

Incumbents Annual Report April 2010

It's that time of year again and it seems to come around Oh so quickly. In my report this year I want to begin by thanking the people who support the work I do in particular Maz and the children. I could not do what I do without their love and understanding and I will say, sacrifice because they have to put up with a lot in the name of my ministry. Likewise Ian and Emma and the gang who are all a vital part to God's work here.

I'd also like to thank the Warden's and all the musicians who weekly give of their time and members of P.C.C. for their commitment.

This last year I've also been touched by the many people who work quietly in the background and make the parish work and do their bit for God often unseen by everyone else. You people know who I'm referring to, those who do the news letters and magazine, people who regularly make the tea and wash up after events, those who smile at the door when people walk in and welcome them (you have one of the most important jobs in the parish) those who serve God 'just' by praying for us and those who need prayer. Your service is invaluable. If I listed everybody this report would be several pages long. What I'm saying is that we are all threads in an enormous tapestry and without one single one it wouldn't be the same and wouldn't look right or be complete. So thank you to you all for your efforts on my behalf and behalf of the parish. I pray that when you are doing those acts of service in the background that no one sees or you think don't make much of a contribution be assured that they do, they are important to God and he honours them.

I always try to pick out some of the highlights of the year and it's difficult to do that because there are so many.

Obviously for Maz and myself the highlight has to be my sabbatical which was a wonderful time for us both to recharge and also to be creative; me with writing my book and various short stories and poems and Maz having time to put some serious time in to her craft work. Thanks to all those here who carried on and enabled us to take that time out.

Others I will mention which I hope will encourage us all, and these are only a few and not in any calendar order;

The recent START group, which is something we'll do on a regular basis each year. The last group was made up of church people and a few people who don't regularly come to church, so a real mix. The best part for me was making some new friends and deepening friendships with people I already knew and then the plus, of talking about our faith and meeting with Jesus. Absolutely brilliant and even better that one or two will be baptised as a result of it.

Another high point of the year for me was walking in to St David's church on the first Sunday in February at 10.40a.m. and seeing only about 8 people there. My heart sank and the words that immediately came in to my head were from the gospel reading for that morning "Oh ye of little faith." By 10.55a.m. there were 85 people, of which about 30 were children, and our first All Age Worship really took off. It only happened because of the commitment of many people working quietly in the background, doing lots of those things I mentioned earlier in my report. When God blesses us he does it with blessings overflowing.

The beginnings of the Healing Service and our continued commitment to prayer have been a great blessing. At the moment the Healing service attendances are small but this service is not about numbers, it's about God meeting our needs. On every evening God has touched us and we have all gone away very different for having been there.

Then there's the Tree Festival, which I enjoy on many counts. Firstly, everyone involved is helping to raising money for church and charities and using their God given skills in his service, but the other side is that while not overtly evangelistic, it actually is. Over the last few years it has affected our Christmas attendances because it has highlighted our presence and also many of us have the opportunity to speak to people we would not be in contact with at other times of the year. I personally spoke to several hundred people and was able to make connections with new people and re connect with people I haven't seen for a long time and those for whom I've conducted services such as, funerals, weddings and baptisms. It's an opportunity many churches don't get. What touches many people who come to the festival and stays with them is the warmth of welcome they get. Evangelism for me is about Christ being in every aspect of my life, whether it's in church serving mulled wine or praying with someone bereaved or standing down outside Marks and Spencer singing Christmas carols.

Which leads me on to my final point, Fresh Expressions; Doing this course has at times been tedious and at others really vibrant and inspiring. What I've enjoyed is the process of having to think about how we do church differently for a very different society we're living in and without the expectation on people to come to our buildings. It's an add on to what I wrote a few lines back about being Christ's wherever we are, it doesn't just happen in church. I'm excited at the prospect of what God will do through us if we take the initiative and dare to do something different.

So I suppose that's a good note to end on, looking to the future but getting the balance right. We need to look outside of ourselves and have that evangelistic edge but we also need to maintain the good things which are already going on in the parish and not throw them out. Mine and Ian's role is to ensure that we move forward but also that we serve the needs of the faithful, every one of you, and enable you to be Christ's wherever you go.

'Walking together with Jesus'

Every blessing
Viv

Curates Report 2010

Like a good Anglican sermon I want to highlight 3 things that have stood out for me in the life of the parish in the last 12 months.

Fresh Expressions Course

As you know I did my theology training in Cambridge where in the Church of England there is a lot of chatter and acceptance of Fresh Expressions and its associated ideas. Basically the church has noticed that people just don't walk through the doors anymore and it is the job of the church not just to provide for the flock but also to seek out the lost as well.

As such it's been great to see the Church in Wales put on the Fresh Expressions course in this area and to allow Llantrisant to become a pilot parish. We've got our little team together and we are exploring the idea of going out and 'just being' with people in the locality. Its new, it's risky but we have to move out of our comfort zones at some time and really trust God. I am looking forward to how that's going to pan out.

Sabbatical

In the last 12 months Viv took a Sabbatical and left little old me in charge. It was an opportunity for me to stretch my legs and see what kind of a job I could do at running the show for a while. I thoroughly enjoyed it and the parish was handed back to Viv largely intact on his return.

What was most encouraging for me was the willingness of people to 'have a go' whilst more hands were needed on deck. In decades past it may have been that nobody was allowed to think without a vicars permission so its reassuring to know that the people of this parish are willing to step into the breech as and when required.

Hopefully in the next 12 months more opportunities can be made available for house groups etc to lead in the parish and for us to have more opportunities to go out to share our faith. You grow in intellect when you sit listening in the pew but you grow in faith when you get up and go out to share that faith.

PCC reorganization

As an engineer I am not happy with 'good enough' and like to look forward into the future with a 'what if' attitude. For example:

- What if people doubled their giving and our income was £200,000 a year not £100,000?
- What if we closed all the churches one Sunday a month and went out to do outdoor services? Etc etc.

One of my recurring questions has been; 'How can we ensure that if every congregation doubled overnight we could cope and cope well?'

McDonalds works on the premise of 'build a restaurant and people will come' whereas the church it seems can be seen to work on the premise of 'lets see who comes and then see if we can cope.'

With that in mind we are over the next few months going to be reorganizing the PCC so that there are sub groups who look over the various aspects of parish life, e.g. finance, youth work, worship, house groups, baptisms, weddings, visiting and all PCC members will have to get involved with a sub group. This will ensure that more of us are doing more thinking and praying about the parish. With more ears and hearts listening out for Gods will we will hopefully see a growth in our depth of faith and more hopefully a corresponding increase in number of members of the flock.

Summary

I would like to thank you all for putting up with me. Llantrisant parish is a good place to be a priest. My family and I are much loved and are enjoying the opportunities whilst learning to live with the frustrations that ordained ministry provides.

May we all grow together in faith this year as we work out what God is up to and then have the nerve to stick with him. God Bless you and yours. (The eagle eyed of you will realise that's the same last line I used last year but it's still valid. In fact more valid this year than last year)

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus author and perfecter of our faith.

Ian

Treasurer's Report to Annual Vestry Meeting, 2010

The accounts for 2009 show that we spent £11,000 more than we received as income. The situation would have been worse had it not been for an increase in Sunday Offerings and Stewardship Standing Orders of almost £3,000 over the past year. Unusually an expense is shown against Direct Giving; this was the amount of a cheque that was not honoured. Another factor which reduced our total overspend was a significant increase in Gift Aid reclaims. This was a one-off event caused by catch-up from the previous year when there was one claim less than normal.

Expenditure on the Hall was reduced compared to the previous year in large part due to lower utility bills as a result of more accurate invoicing. Income from hiring of the Hall increased as more groups use the Hall. Spending on our house in Parkdale View was offset against income when we retained the deposit paid by the previous tenants. Of the income for Parkdale, £1,000 was rent received from the current tenants to the Parish but then passed on to the Diocese, shown in expenditure.

Net income for Parish Mission was nearly £900 more than expected mainly because our expenditure on Youth work decreased as the 14+ group ceased to exist. A new line for Women of the Well has been created in Parish Mission.

Utility bills for the Churches were much higher than expected. It seems likely that this is due to over-estimated gas bills for Miskin where the gas meter was replaced in 2006 but for which our supplier had no record. We are in discussion with British Gas Business and expect this to be resolved in our favour in 2010. Planned maintenance for the churches exceeded the set budget following major work on the guttering and down-pipes at Miskin. We have recently become aware of a scheme that allows VAT to be reclaimed for work done on listed places of worship and it is intended to pursue this in 2010. An apparent increase in money raising activity was due to grants for floodlighting received in 2009 against expenditure in 2008.

A tithe of £900 was given to the Archbishop's Fund for Children while Parish-funded giving was shared between our link church in Uganda and UCB. A total of over £800 was raised by various activities and given to Comic Relief, the Stroke Association, PONT and Rainbow of Hope.

Maintenance of the churchyard at Llantrisant continues to be a drain on our finances with expenditure exceeding income by more than £1,500.

Special Funds, held on behalf of groups or for designated purposes, grew by nearly £5,000. When considering our total loss for the year, this figure should be excluded which then shows a deficit of over £16,000 for 2009. This has been covered by drawing on our reserves but is unsustainable over the long term with unrestricted funds of only £25,747 at year end. 2010 will be a challenging year when some hard decisions may have to be made.

On a personal note, I should like to thank all the members of the Finance Group who have provided me with support over the past year. Thanks are also due to Jeff Hoare who again examined the accounts on behalf of the PCC.

Steve Davis, Hon. Treasurer

March 2010

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, MISKIN

It's good to stop and review the activities of the previous year as often so many things are happening that the many blessings are overlooked.

Once again St. David's has been the recipient of a number of gifts donated by current members. We were delighted when a sound system was installed at the beginning of 2009 – the gift of a very generous anonymous donor – a boon to those who are hard of hearing and for the voices of those leading services. Another donation, given in memory of Christopher Phillips by his parents, was the new service books, *An Order of Holy Eucharist*, followed by another donation which enabled the purchase of two copies of the same service book for use only by the celebrant.

The avenue of lime trees leading to the church has now been trimmed. Unfortunately, the height was not reduced to the extent which we would have wished, but apparently current regulations stipulate the amount of reduction which may be carried out. We are still waiting for the owner of the church grounds, Mr. Philip Preene, to action the trimming of the conifer trees, overhanging the choir vestry, which cause the blockage of gutters and drains. It is for this reason that the gutters have not been cleared out this year. Such expenditure would be useless until such time as the main reason for blockage is removed.

With regard to the provision of toilets, the task of costing the work required has been started, but as Mr. Preene and the Diocesan office need to be consulted at all times, it is necessarily taking longer than anticipated.

The annual *Village Carols* were held on the 17th December 2009 and were once again very successful, despite the very cold and indeed icy weather that evening. The chosen charity was the Stroke Association for which £310 was raised. The *Lost Chords* once again entertained us with their choice of music and after carols around the Christmas tree in the church yard we made our way to the Miskin Arms for mince pies.

The number attending the 11.00 a.m. service on Sundays has remained steady at 20/30 people. We have lost some faithful members due to ill health, but have been fortunate that newer members are attending regularly and willingly carry out sides persons duties and taking their turn reading the lessons. The numbers attending the 9.30 a.m. Eucharist on Thursdays varies from 6 to 12 people, except, of course, when we host the monthly Parish Communion when numbers are often 20+.

The most recent and pleasing highlight has been the monthly All Age Worship. The first of these services took place on the 7th February 2010 when a total of 85 adults/children attended. We were overwhelmed and delighted that the service, led by Viv, was such a success. Then on the 7th March approx. 100 adults/children were present! Before both services a leaflet drop, covering most homes within the village and on the new estates,

took place. We are so thankful to all those who worked so hard to deliver about 800 to 1000 flyers each time, followed, before the Easter Day All Age Communion service on the 4th April,

by the delivery of a similar number of the *Parish Extra* magazines – not an easy task for the ‘not so young.’ Although the numbers were down to 76 adults/children, it was a really joyful Easter celebration. It’s been good to have Chris Clark back, after a major operation, to play the organ. We were fortunate that Rae and Lynfa were available to play the piano whilst Chris was absent but the mix of organ and piano for the All Age Easter Communion worked very well.

Thank you to all those who have worked hard as part of the team during the past year.

Pam Thomas & Rae Boon
Sub wardens
6th April 2010

ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH, BEDDAU

During the course of the year St. Michael’s celebrated two 60th birthdays Chris and Wendy and two 80th birthdays Gordon and Phyllis and an 85th birthday, Vera with a special buffet after our Tuesday morning service. We also celebrated Eirwen’s 80th birthday with a glass of sherry after our Sunday morning service.

September was the church open day. We had about 8 visitors during the morning. They showed great interest in the church and were able to look at photographs at the back of the church showing days gone by.

We had a social evening where pupils from Bryncelynog School, who had visited Uganda, came to show us slides and tell us about their experiences. To finish of the evening we had tea and biscuits and a raffle.

On the 3rd December we entertained the Community Carol service which was a great success. It was lovely to see the church full. Father Christmas came and each child received a selection box.

We are pleased to say St. Michael’s gained two new members this year.

Annette Thompson
Norma Evans

MOTHERS UNION REPORT FOR ANNUAL VESTRY 2010

We are fairly static at 30 members; we have lost 2 and gained 2, luckily no deaths. We have 1 indoor member (though we do have members that do not attend meetings, due to ill health, they do not wish to be indoor members). Attendance at meetings is about 20.

Over the last year we have had various talks on the work of the Mothers Union. We usually meet 3 or 4 times a year within the Deanery for shared worship. 4 members attended the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October. We have members that attended the Annual General Meeting in London. 2 members will be attending this year's AGM in Preston. We held a successful Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, raising 50 pounds towards the upkeep of the new caravan at Porthcawl.

Service of Prayer and Healing.

The services of prayer and healing commenced in November 2009 and continued with services in February and March held in the Parish church.

The next will be held on Wednesday 28th April 7.30 pm to 9 pm (coffee and tea from 7.30pm)

This is a quiet evening when people can come along and have a chat and cup of coffee, be quiet, pray with others or part way through the evening join in the healing service. We are following the 'Celtic Healing Service' order of service, as used in the Order of Jacobs well at Cwmbran. It is a lovely service and although the attendance has been small (approx. 8 – 10) all who have taken part have been really blessed.

Please come along and join us, you can spend time in quiet prayer on your own, or with others or come and have prayer for healing. The leaders are happy for you to ask for healing prayers for other people. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us, we all have needs of many different kinds and this is very relaxed non threatening service open to all.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Matt. 11: 28*

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2009

Following on from the great success of previous years, it was decided that the 2009 festival would take the same format. Our nominated charity was Macmillan Cancer Support.

Letters were distributed to local businesses and individuals and Christmas Decoration/Lighting companies were asked for any contributions. The response was excellent, with again some very generous donations.

As in previous years, a church member sponsored the lighting of a tree in the churchyard.

Together with the four lit trees on the church hall, the town looked more festive than ever and we received many positive comments from local residents and visitors.

The weekend of the festival saw approximately one thousand five hundred people coming through the door. Fifty-two trees were on display in the church, the Pentre Salvation Army Band played carols on the Saturday morning, school choirs sang, refreshments were available in the hall and over three hundred children received a gift from Santa in his grotto. A concert on the Friday evening by Cantorion Pontyclun was excellent.

We made just over £4,900 in total after expenses; £1,400 has been presented to Macmillan Cancer Support and £500 to the Salvation Army. The remainder will help start refurbishment of the church hall. These plans are on display in the parish church.

Our main success was the number of people who came into church, many for the first time, with the true meaning of Christmas being conveyed in the themes of the trees displayed. Visitors were also aware that they were contributing to a very good cause. As ever, the event entailed hours of hard work and effort but this is all so worthwhile when we consider the effect this will have on so many people. The planning committee is now preparing for this year's flower festival that will take place over the weekend of the 2nd – 4th July 2010.

Anyone who feels that they may have anything to contribute to the festival is welcome to turn up to the planning meetings.

Godly Play Youth Club

The Godly Play youth Club is aimed at 6 to 11 year olds and meets every Monday evening during term times from 6.30p.m. until 8.00p.m.

We have had another great year with our numbers gradually increasing to the point where we regularly have an average of 25 club members each Monday and a waiting list of children who'd like to join us.

During the past year we've maintained that emphasis of Christian teaching. We follow a theme based on Scripture Union resources. We've presented the Christian faith and some of its major characters through a multi faceted approach with games, memory activities, story and craft and have on numerous occasions had testimonies from some of the leaders. Due to Viv's sabbatical we had to forego some of our usual outdoor activities in the summer, but we were able to treat the children to a McDonald's Happy Meal in the church hall combined with a games evening, this turned out to be a great success. We have enjoyed a Film Evening, Puppet Show, Bring and Share Party and a Treasure Hunt. Two of our most successful evenings have been a where we invited parents to come along and join us, to see what we get up to. Those were great fun and really well attended with parents asking when they can come again.

It's a really happy place to be on a Monday night and the kids are fantastic. We have a really committed team of leaders and helpers but we are on the look out for new adults to come along and help.

Looking forward to another great year.

SHIRLEY

LIVING STONES – Children's Sunday Group

This year in Living Stones we began the year by looking in detail at the 10 Commandments and how they are still relevant and important to us today.

We then spent time preparing for the Crib Service and did "Who wants to be part of the Christmas Story" based on characters arriving for a quiz. The children received really positive feedback from this and it gave them (and us) a real boost.

In January 2010 we focussed on "the Miracles of Jesus" with an emphasis on creative work and producing an exhibition in the church hall.

During the last year a new group of Boulders was introduced to cater for our older children – this has proved successful and we hope to continue to grow and change as our children do.

Sometimes numbers are a challenge for us as we can range from 3 to 20 children, which keeps both Jacqui, Pam, Charlotte and Pete on their toes!! We are always looking for extra help and look forward to the challenges of next year.

Ladies Prayer Group

Following the housegroup awayday in October, a group of ladies have come together in a new way to support one another in prayer. The two emphases of the group are building relationships with each other, and being committed to praying regularly for other members. At present there are six ladies, who meet approximately monthly, either for joint prayer, or socially. Prayer requests are communicated each week, via text, email or phone. The group is in the process of developing as we discover God's plan for us, and as we work towards our vision of a network of ladies, all praying for each other's daily lives.

If you would like more information please contact me.

MIRIAM DAVIS – Tel. 228931 or email miriam.kislev@btinternet.com

LLANTRISANT HOUSEGROUP - GILL EVANS

We are a group of 7 women who meet mostly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If this is not suitable we re-arrange for the 2nd Thursday of the month. We meet at 4 different venues on a Tuesday either in Myra Hillier's home in Talbot Green or Gill Evans' home in Llantrisant.

On a Thursday either Sue Giddy's in Penygawsi or Pat Alexander's in Llantrisant.

Our group is quite informal, very relaxed and most enjoyable. Everyone is encouraged to take part in the discussions. We start at 7pm with refreshments and chat about all that has happened in the intervening weeks, followed by Bible study, at present we are looking at Philipians. Discussion follows and finally we finish in prayer.

We aim to finish by 9.30pm (but quite often finish later). We have social events, such as concert trips and always have a Christmas celebration dinner together. We hope to be able to lead a Church Service, probably evensong, in the near future.

If you would like to join our group you would be most welcome. Please contact Gill Evans 224575 or Sue Giddy 225728 or any other member of the group. Next meeting is Thursday 13th May in Sue Giddy's.

Brynsadler House Group

The Brynsadler House Group continues to meet fortnightly. Over the past year, we have studied a variety of Bible passages, including Esther, the letters to the Churches in Revelations, parts of the life of King David, as well as subjects such as finding the will of God. We enjoyed leading a Sunday morning service for Pentecost, and all learned a lot from the experience. We regularly support one another in prayer. As well as the "spiritual" aspect of the group, we also focus on fun and relaxing together over coffee or on social occasions.

MIRIAM DAVIS

LLANTWIT FARDRE HOUSEGROUP

The housegroup in Llantwit Fardre meets at the home of John and Helen Hayward on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The evenings start with a social time with refreshments and then move on to the Bible passage for the evening for which we follow a Bible book or occasionally a theme. In the last year we have looked at the "I am" sayings of Jesus and studied the book of Nehemiah with the theme of restoring the church. This year has had two new highlights. Last June we took an 11.00 service at Llantrisant. Each member of the group played an active part in what was a very successful service. Later in the year we were part of the combined housegroups' awayday in Merthyr, a time of teaching, worship and encounter with the Lord. As with the other groups we all came away with a blessing and look forward to the next awayday.

After Easter we will be looking at the Church's mission from a Biblical perspective. We will be relating this to mission in Llantrisant, in particular the planned "Fresh Expression" of church in Talbot Green.

The members of the housegroup are drawn from both Llantrisant and Beddau congregations. Our discussions are lively, the fellowship supportive and we see much answer to prayer. We would be happy to have some additional members. If anyone would like to join, or just drop in and see what we get up to, then please speak with John or one of the other members of the group.
JOHN HAYWARD

MISKIN HOUSEGROUP

Miskin housegroup meets at 4 Manor Hill, Miskin every two weeks for fellowship, study and prayer. We are usually 8 to 10 in number, and have studied a variety of topics, including Cries from the Heart, a study in Psalms, and Self Esteem, How God Sees Us. The Rainbow of Hope initiative grew out of the group, and every 4 weeks some of our group, and other church members, go into Cardiff to help those in need. If you'd like to join us, either in Housegroup or on the Rainbow run, we'd be delighted to see you; just have a word with Frank or Jean Ball or ring 01443 229431.

Frank and Jean Ball.

Wow women's group

It has been an exciting year for the women of the well. We used to be known as the 'ladies who lunch' but were inspired to change the name to WoW (Women of the Well) in July. We meet together for coffee and chat, a bible study or speaker and lunch. No two meetings have been the same, and the only guarantee we make is that of good conversation and good food. All women are welcome to come, even if they can only make it to coffee, or to lunch, or just for the study part.

We decided to read over the long summer break, Michele Guinness' book 'Chosen'. We eventually bought 25 copies to distribute between us and the effect of this book has been far reaching. Born a Jew, Michele became a Christian and is now married to an Anglican priest. One of her challenges is for us to make more of our church festivals and celebrations. This led to the question of how can we do more at our church celebrations? You might remember the tabernacle we created in Llantrisant church for harvest. We have all been encouraged to rediscover the Old Testament and the Jewish way of life because after all Jesus was a Jew and this would have been the way he lived.

We are looking forward to celebrating Pentecost and we are going to Ty Teilo for a quiet day in May.

Worship Group Annual Vestry Report 2010

The Worship group has continued to meet every Thursday to practice, and has continued in its service to the 11:00 Church Family 3 out of 4 Sundays per month.

Our continuing mission is to lead people into worship, providing thought and prayer provoking songs, giving all Glory to God.

We have experimented with slightly different song placements, to try to provide more of a worship slot for the congregation to have space to respond. We are continuing to look for new songs to better meet the needs of the congregation.

Our Christmas Carol singing supported by the church family was a success, raising £200 for Rainbow of Hope, and ensuring some real Christmas Carols and songs were heard by all the shoppers. We also discovered that people seemed to respond best to 'come and join the celebration'.

The group continues to appreciate the support we have received from Matt Evans and John Hayward providing projection of the song words.

A small group has met to look into the purchase of a PA system full details will be provided to the PCC in due course.

Laurence

Mad Report March 2010

Another enjoyable year has been had by MAD (the 11-14 year old youth group). Although we are a small group, the enthusiasm and commitment of the children is commendable.

We are glad to report that Peter has now offered to help with MAD and so has Claire, so this will ensure that MAD is able to meet every week, as it is so important to the youngsters.

During the past year, we have undertaken various activities; the consumption of food is still a favourite, popping up at every opportunity.

During the summer months we went outdoors when we were able, for games or treasure hunts. During the winter months, amongst other things we played games, enjoyed craft work, visited and helped with the shoeboxes down at the OCC Warehouse, learned about the Chinese New Year (whilst sampling Chinese Food!) and St David.

The children are always very keen to raise money for worthy causes. In September we held an auction. The children brought in things they no longer wanted and these items were auctioned amongst the group. Their efforts raised £20 for Samaritan's Purse, Positive Impact. Well Done!

Last week the group did a sponsored sports activity for Sports Relief. A special mention to Mo and two of the girls, Tash and Eleanor who did the sponsored mile on Sunday in Pontypridd (in less than 10 minutes)! Well Done Girls!! These sponsored activities have resulted in £136.20 being raised and sent off to Sports Relief. Amazing effort!

For a small group of youngsters, they are a dedicated group and it is a pleasure to work with them.

Karen/Mo
March 2010

Fairtrade

Fairtrade items have continued to be sold during the year. The Christmas Tree Festival was once again where the biggest sales were made, over £250 worth during the weekend. Created catalogues (formerly Tearcraft) are available in all three churches and items can be ordered all year around not just at Christmas. I also keep a small stock of food items so please ask if there is anything you want. Unfortunately I have been unable to have the usual stall after the 11am service at Llantrisant recently but I am hoping this will return soon. However I am sure you will be pleased to know that we as a parish have supported farmers and workers in the developing world receive a fair wage and decent working conditions by purchasing almost £700 worth of fairly traded goods in the last year.

Quiet Pint at Seven QP@7:

The numbers ebb and flow but a good time is usually had by all.
It's a fantastic chance to talk with people from all across the parish and to meet with each other outside of normally churchy activities.
It also makes people look twice when they see a gang of Christians sat in the corner drinking and laughing and having real fun. Ian

2Ponder:

The numbers ebb and flow and are currently very ebbing.
That said the discussions we have each Monday about the passage for the day are always enlightening.
It's a time of mutual listening and learning where tangents can be explored in a way that cannot be done in public worship. Ian

Website:

I say to people send me 2 pictures and 100 words and I'll make that a webpage for you but very few people do.
Helen and Pam are angels in the way they verify and distribute the information on the 'what's on diary'.
It's yet to be used to its full potential as a church resources but I live in hope.
Ian