

# **Annual Congregational Report, All Souls Church, Tycoch 2023**

## **Church Life**

With the interregnum continuing we maintained our worship by supplementing priest led Eucharist services with Lay Led and Morning Prayer /Hymns of Praise services, enjoyed by regular and occasional worshipers.

Uniformed Brigades joined Mothering Sunday and Harvest services.

Mothering Sunday; Guides presented posies, Rainbows sang 'You've got a friend in me'. Families at this Lay Led Service learned the relevance of a Simnel Cake, shared during post service refreshments.

At Harvest Thanksgiving, the first major service of new incumbent Rev Layfetta Masih, she blessed and shared a home baked loaf of bread at the Eucharist, with leftovers consumed at post service refreshments.

Harvest shoebox appeal, suggested by the Guides, donated 70+ boxes from the three East Gower Churches.

## **Children and youth.**

A young family, new to the area, began regular attendance. Layfetta introduced the role of Acolyte to the four young people of the family, actively engaging them in our Eucharist Services.

The Christingle service is always popular with families outside our usual congregation. The interactive 'construct your own Christingle' was a big hit.

The same applies to the updated Christmas Eve 'Crib Service' with the families attending choosing to join us for the remainder of the evening for Carol singing and the early evening Christmas Eve Eucharist.

Family services are proving successful and encouraging new families to attend our special services.

## **Fellowship and Fun.**

The year began with the Annual New Year Lunch. Members of all three East Gower Churches enjoying the company of friends from across the cluster.

The Summer Concert fundraiser was a great success and we plan to repeat same in 2024.

Post service refreshments are an important way of maintaining our fellowship, and the proposed installation of a kitchen area will enhance this and other activities at the Church .

## **Missional Plans and Projects in the community and further afield.**

A Messy Harvest event was poorly attended. Plans to taking Messy Church into Sketty Primary School in 2024 are being discussed.

School to be invited to a Shrove Tuesday event and educational Easter experience in 2024.

Discussion began on reinstating home visits for church members who cannot attend Church services.

### **Safeguarding, Health & Safety near misses, incidents, accidents.**

Group session to enable completion of the online Safeguarding course to be organised.

Solar lights installed on all external steps as a safety measure for users of the Church and Hall after dark.

### **Faculties and grants.**

Grant received and projector, screen and stand purchased. A great asset to our worship.

The extension to the Garden of Remembrance on course for completion May 2024.

Faculty application to install kitchen area Church in progress. Completion planned for summer 2024.

### **Buildings.**

Energy saving light bulbs installed in the Church Hall.

Church maintenance planned for 2024:

Replace light bulbs; paint exterior window frames.

Church Hall needs general updating including, heating and toilet facilities.

The installation of a sound system would enhance the facilities and benefit potential hires. Investigation into funding to support this in coming year.

### **Finance.**

Church Hall hires continues to provide a steady income.

Finance generally healthy giving opportunity to carry out the works needed in 2024.

Inland revenue refunds applied for.

Increased energy charges are being monitored, particularly at Church Hall, to ensure hire fees cover energy costs.