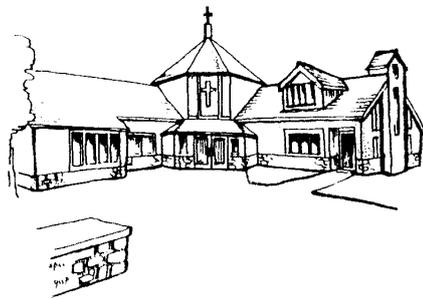
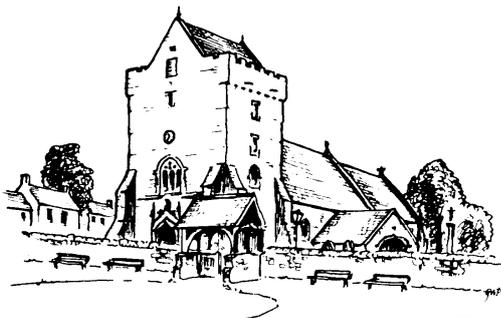


# NEWTON PORTHCAYL NOTTAGE



## *Annual Report* **2017**







## 2017/8

I write this on the Feast of St Mark, author of the shortest and most urgent of the gospels. If Mark has a favourite word it would be 'immediately' : there is no waiting around. Our only purpose is to proclaim the gospel—immediately, not tomorrow or the next day and certainly not on Sundays only.

We are fortunate, as I have tried to emphasise to the diocese who are so stubborn in not allowing the help we need to share the gospel better — that we have a pattern of daily eucharistic worship, virtually unique in the diocese. We have this because people come, so that day by day we present the Lord's Sacrifice and make intercession for our parish (for all its people) for the church and for the world.

We are fortunate, too, in the amount of support so many people give us so freely and willingly and, usually, with a smile. It is no mean feat to maintain three places of worship and to cater for the 170 or so people who come week by week, let alone the extras on high days and holidays. So many thanks to all—the welcomers, the wardens, the musicians, the cleaners and flower arrangers and those who look after our money and arrange all our services.

We are fortunate that we can make our buildings available to the wider community, not just our halls but our churches too. The safe option is to keep them safely locked up, just for 'us'; instead if anyone wants to use our buildings, within reason, they can—we are here to serve our community and from occasional concert visits or whatever, through being people who welcome and value the stranger, new faces come and new faces settle.

There are things we would like to do—expand our ministry to the schools, offer more targeted mission, make more contacts with the community, but these really will have to await a new member of staff. We are not letting this quest die away.

My own thanks go to many— to all I've already mentioned but also to Fr Keith, Fr Terry and Fr Geoff and all the others who help us maintain our pattern of services. We all owe a great deal to Fr Erle, who despite frequent struggles with his health, was second to none in the help he offered and who became my mentor and my friend.

More too now rejoice in another better place, the names of most are listed on page 9 of this Report. We give thanks for all that they gave and shared on their pilgrimage.

On a happier note, we offer our congratulations to our ChurchWarden Ruth, whose marriage to Julia was blessed in the Parish Church and celebrated with a memorable party a week later.

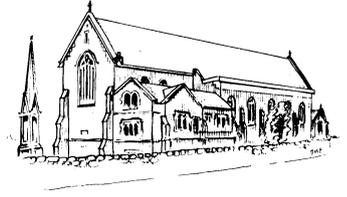
We have now a new bishop, June Osborne, who is gradually finding her way around the diocese and learning our ways. We wish her every blessing as our new pastor.

Remember Saint Mark—the gospel is for today; don't wait until tomorrow!.

*Father Philip*

*St Mark's Day, 2018*

# ALL SAINTS ANNUAL REPORT 2017



All Saints Church is an attractive and welcoming church as can be evidenced by the number of visitors and requests for usage, this is in no small part due to the energy and commitment of so many of the members of the congregation who go the extra mile.

There have been many events throughout the last year that have benefitted the church and visitors alike, offering a welcome, a hot meal, entertainment and the opportunity for a glass of wine or similar, these have been welcomed by all and again achieved through hard work by volunteers and the Rector.

There are always concerns in identifying special events or specific groups for fear of omitting any, and therefore apologies are given here should that occur, further there is no hierarchy in the manner they have been reported..

**Services** We are fortunate in that the Rector has managed to keep all the respective services throughout the parish due to his planning and preparation and wonderful help of our retired clergy who assist him, we are extremely grateful to them all. For the future of the parish and the Rector's health we hope this situation may be resolved in the near future with additional assistance.

**Mothers Union** Continues in the hall with a variety of speakers, meetings and social activities, the commitment and work by the group continues to make a valuable contribution to Church and Parish life, the monthly Mass always being well supported.

**Organist** We were extremely sad to lose Alex to Cambridge University (but obviously delighted for her) however Laurence has continued to assist at all levels, both keyboard and vocally with the choir and taken on the role in coaching and mentoring Isaak, whose input is steadily increasing.

**Choir** The choir continues to offer a wonderful support system to our regular sung mass and excels itself under the guidance and support of Peter Owen. We had a special treat on Passion Sunday with the performance of extracts from Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" by our augmented Choir. Congratulations to everyone who braved the snow and enjoyed the performance.

**Servers** We have a team of dedicated youngsters who assist in the service every week, they are all volunteers and their contributions always well received even if at times they 'do their own thing'. Volunteers, children and adults are always welcome, the task is not arduous but requires some time and commitment.

**Coffee Wednesdays and Sundays** as always it is welcoming to have a cup of coffee after the service which can be a lifeline to some of our parishioners for the coffee and fellowship offered. There are a limited number of volunteers and their service is greatly appreciated, again more volunteers are welcome, if only to put out tables and chairs and stack away after use. The proceeds of this and the social committee have assisted in paying for the little extras that assist in making the church and hall comfortable.

**Card Stall** The card stall continues to flourish with Jean and Helen, a cheque for £2000 to boost Parish funds was presented to the Rector in March. Jean continues to produce personal cards and other items from her photographs and these have been well received. Jean has further organised a number of coach trips which are both great value and well received, the majority being fully booked

**Flowers** Every year our band of helpers seems to reduce, hence additional help is always welcome. We are pleased to say that the recent effort for Easter was well received with many comments of praise, the hard work, the skill, the time given by the members and supported financially by contributions which are always welcome to assist in this work continuing.

**Magazine** The magazine continues in strength offering guidance, keeping us abreast of the whole parish, as always any articles of interest please forward these on as soon as practicable.

**Meet and greet** Again a team of volunteers who assist in the flow of the service and make our visitors, new and old feel welcome, who have the opportunity to turn our visitor to a church

member.

**Readers and intercession** An important part of our service and more volunteers welcome, it is nice to see the children take an active role and this is always appreciated, please if interested in any of the volunteer roles please step forward.

**Catering team** Again there have been a number of social functions and the team who work so hard in the kitchen supporting such events, may we take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work behind the scenes. Recently with the Easter lunch, throughout the year at a number of events including the pre-Christmas Fayre and spring Fayre.

**Church Hall Wedding** We have had the church hall redecorated (thank you Rector) and had our first wedding reception held there which was due in no small part to a slip of the tongue from Maggie who in a moment of weakness suggested such, and Harry and Charlotte jumped at the chance, the hall was wonderful, the reception and evening function outstanding, there is a photograph showing all the wonderful team of helpers situated in the hall, please take time to look.

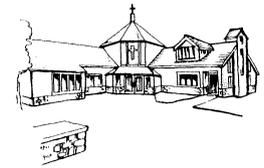
Sadly throughout the year we have lost a number of dear friends and not wishing to identify all we feel a need to mention **Father Erle**, who has since his retirement been attending within the Parish and assisting as one of our wonderful 'retired clergy' he was always willing to serve in any capacity, from being mentor to our younger priests, the man to fix the heating at All Saints and together with Jill a personal friend of the Rector and many others, further a keen supporter of all the social functions held at All Saints, a wonderful role model and is missed by all.

We continue to be fortunate to be able to worship in this magnificent Church, which is kept in its beautiful condition, inside and out, by a diminishing band of faithful members; if omitted this is an oversight, these tasks however great or small, make all the difference - you know who you are and thank you all

*Phillip and Helen*

## **ST. DAVID'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2017**

### **ST DAVID'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017**



It would be fair to say that our former steadfast Warden Jan is sorely missed – her valued vision and knowledge of protocols have not been surpassed yet by the present staff. However, there are hopes that time will see an improvement and Jan can acknowledge and gladly smile on us.

We have regrettably, suffered losses of members due to long-term health conditions. However, over the same period, we have welcomed a few new faces and look forward to a long relationship of worship and friendship.

Due to the continuing absence of an appointed cleric, we have welcomed - as other of our churches have – a small number of devoted “retired” clergy. They have their own style of conducting services that is most welcome and appreciated. Notwithstanding our acknowledgement to our Rector for his continuing workload within the Diocese, Deanery and Parish – mostly with a smile.

#### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

At the feast of Christ the King - 26<sup>th</sup> November – we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of St. David's Church with a Parish Mass. The church was almost full with 96 communicants present.

After the service, all congregated into the hall where refreshments and wine were provided by the congregation. The architect (Peter Millis) was present and he had displayed various project drawings and development photographs during the building process.

#### **Summer Fayre**

The event was the first “under new management” and was accepted as a success. The weather was not brilliant and there was a usual clash of events across the Parish. The financial return to Parish funds was £1,270.

#### **Pre-Christmass Fayre**

Once again, we witnessed a steady flow of visitors – possibly more than seen in the past. The refreshments were popular, and the stalls decorated with festive items and plenty of colour. The result of everyone's effort was £865.30

The interior of the church, hall and additional rooms have benefitted from the installation of a new lighting system – LED – a more resilient and efficient set-up thereby reducing the cost of electricity.

#### **Junior Church**

Our end of term treat this year was to Ewenny garden centre where the children enjoyed ceramic painting followed by lunch.

Our numbers fell drastically to one little boy and occasionally James and Nathan. However, in the autumn the twins Kyle and Kieron, were back from university.

We were without a Mary and Joseph for the Nativity, so it was an all adult performance with power point illustrations and the finale was James playing O Holy Night on his guitar.

We were pleased to welcome three new children in January who are sometimes joined by their cousin. It is a shame she lives so far away and cannot join us more often.

*Clive Edwards & Catherine Powell*

*Sub-Wardens*

## **SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, NEWTON**



Once again we have to report that our Attendance has fallen this year, which is sad to see but does seem to be the trend through most parishes.. Sunday School is still active but because they now meet at 10 rather than 11 we do not see them as we used to. They still held the Nativity play which was well attended and a great success.

July arrived and with it the Summer Fete, yet another beautiful day and a tremendous success, enjoyed by all and a very substantial amount for Church funds, so congratulations to Andrew and all who help and work so hard on the day.

The Christmass coffee morning was also a success, though on a much smaller scale and we are grateful to all who came.

We extend our grateful thanks to the retired clergy who help support the Rector during the weekly services—very many thanks to Fr Keith, Fr Terry and Fr Geoff and of course to the Rector for their guidance, each in his own unique way.

The Foodbank is very well supported by St John's and Denver and Margaret are very grateful for the support they are given, just as we are grateful to them for their hard work in purchasing all the goods.

Our thanks to Beryl our Organist for her devotion in all the services, the Choir, the readers and sidespersons for their dedication week by week and also the Flower Guild for the remarkable decorations they produce....thanks too to the Bellringers for their pulling power....

<b>Facts &amp; Figures:</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Total attendance	6882	6138	5917	5326
Communicants	5441	5732	4939	4531
Stewardship	£11071	£9652	£9058.60	£8674
Open plate	£ 9068	£8382	£8716.11	£8716
Weddings	9	10	11	9
Baptisms	9	5	4	2
Funerals	19	14	16	10
Committal of ashes	18	20	20	22

*Denver Whale & David Philpot MBE, subwardens*

## ***IN THANKSGIVING***

*We remember with thanks those who have died this last year, among them*

Erle Hastey, *priest*  
Mary Evans  
Frank Perrott  
Ann Murphy  
Dick Jones  
Denzil Rees  
Handel Edwrds  
Sheila Hemphill  
Viv Warwick  
Pam Revell  
Ginge Lewis  
Judy Morgan  
Shirley Ash  
Joan Horton  
Betty Cubbin  
Rita Steele  
Clifford Fabian  
Sheila Gammon  
Trevor Ballinger  
Sally Holiday

May they, with all the faithful, rest in peace and rise in glory

## ***Report from Newton Tower Ringers***

2017 saw the bellringers increase in number , with 2 learners starting (1 of whom is now able to ring for services) and 1 new member who rang years ago and is now ringing confidently again after only a few weeks refreshing her skills.

We have rung for some Sunday services and weddings as well as the major festivals of Easter and Christmas when we wake Newton at 7.30am reminding the neighbours that the church is there and ready to welcome them in. We have also had a few social events, some marking special occasions for our members, notably a wedding and a 40th wedding anniversary. The year ended with our now customary Watchnight Service led by Tower Captain Ruth Birch. The service was followed by ringing in the New Year , then the singing of Auld Lang Syne before refreshments for everyone present.

*Susan Thomas*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

We had our AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> January. 2017 The Rector introduced Pat Capron as the new branch leader. This was followed by prayers for ourselves and for the MU for its work in the Diocese and Overseas.

At our MU service on the 18<sup>th</sup> January the Rector enrolled Pat Capron as our new leader and also Ann Williams as a new branch member. This was followed by an excellent turnout from the branch (including the Rector and Fr Craig) for the Epiphany lunch at the Grove on the 18<sup>th</sup> January.

At our meeting on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Fr Craig gave a talk (with video) on the subject of Refugees through the ages. It was entitled 'Exile & Hope (Reading & Reflection)'. He began with the Escape to Egypt and the Return to Nazareth – followed by Women Weeping. Many still cry today – mothers of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala whose sons and husbands were made to disappear, and others such as Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria caught up in a holy war, and still others in Burma, Liberia, East Timor, Soweto, Sarajevo and Belfast. The talk finished with a discussion session which got a bit political!

Newton/Nottage MU had their Wave of Prayer service on 29 January 2017 at 2.10pm. Despite a very wet day 8 members attended.

At our March meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> Hannah Leckie and Jean Humphreys from Marie Curie gave a talk on the background of this Cancer charity.

Hannah started by giving information of how Marie Curie came into being. It started in the same year as the NHS - 1948. It was a group of nurses from the Marie Curie hospital in London. The charity decided to focus on home nursing care. Nine hospitals throughout the UK and 900 nurses providing palliative care. They put patients and their families first. Every day of your life matters. The right care and right support at the right time can help people with a terminal illness. They deal with any terminal illness and not just cancer. They have a helpline which provides lots of information. The nurses in palliative care in Bridgend and Porthcawl provided over 3000 hours of care. Patients should not be left in hospitals but rather be at home. The nurses provide practical and emotional support. Hannah is the local fundraiser for Marie Curie.

At our April meeting Fr Philip gave an interesting talk about 'Mothers in the Bible' which started with Eve who, because of her disobedience to God's will, is regarded as the one who caused man's falling from God's grace. Fr Philip then went through various other mothers mentioned in the Bible and then came to the Virgin Mary who is regarded as a second Eve. Mary's obedience to God's will lead to the redemption of mankind.

At our May meeting Gareth, Joe, Alan and Rob spoke about their experiences in the Fire Service., giving firm guidance about fire safety in the home, including the need for alarms—and testing them and switching everything off at night.

Our June meeting was a 'celebration tea' to celebrate Fr Phillip's 25 years as Rector of Porthcawl. We started with a short service at 2.30pm. Sue Coughlin welcomed everyone, then a hymn, the Mothers' Union prayer, followed by a lovely eulogy (with humour) of Fr Phillip's time at All Saints by Hannah Jones. Fr Phillip said prayers and then we all trooped off to the church hall for sandwiches, cakes, tea etc. As well as Mother Union members people from churches together and various other organisations attended and it was also nice to see Frs Jonathan and Craig again. Maria, Hannah's daughter, made a wonderful anniversary cake and Fr Jonathan gave a toast. Fr Phillip thanked everyone and I would also like to thank everyone for putting on such a wonderful show.

MU outing to St David's in July. Despite an inclement day members and 'others' enjoyed the trip to Pembrokeshire. Had a coffee stop in Narberth and a drive along the coast road via Newgale and Solva to St David's. It was good to spend time in the Cathedral and then have lunch in the refectory. We hope for better weather in 2018!!

No meeting in August.

Our September meeting was a talk by John Berry entitled 'The Y in the Triangle'. He gave an in depth account of the history of the YMCA which dates back to the 1800s. George Williams, a Draper's Assistant, was concerned about the young men who worked very long hours for little reward. In order that they may not be tempted into sin, he brought 12 young Christian men of various denominations together to create a meeting place. The meeting of the group gave opportunity to read and study the Bible and consider the bringing together of body, soul and mind. This, in 1844 was the founding of the YMCA. The red triangle is the better known symbol of the YMCA and was brought into being in 1890 and first used in the UK in 1914. The three sides of the triangle represent the Trinity and the bringing together of body, soul and mind. However, this logo was only sanctioned for super-imposing on the world badge which was adopted at the World Conference of YMCAs in 1881. This badge is round in shape – representing the world – and has, around the rim, the name of the five major continents of the world: Europe, Oceania, America, Africa and Asia. In the centre of the badge are the Greek initial letters Rho Chi (XP) which are the initials of Jesus Christ in Greek; this is to show that Jesus Christ is in the centre of the Movement. The badge also shows an open Bible – open at St John's Gospel chapter 17 verse 21 which gives an extract from Jesus' prayer the night before he died – 'that they all may be one'. This humble beginning has led to the development of a world-wide organisation.

Our October meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> was a talk by Leighton Rees and his colleague Becky on PCSO 'Keeping Safe' and 10 principles of Crime Reduction.

Members found the talk interesting and at the end there was a Q & A session.

Our November meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> was 'Carers' Wales. Jean, Mike and Chris described their experiences of caring for family members. Jean says she is a trustee for Carers' Wales and also works as a volunteer sending out the message of caring. Caring is an integral part of what it is to be human. We all need someone to stand by us – a 'help mate'. She said that as a 9 year old, when her mother went off to work, she was left to look after her 3 year old sister who had measles. She later cared for her husband for 4 years, and also cared for her mother from the age of 79 to 96, so her caring responsibilities have increased. The Carers Centre in Bridgend, Crossroads and Carers Wales came into her life. The number of carers in Wales for 2016 was 370,230. Every day 3,000 people become carers. How much do you think we save the Welsh economy - £8.1 billion of care is provided free of charge by people in Wales. Social Services provide £12 million. 3 million people in the UK juggle their caring role with holding down a job. There is a carers allowance – the benefit is worth about £64. To get this you have to be under 60. When you receive your Old Age Pension you lose your caring allowance. You have to do it for 35 hours a week, ie £1.77 a hour! There are 103,594 people in Wales, who provide over 50 hours of care per week, and over a million people in the UK care for more than 1 person, 58% of those carers are women, 42% are men, and a large number of children under the age of 18 provide care. Facts and figures mean nothing – being a carer is a constant battle as you are constantly fighting to get the best quality of care that you can. Every year there is a rise of 4% of people who need care in Wales and at the same time the social care budget is cut by 4%, so this means that a lot of local authorities are struggling.

Our December meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> was a talk on Advent by Roy Saunders, Faith & Policy Unit of Mothers' Union. He started by saying Advent means the coming – a season of reflection, contrasts, time of joy, hope and expectation. He then spoke in depth of the various stations of the cross with musical interludes.

*Sue Coughlin*

