptism of Elis, our youngest regular in the congregation.

Rev Geraint Wathan (vicar) St Samlet, St Paul's Glais, St John's Birchgrove.

Clergy, Officers and Trustees serving on the Ministry Area Council

Chair/ MA Warden: John Mathewson

Ministry Area Leader: Reverend Anthony Porter Vicar of Ss David & Cyfelach, Llangyfelach

Clergy: Reverend Geraint Wathan Vicar of St Samlets, St John's and St Paul's

Clergy: Reverend Anthony Porter Vicar of Llangyfelach

MA Treasurer: Gwyn Lewis

MA Warden: Margaret Jones & John Mathewson

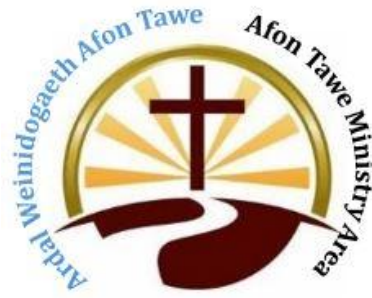
Ministry Area Administrator: Jill Govier

Llansamlet MA Reps: Jean Palmer, Jean Davies, Philip Hale.

Jean Palmer & Philip Hale stepped down. Jeff Jones and Emma Myles co-opted on.

Llangyfelach MA Reps: Julie Rees, Wendy Jones, Sandra Williams

Morryston MA Reps: Jill Lewis, Freddie Hollamby



Ministry Area Representatives to Diocesan Standing Committee

Afon Tawe Ministry Area Clerical Representative Reverend Anthony Porter

Afon Tawe Ministry Area Lay Representative Mrs Lyndsay Lewis

Both in place for three years 2023- 2026

Ministry Area Representatives to Diocesan Conference 2024-2026

Afon Tawe Ministry Area Diocesan Conference Members representatives:

Rev Anthony Porter

Rev Geraint Wathan

Mrs Wendy Jones

Mr John Winchester

Mr Phil Hoyles

Mr Keith Lewis

Supplementals:

Mrs Moira Bibby

Mrs Margaret Jones

Mrs Julie Rees

Warden's Annual Report

Llangyfelach

Warden's Annual Report 2024

This year has seen steady consolidation, stability, and deepening growth on our last year's achievements. Our numbers continue to grow with each season, and we are seeing a cohort of younger people attending services who seem keen to continue with worship. As a response to this Reverend Anthony had introduced alternative services including Healing, Taizé and Celtic worship which has been positively received as well as enriching our journey through our faith. Existing, established groups and sub-committees within the church remain cohesive and strong. This in return has created lasting friendships, deep bonds, support to others and confidence to progress forward with mission growth. This confidence has given individuals independence to take responsibilities forward for maintaining the grounds, contents and fabric of the buildings within the church boundaries as well as mission work which has been the main focus for us this year. Currently all is running smoothly, in good working order with no major areas of concern. Ideas and plans are forever being discussed for improvement, with growth being the main objective.

Becoming part of a Ministry Area continues to have a positive effect at Llangyfelach overall. We have enjoyed engaging with St. Samlets and St. Davids for fellowship and social events.

Llangyfelach Church, continues to involve and be involved in community events. Remembrance Sunday was particularly well attended with participation from the Scouts, the Community Council and Sunday School. We encourage the church to take an active part in community events e.g. the Community Council's Christmas Parade, utilising the church as Santas's Grotto as well as a stable for our adult, interactive, live nativity which was an enormous success (over 200 children attended, not including adults). For many it was the first time visiting our church and this had a positive impact on our Christmas Services.

Many have journeyed through Easter this year. Our numbers are up by a third. Feedback had been mixed from reflective, heartfelt to probing of faith and Christianity.

All the above would not be possible without Reverend Anthony Porter's energy, continued guidance and forward thinking, Cannon Phil Gwyn (who preaches monthly and has been constant support to us all), Stephen Honeyman our organist, who keeps us uplifted with music and encourages us to explore different aspects of music to appropriate services, Phil Llewellyn our treasurer, who expertly manages the accounts through trying times, Jill Govier our secretary who keep us all on track and all members of the sub – committees and congregation.

Wendy and Julie

Llansamlet Group of Churches

2024 has both been a difficult year but also an exciting year and fills me with hope for the future of the Afon Tawe Ministry area.

Unfortunately, 2024 did not get off to the best of starts with our MA lead Rev Hugh Lervy moving to All Saints in Mumbles, leaving the MA with only two full time Priests covering all five of our Churches. However, through the hard work of all those involved in the MA, but especially both

Rev Anthony and Rev Geraint we have been able to maintain services across the whole MA, and as such I cannot thank them enough and everyone who has been so instrumental in keeping all our churches not only open but thriving. As I have already stated these are exciting times and I can see nothing but a positive future for our Ministry Area.

I was delighted that Bishop John invited Rev Anthony to be Leader of our Ministry Area and even more delighted that he said “Yes”, Rev Anthony not only brings a positivity to the role, but also great enthusiasm and it has been a pleasure to work with him over the year. “Thank You” Rev Anthony, and “Thank You” to all my fellow wardens and members of the Ministry Area Council.

It is exciting to see all our Churches working together and sharing worship and spending time together.

It is exciting to see our congregations growing.

It is exciting to see the commitment from our young people and to see them grow into young adults.

As we look forward into 2025, I would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year and let us continue to make Afon Tawe Ministry Area the best it can be.

John Mathewson MA Warden.

St David's Warden Report

This year's report is written following the departure of Reverend Canon Hugh Lervy, who left St David's in February 2024, after serving 23 years.

Our thanks must go to Rev Hugh for everything he did during those past 23 years, his spiritual guidance, his practical help with various jobs but particularly for his friendship. He was always proactive and supportive of all activities, both within our own church and further afield.

We wish Rev Hugh and his family God's blessing and guidance as he continues his Ministry journey at All Saints Church, Oystermouth.

During the Interregnum, we have been blessed to have so many visiting clergy officiating at all but one of our services both on Sundays & Thursdays. We thank them all for doing this for us and we also thank Rev Anthony for putting together all the rotas – not always an easy job!

Margaret Jones MA Warden

Church Music

Llangyfelach

The Choir continues to grow with the addition of Sian Evans-Jones, however, we have missed Anne Smith due to her ill health and hope it will not be long before she is back singing with us. The Choir continue to sing a few anthems appropriate for the season, and it is hoped to increase the frequency of these. As the Choir grows, they have needed a larger Vestry than the back of the church. During the past year they have started gathering in the Lady Chapel before the service for the Vestry Prayer, processing to the West end of the Church to take up position for the Processional Hymn

Prior to Christmas, material was purchased to make some new robes for the choir. Elizabeth Davies painstakingly sewed the current robes which have given sterling service, as with most things there are fashions, and it is time to move forward as most other choirs have done. The amount of time needing to be invested in this is colossal. I am indebted to Jill Govier for organising and leading this project.

Christmas is always a busy time for Choirs (and Organists). I am indebted to each and every Chorister for their commitment to the extra services at this time, as I am throughout the year. The Community Carol Service was a great achievement.

The collaboration of the three choirs for the Songs of Praise and the inauguration of the Ministry Area has led to the formation of a Ministry Area Choir. It is hoped that those who enjoy singing in Choirs but are unable to make the long-term commitment throughout the year will see this as an opportunity to join in singing in the choir for combined events. At the time of writing this we have not fixed rehearsal dates, or indeed a venue. WATCH THIS SPACE.

The Songs of Praise throughout the 5 churches was a terrific success, although it was a pity that we had to decant from Glais because of the fly infestation, it proved to be a great way of bringing the 5 congregations together. There are three more Songs of Praise planned over the next few months, at Llangyfelach, Morriston and Llansamlet. These are very much in the planning stage; it is envisaged that the Ministry Area Choir will be leading these.

On the first Sunday of the month as have continued to use the Prayerbook service sung to the setting by Merbeck. However, as have routinely said the Creed. By the time this report is published we will have started chanting the Creed to a well-known chant. There is no “pointing” for the Creed that I am aware of, so it is something which I have done myself. I am certain that this will enhance the service.

Throughout Lent we have used the “Lent Prose” as the Processional Hymn. The main reason for this is that it seems to be an excellent way of starting the Lenten Services. The words are very powerful.

I am indebted to Rodney Briscoe and his wife Sarah for continuing to tune and maintain the Organ. At their next visit they will be undertaking some repairs to the pipework of the Open Diapason on the Swell. There are currently some silent notes.

On Advent Sunday I am very much hoping that the Choir can sing Palestrina’s Matin Responsory which is a fantastic way to start the Advent season. We can do it, but we can do it better with some Tenors and more Basses.

Looking forward to the next year I plan to build on our achievements, increase the choirs repertoire and explore the idea of producing a video of the choir processing in their new robes at the start of a service which can be posted on social media and the Ministry Area Website to others can see something of what we do, and hopefully encourage them to join us.

I am very much looking forward to the next year with hopefully more growth and new music. None of our achievements this year would be achieved so easily without the support of Rev Anthony. We are, as always, indebted to you. Thank you.

Stephen Honeyman

Llansamlet Group of Churches

Once again, another busy year with the various occasions in the life of the church and the church choir involvement, including weddings and funerals.

However, we have enjoyment both in our practices and all the various music we perform at these functions. We meet every Monday, at the lunchtime during the winter months and evenings in the summertime, and in all weathers except when it is impossible, due I hope to interest and enjoyment of making music

Mrs. Valerie Grenfell LRAM, ARCM
Choir Mistress

St David's

It's been a busy year for St David's while being in interregnum, welcoming many visiting vicars during this time and supporting them as they have led us through our worship.

We also joined with the choirs from across the ministry area to take part in the first ever Ministry Area Songs of Praise, helping to choose the Ministry Area hymn for the next year as well as presiding over the licensing of Rev Anthony Porter as Ministry Area Leader.

In St David's we have also been holding fortnightly hymn singing practices, allowing us to branch out and learn more hymns to be sung at the Sunday Morning Eucharist, and it has been lovely to see members from other churches in the Ministry Area joining us for those.

Looking forward to the next year, we are hoping to continue with these sessions, and maybe spend some time going through hymns so that they can be sung in their full 4-part harmony.

It's also been lovely to see two members of the congregation join St David's choir, and we would love to see many more join us over the coming months if they would like to do so.

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Craig". The script is cursive and elegant, with a large initial 'C'.

Ministry to Children and Young Adults

Sunday School

Llangyfelach

We have a small number of children who come together each Sunday for our Sunday School sessions. Together we pray, look at a reading from the bible and explore through craft and play how this helps us to understand our faith in Jesus. During the drier times we often go outside and explore Jesus in nature. We really do pray for growth in our Sunday school so may we ask if you have young people living nearby you that you invite and encourage them to come and explore faith with us. It really is fun and enjoyable.

Vanessa Beynon & team

St David's

Sadly, during the Interregnum both the Sunday School & Youth Club have lapsed. It is however hoped that they will both restart when our new Vicar arrives.

Llansamlet group of churches

Sunday School Report

St Samlet's Sunday school has had a successful year with an average attendance of seven children, with 12 regular attenders. The Sunday school team share the leadership support on each Sunday. The lessons follow the lectionary, and the children are learning the alongside the main congregation. The children, following a lesson on serving, decided that they would like to serve the church community and came up with the idea of serving teas, coffees, hot chocolate and biscuit following the monthly family service. They raised initial funds for biscuits by cleaning the church. This has been welcomed by the congregation who have supported and enjoyed their efforts. The Christmas nativity was spectacular with each of the children taking on their preferred role in a variety of sketches and scenes, with help from the On Call youth group and some other members of the congregation. Thanks go to all who help, both leading and supporting, with particular thanks to Norma who provides for the Christmas and Easter treats for the children.

Youth Club

Llangyfelach

Youth Club at Llangyfelach continues to meet on Fridays during term times. Always great fun and friendship. Children love being outdoors and especially visiting the prayer garden. This year the cohort of young people have been very keen on "Just Dance" and have been showing each other their dance moves on a Friday night. All the children have enjoyed their McDonalds nights, pizza nights and hot dog nights with pizza being the favourite.

Vanessa and team

After School Club

Llansamlet group of churches

On Call Youth Group

On Call is an open Youth Group for youngsters of 11 years and upwards, held on a Sunday afternoon and evening (4.30 pm to 6.45 pm) in St Samlet's Church Hall. We open and close with prayer and on special occasions, events and discussions will spend 10-15 minutes in church.

We have a wide range of table-top games and play some more energetic activities. We use the nearby park, engage in Graveyard 'tidy-ups' and try to have an extra event each school holiday.

We have a shared meal each week and often discuss issues at the time, as youngsters seem to 'open up' as they eat.

It is a very happy, busy time where we generate friendships all within a Church setting.

John Winchester

Toddlers

Llangyfelach

Wow. I can't believe that Toddlers has been going 4 years this coming September.

Toddlers started 11th September 2021,

We have gone from strength to strength. We have seen so many little children coming into Toddlers, and then going onto nursery school, both Judith and I have shed tears over the ones, that have gone to nursery.

We are thankful that we have shared in developing their little, characteristics.

We at our toddler group, do craft, for example card making, for various events throughout the year. We make daffodils for St. David's Day.

Also, we have 2 parties a year, 1 for everyone's birthday and 1 for Christmas. We then make party hats for these occasions.

Judith tells the little one's stories, and she also does a sing- a- along with the toddlers.

We also have tea, coffee and biscuits.

Judith and I would like to say a big thank you to all that help us.

Wendy & Judith

St David's

(Monday 9.30-11.30am)

During the year, the group has continued to provide an opportunity for interaction between parents, grandparents and children in a friendly and safe environment.

Numbers have dropped from previous years, although we continue to have one or two new arrivals. We see a continuing development with many of our toddlers as they are with us until they start school. The children enjoy playing and learning to interact with other children in readiness for school, while the adults have a nice cup of tea or coffee. A Christmas party was enjoyed by everyone when Santa visited with a gift for each of the toddlers.

Thanks are extended to our former Vicar Hugh, Janet, Sam, Gwyn and Santa for their support.

Marilyn Lewis Leader

Church Grounds

Llangyfelach

Churchyard

Risk assessment has been completed.

Unfortunately, not much work has been completed this year. We have had a few volunteer weekends where we have concentrated on weeding the path leading up to the prayer garden and the flower beds. We have also cleared the area by Swansea Road entrance.

Plan of action for this year is to get on top of the overgrowth and starting up our monthly get-togethers where I will be giving our volunteers their own areas to maintain.

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to David Porter for his continued support in grass cutting and maintaining the grass areas.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their continued support.

Rebecca Jones Responsibilities to our Church grounds

St David's

Due to the high winds during the winter several branches had broken off, causing a shaft issue with people using one of the entrances to the church. We have had great difficulty getting permission to cut the tree as there was a preservation order on it, it could only be trimmed. We hope to get permission to make the tree safe in the New Year.

Keith <><

Church Buildings and Fabric

Llangyfelach

Construction, Repair and Replacement works carried out at Llangyfelach between 1st Jan 2024 and 31st Dec 2024

Parish Church

- 1/ Removal of growth from South Buttresses of church and re-pointing where required.
- 2/ Replace existing rusted window guards to south facing windows and make and fit 3 new sets of guards to the window's individual profiles in coated Black Stainless Steel.
- 3/ Re-pointing of West and East exterior walls of entrance porch as per Quinquennial Inspection Report.
- 4/ Hack off flaking plaster in porch down to original stonework.
- 5/ Re-dress and point original stonework and dress facing stone either side and above entrance door.
- 6/ Remove existing electrics in porch and replace with new.
- 7/ Fit a new light to illuminate statue above porch entrance gates.
- 8/ Replace missing and displaced slates on South East face of church main roof.
- 9/ Replace and re-secure fascia on South East of main roof.

Churchyard

- 1/ Cut up and dispose of large Sycamore Tree felled in storm.
- 2/ Rebuild North West wall of original cremation plot.
- 3/ Reset displaced coping stones around original cremation plot.

Church Hall

- 1/ Deep cleaned hall interior wood cladding ceiling and repainted entirety of hall, walls, woodwork and metalwork.
- 2/ Fitted new integrated fridge in kitchen.
- 3/ Ripped out existing flooring and replaced throughout with 'Holland Park' 'Herringbone Oak' short plank flooring.
- 4/ National Grid re-sited and renewed the incoming electrical supply cable to West Wall of Hall.
- 5/ Removed all obsolete electrical wiring in all areas of the hall, and moved all remaining existing supplies to West Wall of church adjacent to incoming supply cable
- 6/ Constructed a new 'Electrical Enclosure' for all electrical supplies and cabling.
- 7/ Constructed a new enclosure for Gas supply and meter.

- 8/ Removed 'burnt out' effluent pump and installed new effluent pumping system and control gear.
- 9/ Refurbished and painted the 4 display boards and fitted new Hessian to each.

Church Hall

Movement activated lighting in toilets removed and fixed switched lighting reinstated.

The two central heating boilers replaced with a new single boiler system.

All radiators in hall removed, cleaned and refitted.

All superfluous electrical systems removed.

Main incoming feed extended, and a new consumer unit, meter and incoming fuses fitted, and enclosed within a new designated electrical cupboard.

A new designated cupboard fitted over gas meter.

Four new tiles fitted to roof after storm damage.

Fault on effluent system pump currently being investigated.

Hazel Llewellyn Properties

Bell Tower report

We still have some problems with water dripping from the roof on to the bell frame and also through the windows. It is hoped that this problem will be seen to soon.

We continue to have visiting teams of bell ringers wishing to ring at our tower and hope this will continue in the future.

We did not have any meetings over the winter months due to the winter conditions. We are hoping to restart them in April 2025. We will let everyone know the day and time after I have spoken to the other ringers. We are still looking for more ringers to join us. No previous knowledge needed. Please see me or one of the other ringers.

Jacob, (Our young ringer) continues to progress with his bell ringing skills and has become a member of the Guild of Bell Ringers at only 10 years old. He and his mother, Trudy have been ringing bells throughout Swansea Brecon and West Wales, enjoying and gaining more experience.

Christopher Evans Bell Captain Llangyfelach Church

Llangyfelach Church Hall Report 2024

I would like to start our review of 2024 by thanking all those volunteers who have contributed to the continued successful operation of the Church Hall, especially those who oversee the management of the Hall along with the cleaning and maintenance.

2024 saw our plans to upgrade the Hall start to come to fruition. The Hall was painted, the noticeboards refreshed, and a new floor laid. The icing on the cake has been the replacement of the old chairs with 50 new wipeable modern ones thanks to the grant we received from the Mynydd Y Gwair Wind Farm Community Fund, for which we are extremely grateful.

We appreciate the continued support of those groups who use our facilities on a regular basis allowing us to keep the Hall open as a venue for the local community. These include amongst others: Slimming World with Amanda; Forget Me Not Dementia Support Group; Fibromyalgia Support Group; Toddlers Group; Sewing with Friends; Book Club; Thursday Coffee Morning Group; Wise Women and our Community Council. We have also welcomed a local group of Beekeepers to the Hall for their meetings this year.

2024 has not been without its challenges, having to replace the sump being a major one. The continued support of our Local Councillor Mark Tribe in providing financial assistance, allowed us to go ahead and replace the sump with minimum disruption to our users.

The Hall continues to be a hub for local groups providing a warm, safe and welcoming environment. We are now looking forward to 2025 and to hopefully welcome new hirers.

Helen Beale Chair of Llangyfelach Church Hall

On behalf of the Church Hall Team

St Samlets Group of Churches.

There will be a new quinquennial report in early 2025, we shall see what needs our attention then.

St Paul's

Jonathan Hughes (Properties Chair) is negotiating with the contractor to act in a supervising capacity for the work of infilling the trench to satisfy Health and Safety regulations. Glais rugby club members will carry out this work free gratis.

We are organising the removal of the material resulting from the clean up at the side of the church ourselves.

This has been an ongoing process which we hope to complete in 2025.

St John's

We are arranging for one of our members to see to what extent the remedial work is necessary to repair the floor at the entrance to the church.

In the meantime, safe access is via the vestry door.

Llansamlet Church

The choir vestry toilet has been causing problems for quite some time. A plumber has inspected the toilet and found some "unconventional " pipework resulting in it overflowing. The toilet was part of the renovations done in the church several years ago. Unfortunately, due to the complex pipework this particular toilet is not being used. Signage is informing choir members to use the other facilities in the meantime.

Fellowship

Wise Women Fellowship Llangyfelach

We started in January with our very talented Ros Morgan and her talk and display of her quilts. I was unable to be there for that talk, but I know that everyone was in awe of her work. In February we had a film morning watching the hilarious "Very Annie Mary".

In March we met in Dobbie's for a coffee and a chat and a look around, trying not to spend too much money. A very enjoyable morning. In April we decided to go for lunch in the Deer's Leap and be "ladies who lunch".

Back to normality in May as we were fortunate to have our Vicar Anthony, who always gives us inspiration, to lead our morning in prayer. Then it was June. I took in a small box called a Promise Box, which had been in my husband's family for over 100 years. This box held little paper scrolls with texts from the Bible. We all took a turn in pulling a scroll out and read the text. This proved very popular and unusual.

There were no meetings during July and August. In September we made our way to All Saints Church, Oystermouth where we were met by Canon Rev Hugh Lervy who gave us a tour around this lovely church and then he finished with a prayer and Blessing. We were then let loose, had lunch, shopped and had the obligatory Joe's Ice Cream.

In our October meeting we were intrigued to hear that Canon Phil Gwynn was, in a prior life, a photographer of "all things gruesome", whilst working for the police. It was a very interesting talk under the title "Canon to Canon". In November we just went along to help decorate the church in readiness for Christmas. December took us back to the Deer's Leap for our Christmas lunch which was a very happy and enjoyable time.

LOTS OF EATING WENT ON IN 2024.

Many thanks to all who contributed to another successful Wise Women year.

Every Blessing, Sandra and Hazel.

Llansamlet Mothers' Union

We meet on the first Tuesday each month (except Aug) at 7pm in St Samlets Church Hall. We started the year in January with a Eucharist and the enrolment of four new members. With thanks to our secretary, we always have a good variety of excellent speakers this year included Mr Jonathan Hughes, Mrs Gaynor Pickin and our new Ministry Area Leader Rev Anthony Porter.

During the year we attended the Diocesan Festival at the Cathedral in Brecon, the speaker was Bishop John.

As a branch we support Mary Sumner House projects as-well as Diocesan projects, these include Make a Mother's Day, Summer of Hope Appeal and the women's safe houses. We enjoy fun and fellowship at our social events. We had a meal in the Millers in Ynystawe and a Fish and chip lunch in the church hall. With these two events we were able to send donations to AFIA holidays which the Diocese organise and to the Summer of Hope appeal at Mary Sumner House.

To end our year, we held an 'open' Carols and Readings in a beautifully decorated church. Mary Sumners personal prayer All this day oh Lord let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Rachel Wells (branch leader)

St David's Mother's Union.

The evening group of Mothers Union no longer exists as they are now part of the Tuesday afternoon group. This means that now as a combined group the afternoon attendance is better. We have enjoyed listening to some very interesting speakers, have taken a couple of trips to Mumbles, had the usual fish & chip lunches in the crypt together. Also, what is now a regular visit to the pub for lunch.

We have enjoyed the Lent course, which took place during Mother's Union on a Tuesday afternoon during Lent and was open to everyone in the Ministry Area. It was well attended. Sadly, we lost one of our ladies, Susan Hopkins, who died in November. She was a lovely lady who is missed by us all. Another of our ladies, Carol Joseph is no longer able to attend, we visit her often. We also think about our ladies who are unable to attend through ill health but attend as often as they can.

Margaret Jones, Branch Leader.

Coffee and Chat

Llangyfelach

Every Thursday after church service we hold a fellowship where a group of people come together to enjoy a chat over hot drinks, pastries, cake and biscuits. Money raised goes towards a donation to the church and a day trip.

Jean Jones on behalf of the Coffee morning team.

St Davids

This is the group that used to be the Bereavement Group. Although it is a small group those that do come are very faithful and they enjoy the time spent together, as it is what it says time chatting over a cuppa, and a few hours out of the house for some.

Margaret Jones

Coffi a Chlebran Report

This is a new group which meets fortnightly on a Monday between eleven and twelve It is an hour to chat in Welsh You do not have to be a fluent Welsh speaker to join us Our aim is to encourage those who would like to learn a little more and to help those of us who are rusty and want to improve our Welsh We chat about a wide range of subjects from holidays television programmes shopping and the Welsh rugby team It is a really friendly group and we have lots of fun Come and join us and see for yourselves!

Further details from Jill Lewis at St David's Church, Morriston

Craft Group St Davids

Although numbers have dropped since it first started, it is still a thriving group as there is a regular attendance of both church and non-church people, both men & women.

It's a lovely group enjoyed by all. 'Subs' are voluntary, and the money raised is donated to church funds, as well as some of the items we have made, like the hundreds of poppies which are displayed in church for Remembrance.

Carol Crabbe, Group Leader.

Men's Society

The 'Afon Tawe Men's Society' is a welcoming group that meets every second Tuesday of the month at The Millers in Ynystawe.

This gathering is all about camaraderie, connection, and good conversation over a delicious meal.

Whether you're looking to build friendships, share experiences, or simply enjoy a relaxed evening with fellow members, our meetings provide a great opportunity to engage with one another in a friendly atmosphere.

Now up to around 15 regular members who enjoy a night of food, laughter, and meaningful discussions as we support each other in our journeys of faith and life!

Phil Hoyles Organiser

Llangyfelach Church Fellowship Book Club 2024

Books and many new authors have brought us together again this year and friendships have grown. It has been a great pleasure to welcome five new members, four of whom are members of the church and one a friend of our congregation. We have 20 members and an average of 14 attend per meeting.

We have welcomed three authors to speak to our club this year and they have all been very generous with their time and they have given us the opportunity to learn more about the different approaches to writing and an insight into the complexities of publishing and marketing.

We continue to expand our reading experience and have loved doing so with friends, a cake and a cuppa and a good chat. The club has focused on fellowship and has brought members closer within the church and community and long may it continue.

Ailsa Rees

Lay Ministry

St David's Altar Servers

Altar servers assist the priests at the altar during the celebration of the Eucharist and as such have a special ministry in the church.

This year Jack Smedley and Mary Hollamby have found they are unable to continue as servers. This of course leaves us with just two Altar Servers. namely - Laetitia and Jonathan Ninan.

We are now looking for any adult who would wish to assist as an Altar Server. We do have two volunteers who have already started to train and hopefully be serving before Easter, Barbara Davies and Callum Howard.

Roy Gambold

Thanks to all for their support this past year. We have so far been unable to replace those that have retired. If further people came forward it would help, as there is at present just a single server on Sunday mornings.

Gwyn Lewis Eucharistic Assistant. Further information added on behalf of Roy Gambold.

Eucharistic Assistants and home Communions

Thanks to all for their support this last year. We currently have five licenced assistants who help on a rota basis on Sundays. Thursdays are done on an ad hoc basis and depend on who is in church.

Home communions are taken currently to our former attendees at residential homes and to those who have expressed a desire to have home communion. If you know of anyone who would like this service, please contact me so they can be visited and included on our regular visit list. Gwynfor Lewis.

Readers at the Eucharist

We have a rota of members of the congregation who read the lessons at the Parish Eucharist services on a Sunday morning.

We are always looking for additional members to join the rota so anyone who feels they would like to have a closer involvement in the service is welcome to put their name forward to be added to the list. Many don't volunteer because they worry that they may make mistakes, but please remember that it is worship and not a performance.

Roy Gambold

Safeguarding 2024

2024 has seen an extensive roll out of Safeguarding Training across the Ministry Area. We are approximately 98% compliant with training for Trustees and Key Volunteers.

Core Risk Assessments and specific guidance documents have been written and ratified by the Ministry Area Council to support the groups we have running across the Ministry Area. A robust database has been collated via My Church People; this is useful to ourselves and the Provincial Safeguarding Team for Audit purposes.

Alongside this bespoke training has taken place, to include Organists / Choir Masters, Bell Ringing Captain and Pastoral Visiting teams.

'Safeguarding Sunday' was promoted with dedicated addresses from Sian Gwynn at Llangyfelach and Llansamlet, also at Morriston by the Arch Deacon of Gower.

2025 we will continue this work with the support of Local Safeguarding Officers.

Helen Beale (Llangyfelach)

Phil Hoyles (Morriston)

Emma Myles (Llansamlet)

Please remember

"If it's not safe – it's not church"

Sian Gwynn MASO Afon Tawe

(Ministry Area Safeguarding Officer)

Ministry Area Treasurer report
A composite account for the Ministry Area

Afon Tawe Ministry Area

Statement of Financial Activities at 31 December

Note no			General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2,024	Total 2023
			£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources/Receipts						
Voluntary Income	Planned Giving	#	106,881	0	106,881	108,143
	Loose Collections		10,314	0	10,314	8,224
	Donations		12,542	2,710	15,252	14,604
	For Mission		1,771	1,564	3,335	7,784
	Tax Refunds		21,172		21,172	33,555
	Legacy gifts		5,000		5,000	1,000
	Grants		52,664	1,376	54,040	39,511
Generated Income	Money Raising		22,325	0	22,325	14,688
	Fees		8,954	1,157	10,111	16,741
Investment Income			2,584	3,405	5,989	13,268
Other Incoming Resources			42,560	7,986	50,546	51,080
Total Incoming Resources/Receipts			286,767	18,198	304,965	308,598
Resources Expended /Payments						
Support for Ministry	Parish Share		89,819	0	89,819	97,931
	Parochial Expenses of Clerics		2,849	0	2,849	6,550
	Other		210	0	210	2,652
Parish Activities	Maintenance of Services		6,166	0	6,166	5,686
	General Parish Expenses		22,722	414	23,136	11,025
Church Property	Maintenance of Churches		81,981	10,355	92,336	77,535
	Maintenance of other property		9,549	954	10,503	22,933
	Exceptional expenditure		45,051	7,087	52,138	130,264
Grants and Financial Support	Parish		1,709	0	1,709	5,192
	Home/World		2,488	1,612	4,100	5,682
Other Resources Expended	Capital payments		14,086	20,000	34,086	11,330
	Costs of Money Raising		1,260	0	1,261	1,534
Total Resources Expended/Payments			277,890	40,422	318,313	378,314
Net Movements in Funds			8,877	-22,224	-13,347	-69,716
Balance Brought Forward	01 January		232,874	128,717	361,591	431,307
			0			
Balance Carried Forward	31 December		241,751	106,493	348,244	361,591

Afon Tawe Ministry Area

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December

		General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
	Cash Balances	542		542	
	Bank Current Accounts	107,618	22,755	130,373	134,603
	Bank Deposit Accounts	130,084	87,261	217,345	221,557
Other Monetary Assets		18,000	0	18,000	9,000
Investment Assets					
	Term Deposits			0	0
	Quoted Investments				
	Other				
Liabilities					
	Unpaid items	-14,493	-3,523	-18,016	-3,569
Total Assets		241,751	106,493	348,244	361,591
Represented By					
	Accumulated Fund at 1 January	156,874	128,717	285,591	338,363
	Surplus/-Deficit for the year	2,223	-22,224	-20,001	-69,716
	Designated for Fabric Repairs	82,654		82,654	92,944
		241,751	106,493	348,244	361,591