**St Michael’s Church, Caerwys**

**Annual Report April 2017-March 2018.**

Worship has taken many forms in 2017-18. We have benefited throughout the year from superb preaching, and from the involvement of many of our congregation in intercessions, reading, serving and sidespersons duties.

There have been some splendid services of celebration, particularly at Easter and Christmas. We have appreciated the contribution of our singing groups, and of members of Cor Merched and Cor Meibion.

Throughout the year our thanks must go to Nerys Thomas and her team who have prepared flowers and catering on a grand scale.

From 25th June to 15th October we worshipped in Caerwys Town Hall. Our congregation, ministers and worship leaders adapted very well to the new accommodation. Thanks are due to all for their help and adaptability. Particular thanks are due to the Furnace Group whose members set up the audio-visual facilities each Sunday and who contributed musically and in many other ways to the services.

The re-ordering project in the church began on site on 26th June. Before it members of the congregation contributed in many ways to the preparations. Members of the Church Committee approved the feasibility study, the plans, the grant applications and the phasing decisions. Through some outstanding acts of generosity by members of the congregation, we were able to proceed with the whole re-ordering scheme in one phase, rather than having to choose between, for example, providing improved heating, or installing toilet and kitchen facilities.

The church re-opened on 15th October 2017. At the Open Day many people from the congregation, local churches, and the community came to view the outcome of the work, and nearly all expressed enthusiastic support for the project. We now have a warm church in which congregations and audiences can see and hear clearly, and can take advantage of catering and toilet facilities. An unexpected bonus has been the transformation of the church by the exposure of long-covered tiles, the glazing of the West door, and the sanding of the oak floors. The chancel is now a much more flexible worship and performance space and it is an inspiring space.

Thanks are due to the Scrutiny Committee ( David Knights, the late Francis Parry, Bob Garside, Vicky Jones , John Harris, J(Chair) and John Lomas) who provided unfailing support and guidance throughout, and our architect, Robin Wolley and contractor Gareth Williams. Thanks are also due to the Diocese of St Asaph for the generous grant of £20,000 from its Transformation Fund, and for the generous grants form the Heritage Lottery fund, the National Churches Trust, the Garfield Weston foundation, the James Pantyfedwen Foundation, the Churchfiekds Trust, the Maude Yeardye Trust and the Allchurches Trust.

Our Treasurer, David Knights and our Assistant Treasurer, Vicky Jones have had to handle a great deal of financial planning and accounting work. They have done so meticulously and with great patience.

In October, the congregation presented Roland Ward with a very generous gift in appreciation of his work as project leader.

Ven John Lomas, our Rector has given unfailing support and encouragement throughout the project. His guidance has been invaluable, as has his practical input, including spending many hours up ladders installing the audio system.

The church prepared a booklet in celebration of the re-ordering work, which supplements this report. For all of this we thank God and count our blessings.

In January, 2018 the Church Committee met to draw up proposals to extend our church activities and to use our church buildings more frequently. By April 2018 the church is already being used for mid-week services, for lectures, for meetings, choir practices and concerts. The Church House Group is about to begin its meetings.

In 2017-18 Mrs Sylvia Harris retired from the post of Reader. In her liturgical and pastoral ministry over many years Sylvia has been an inspiration and an invaluable support to the church and to us all. Fortunately, Sylvia continues to support the church in very many practical ways, for which we are very grateful.

I April, 2018 David Bentley will step down as People’s Warden. David’s wise, principled leadership has been a great source of strength, and we are grateful for the many practical ways in which he has contributed to the life and work of the church. Fortunately, David continues to serve on the Mission Area Conference, which will benefit greatly from his commitment and his long experience.

RW March, 2018