

CYFEILLION EGLWYS SANDES JULITTA FRIENDS OF ST JULITTA'S CHURCH

Rhif Elusen Cofrestredig/Registered Charity Number 1068756

www.stjulittas.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Dear All,

It could be said that our AGM is the stepping off point for the next year activities. I am again really pleased to report our **AGM in 2010** was a total success, **so** it could be said that if we got that right everything else will drop into place. I certainly would be nice if that was the case, but at least then report of that is very good news! The visit to Yr Hen Eglwys Ynys Cynhaearn, Pentrefelin near Cricieth was wonderful; an excellent short walk (despite losing the way at one point and a lovely reception from the church warden. If you were not with us then make it a priority visit in 2011!

But all is not good even in the Friends of St. Julitta's. Sadly I have to report that several of our members have passed away during the year, Mrs Collier, Mr Alan Evans and Mr Glyn Jones. I carry happy memories of them all in many ways; I send our sympathies and condolences to their families.

Illness and hospital treatment too has been an issue. Jean Roscoe, Viv Jones, Roy Coppack, Wyn Jones (and myself to a lesser extent) have all called on the services of the National Health Service in 2010, I wish them all a 1000% recovery and trust they will soon be fit enough to get involved in the world around them.

The committee have suffered since Ron resigned as secretary; we thank him very much for all that he contributed and hope he enjoy his time with us. Any volunteers to fill the vacant position? Vernon Hewitt also is standing down as Auditor, having been auditor from the very earliest days. Many thanks Vernon, may you have a very long and happy retirement!

Its nice to report that we were able to raise the funding via the Sacred Doorways project, to publish our Church Guide bilingually, something that I am proud of and very thankful to Suryiah Evans for the support. Small charities like ours need professional support at times to bring to fruition projects; we are extremely lucky that Conwy Council awarded Suryiah the task to inject some life into the Conwy Churches Project.

Again the support that Plas y Brenin gives us puts them at the top of my thanks list. They really are a very generous and supportive establishment, many thanks for their support. Thanks are spread far, to, in many other different areas, but more of that later.

I think that anyone visiting the church these days will go away with a satisfied feeling. The churchyard does look well and the edition of a store in the copse will move things on. The Snowdonia Society clear up group prepared the site, Gills made a brilliant job of ordering and getting the store delivered on time, and Peter & Tony did equally well to erect it. It has now been fitted out by Ken, and the path to it constructed by Karen, Jim & Barry, what a team!



Yes we have had quite a busy year. 'Christine and I visited the exhibition of quilts at St Julitta's this afternoon. It is a superb show and we very much enjoyed it' sums up our Spring Exhibition; Llandegai Patchers did us proud, it would not be wrong to say that their display of quilts and Patchwork brought the church to life; it was startling in its simplicity but wonderful in the expertise.

Sadly our day to celebrate St Curig's Day, the Saint who gives his name to Capel Curig, was not a success. 2010 was the third year that we had tried to get this off the ground, but it has been decided, because of lack of support from the village, that we will not continue with this special service.

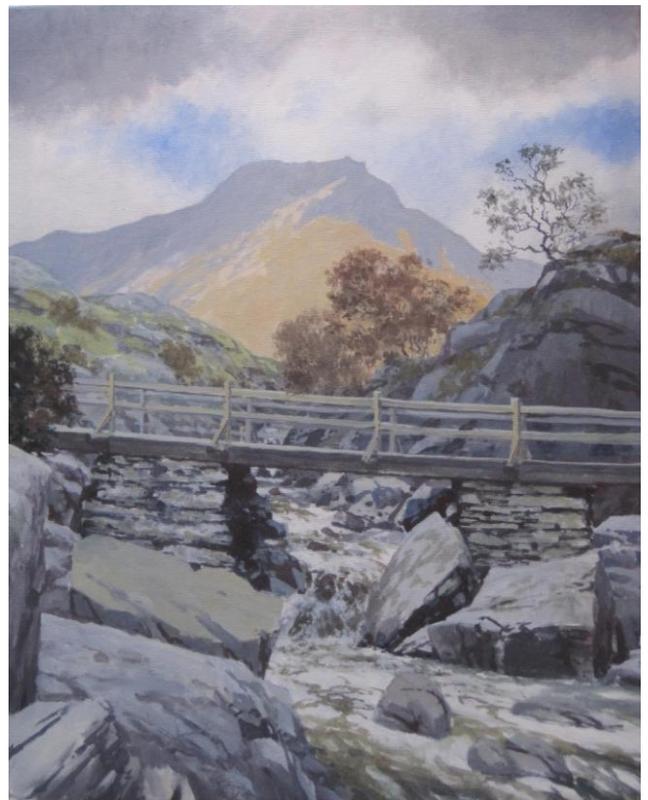
The Diary of events for 2010 went well. The main summer **The Art Exhibition** was another leap into the dark, but given the skills of our three artists it had to be a success. Many thanks to Pierino Algieri, Tony Rankin and Jeremy Yates for all their work. I am sure that a lot of visitors went away with a true **Impression of Snowdonia**. Again our artists followed in a long tradition of artists who have for over 200 years captured the essence of Snowdonia and have recorded the changing scenery for future generations, but with the different media and styles we felt proud that we, using a minimum of resource, provide a unique show in a unique setting. The exhibition was a huge success and a number of paintings were sold.

Another organisation that we are very thankful for are the **Snowdonia Society's Clear Up Group** under the leadership of Bea Kelsall, who we thank very much for a great deal of hard work. We now have a huge grass recycling depot (?), - come & see it if you don't believe me! The growth of grass generally keeps ahead of the cutting of it but we do now have resource to get rid of it. Bea and her team are fantastic; their contribution gives on a little glow of satisfaction for their support.

This year our audience attendance was respectable for the lovely evening with **Jonathan Richards on the Classical Guitar**. He is a very talented musician and the guitar sounds wonderful in the church, the acoustics are just right. We do thank **Arts Council Night Our Scheme** for their financial support. Please try to come along in 2011, you will not be disappointed!

Our autumn lecture was disappointing. A wet miserable evening meant that Margaret Dunn's talk on the Dating of old buildings in the area (**Dendrology**), was not enjoyed by enough people. The new village hall is an ideal venue for this type of evening, complete with digital projector and all the other fancy gadgetry that lecturers demand these days, I hope to see more in our Autumn lecture 2011.

A very big success was the **Thank You Dinner** at the end of November. I felt that so much work was taking place in the Conwy valley with the **Conwy Valley Churches Project** that perhaps we could recognize it. It might also bring together the people on the front line of looking after the wonderful group of churches dotted around the Conwy valley. The enthusiasm generated has been felt in Capel Curig, and the executive committee of St Julitta's Church was impressed with the progress that has been made so it was decided to put on a dinner in our church – another challenge which very much worked well. **Gill was the chief chef and supplier of equipment** with others contributing the soup and pudding courses. Our special



guests were Sir Brian & Lady Regina Smith, long time supporters of the Friends of St Julitta's. The weather decided to add another different dimension to putting on the dinner. It snowed, and it snowed and it snowed! Sadly some could not make it but on the evening 18 or so sat down to a very nice meal in a building that has no mains, electricity, water or sewerage! We hope to repeat the exercise in 2011.

The **Village Candle-lite Carol evening** was an evening well attended and organised by Alice Douglas and her team, despite the snow making access to the church difficult. First of all could I thank Pete Smith for his contribution to the carol evening in the village over a number of



years. It has become something traditional and special and we must not let it fade. Clearly a lot of people are very thankful for his efforts, and each year look forward to a unique evening in our little church. MANY THANKS! On the day the **Revd. Clive Hillman** brought the evening together, and Geraldine Tundstall played the organ. The Children's were well rehearsed and Hero Douglas was especially professional accompanying herself on the harp. There are certainly some very talented young singers in the community. Many thanks too to Haf Roberts who undertook the beautiful floral decorations. After the service mince pies and

mulled wine were served. Hope to see you in 2011!

Another first timer for us has been the hosting of the Council for British Archaeology (Wales) meeting at Plas y Brenin in February, our thanks to them again. The meeting went really well and everyone was very impressed with the facilities. Three lectures were delivered, all full of interest.

Have you visited our Bilingual Web site lately? For this we give our thanks to Kate Williams for voluntarily setting it up and to Paul Rowlinson for the translation work. It really is worth visiting, its up to date and informative.

In 2009 we were in the business for recruiting a couple of new members to our committee. We are back there now; please get in touch if you feel able to spare a little time – probably 6 meetings per year! Growth in our membership could also be a good thing! Especially within the village. Our subs must be near being about the lowest of any group, and yet..... I do wonder if local people feel as though we have the right attitude to the welsh language, or maybe the problem is East Enders! I am open to chat to anyone, please get in touch if you wish to discuss any aspect of the Friends of St Julitta's.

Our plans/Diary of events for 2011 have been circulated widely. Make sure you have a copy of our **Events Diary** and note down the details. I am sure our summer exhibition is going to be a bumper one. The subject of the exhibition is **The War Years in Snowdonia**. A great deal has been written about the World War Two but rarely from the prospective of its impact on a rural agricultural village in Welsh-speaking Snowdonia. The exhibition will be based on the Capel Curig Community but will also include aspects of the war in the wider area of Snowdonia. Original research will explore the problems that the people had to face and how they coped during the war years.

The list of research subjects will include property commandeered by the Government, (the Pen y Gwryd, Royal Hotel, Bryn Heulog etc); evacuees; the stories behind the village war memorial, wartime restrictions, the blackout, rationing etc.; local servicemen's experiences and

the Home Guard; farming under war regulations; prisoners of war; The Royal Hotel as a army training centre; army mountain training and exercises in the area; the Observer Corps; aircraft crashes in the mountains; Stop line number 23 and the pill boxes; mountaineering and leisure pastimes and the storage of art treasures in Snowdonia. This is an initial list, it is expected that it will expand as the research develops. We are going to produce a substantial booklet on the subject that will act as a guide to the exhibition. If any feels they can help or wish to get involve please get in touch you contribution will be gratefully received.

Evan's Book has continued to sell; it is nice to report that we now have a return for the investment that we put into publishing the book, get in touch if you want a copy. We still have lots of Tea Towels, why not push the boat out and send in an order. Ken Smith still spends a lot of time putting stones on top of each other; passing cars have a habit of knocking them down. In some areas progress has been disappointing. We have had an archaeological survey done of the inside of the church in preparation for replacing the floor but the £20,000 needed for this work will take a lot of finding – the contribution from the Esme Kirby Trust of £5000 is gratefully received. Our search for funding to publish the book, Oes O Fyw Ar Y Mynydd, written by Margaret Roberts, the farmer's wife from Tal y Briach, Dyffryn Ogwen in 1979 has also drawn a blank, but we do hope to be able to report more progress before the summer has passed.

Suryiah Evans is promoting a scheme were we will become involved in geocaching. If you want to find out more information, please register at www.geocaching.com - this will give you an insight into it. We will chat about it at the next meeting.

We hope to have the church open over the Easter Holiday, 4 days. I wonder if I could get four volenteers to steward it..

We are hoping to get the roof timbers dendro dated, but there is doubt whether the timers are suitable. Family social history of Capel Curig is a huge field to get into, we still have continual correspondence . But I trust that you feel that things have gone well in the last twelve months and I thank all members for their support. I have again been lax in circulating information but please feel that this is YOUR group, we are relaxed, friendly, in it for the fun, perhaps to learn, to contribute.

Finally sincere thanks to the officers and the committee for their loyalty, understanding and outstanding contributions. Particular thanks to John Disley who's loyalty is very much appreciated

Very best wishes

Harvey 04 04 2011

PS Please note we now have bird feeders in the churchyard, fill them with seed if you are passing! Many thanks again.

Yn gweithio i achub Eglwys leiaf Eryri
Working to Save Snowdonia's Smallest Church

