



# St Michael's Church, Caerwys Renovation Project 2016-2017



To the Glory of God and in the Service  
of our Community.

# **St Michael's Church Team**

## **Rector**

Ven John Lomas

## **Project Manager**

Roland Ward

## **Buildings Committee**

Bob Garside, John Harris (Chair), Vicky Jones,  
David Knights, the late Francis Parry

## **Treasurers**

David Knights, Vicky Jones

## **Support Team**

Peter Dooley, Sheila Garside, Sylvia Harris,  
David Knights, Eileen Knights, Nerys Thomas

# *St Michael's Church*

## *Renovation 2016-2017*

At the outset our ambitions were modest. We wanted to repair the rotten floors, stop the leaks, and restore the decayed stonework framing our ancient stained glass windows.



We wanted our people to be warm, to sit in more comfort, to hear everything, and to see more clearly.

We wanted an internal toilet and a kitchen, so that we need no longer trek to the tap outside or to the Portaloo.



The work of replacing guttering, repairing floors and restoring plaster seemed routine. We were undertaking a workmanlike adaptation of an ancient building for 21st Century use.



And then the old building seemed to reassert itself, and the work was no longer routine. The sanding of the old wood block broke four sanders, but the warmth and the lightness of the old oak brought the dark nave back to life.



When the 1905 low wooden chancel screen was relocated to the north wall It revealed the beautiful pillars and arches of the 1896 restoration, and threw a new light on the ancient wooden carvings that surmounted the screen.



The removal of the narrow choir stalls created an open chancel where the Rector will lead services, choirs will sing, children will perform nativity, and all in clear sight of those seated in both naves.



The panels of the internal west door have been glazed, and the light from outside has revealed the details of the west wall masonry and the blue and green Victorian window lights above the door.

When the maroon carpet strip at the centre of the Chancel was removed it revealed Victorian encaustic tiling in red, yellow and green which led the eye to the seventeenth century altar, and behind it to the reredos commemorating the loss of Rev'd and Mrs Sinnett-Jones's two sons and his son-in law in the first World War.



As the carpet in the sanctuary was lifted, thousands of tiny pieces of brightly-coloured mosaic tiles came up with it. Gareth Williams spent

days reassembling them to reveal a Christogram in red and gold in front of the altar.

The new lighting and the redecorated walls serve to highlight the memorials, the carvings and the stained glass windows which make the church such a beautiful heritage site.



And so our architect, Robin Wolley and our contractors strove for a church interior which inspires. The furniture, in a subdued blue complemented the golden oak of the



wooden flooring, and the oak panelling of the kitchen and toilet.

What started as a repair project with some routine improvements became something special. Most feel that the promise of a light, comfortable, warm and inspiring church building has been fulfilled.

It has happened because of the generosity of members of the St Michael's Church congregation, the St Asaph Diocese, the Furnace Group, and of the following grant-awarding bodies:

The Heritage Lottery Fund,  
The National Churches Trust,  
The Garfield Weston Foundation,  
The James Pantyfedwen Foundation,  
The Maude Yeardye Trust, and The Allchurches Trust.

The work has been undertaken by Gareth Williams Joinery, a local firm who specialise in work in ancient churches. Their tradespeople and their sub-contractors, including Gareth Davies, Penrhynside Heating, have proved skilful, and sensitive to the need to get the detail right. They have gone out their way to restore the church sympathetically.



Robin Wolley, the Project Architect is amongst the most experienced and talented conservation architects. He has overseen it with care and imagination.

Throughout, the Building Committee of the church, the Support Team, the Treasurers and individual members of the congregation have given every support. Our Rector, John Lomas, has given unstinting practical help and guidance.

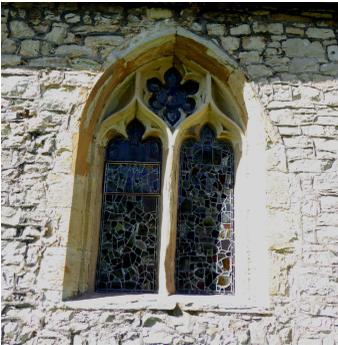


At a key juncture two personal gifts of immense generosity from members of the congregation, and several more which followed rescued us from the prospect of a three or four-year phased project.

That all this 'came right' speaks of the power of prayer. We must thank God and count our blessings.

The old building as revealed now, is inspirational. Our challenge is to use St Michael's Church to the full, to the glory of God, and in service of its community.

RW



## **Architect**

Robin Wolley B.Arch, RIBA, AABC

## **Contractors: Renovation Project**

Gareth Williams Joinery

Gareth Williams, Daniel, Jones Craig Edwards,  
Jay Edwards, Mark Barker, Rhys Williams

## **Sub Contractors**

Gareth Davies Penrhynside Heating

William Taylor Masonry

## **Contractor: Roofing Project**

Arthur Jones

## **Grants and Donations**

### **Donations**

St Michael's Church £35000

Individual donations (All anonymous)

£34000

### **Grants**

St Asaph Diocese £20000

Heritage Lottery Fund £65000

National Churches Trust £10000

Garfield Weston Foundation £10000

James Pantyfedwen Foundation £5000

Churchfields Trust £5000

Maude Yeardye Trust £5000

Allchurches Trust £1000