



The Friends of St. Michael's Cyfeillion Eglwys Sant Mihangel

Newsletter – April 2008

What's New For 2008

Visiting St Michael's today you will find a much cared for building. The roof doesn't leak, the windows don't rattle, the internal plastering and paintwork is now intact, and I can plug in my portable computer to write this newsletter during a quite spell while looking after visitors on a Sunday. The installation of the custom made candelabra in the Autumn feels, in some ways, the finishing touch.



Nothing is ever quite finished when caring for a historic building however, and this is the time of year that the committee get together to discuss our next set of goals.

No on-going repairs have come to light over this winter so we are able to look at our list of longer-term aims. Two projects are now at the top of the list. The installation of some new interpretation panels is one of these projects. Jon Richmond put together a movable display for us a number of years ago which has served us well, but it is felt that some professionally produced panels to be fixed to the walls to the rear of the church would aid visitor understanding and appreciation of the building. These panels would include information on the history of the building itself and on the restoration project.

Interpretation panels are very expensive to produce, we anticipate that somewhere in the region of £3000 will be required so we will be

looking into grants and some additional fundraising for this.

The second project is to properly fit out the vestry. The vestry is the tiny room added to one corner of the church building. Formerly the place where church registers etc, and in this example the Funeral Bier were kept, this room now serves as store room, stock room, changing room, broom cupboard, tea room, library and of course the place where people just put things! It also houses all the fuse boxes and switches for the electricity system. Small and rather insignificant, this little room plays an important role in the day to day running of the building. In our major phases of restoration the room was given a new floor, a fresh coat of paint, and extra security to an external door. It was then furnished as money allowed at the time, with one big cupboard and some folding tables.

To make better more efficient use of the limited space available fitted cupboards and tabletops are desirable along with a sink for which a water supply would need to be installed. In anticipation of doing this in the future a water pipe was laid through the churchyard at the same time as the electricity cable, but requires connecting up and plumbing in. A rough estimate of £1500 has been suggested to complete this project.

It is unlikely that both projects can be completed this year. We shall be getting firmer quotes and looking into all the details and possibilities of funding from other sources over the next few months prior to making any firm decisions.

Church Opening Times

The summer season is once again upon us in Betws y Coed, although the weather does not know this. The church will be open to visitors most Sundays and some Saturdays until the end of September. Normal opening hours on these days are 10 am until 5pm.



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At other times keys are available from the Railway Museum opposite the church, or from the Tourist Information Office.

Events 2008

Summer Fundraiser

A fundraising sale in aid of the St Michael's restoration fund will be held on Saturday 12th July at St Mary's Church Hall, Betws y Coed between between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. Stalls will include White Elephant, second hand books and toys, cakes, produce, plants, crafts, and a raffle. Refreshments will be available.

Any donations of items for sale or volunteers to help man stalls on the day would be much appreciated, please contact Kathy on 01766 830328.

White Elephant

Jillie will be a holding a white elephant stall in aid of the St Michael's restoration fund on Tuesday 5th August starting at 10.00 in the morning at St Mary's Church Hall, Betws y Coed. Donations of items for sale would be much appreciated.

Open Doors 2008

This years Open Doors (European Heritage) weekends are on the 6th and 7th of September, the 13th and 14th of September coinciding with our annual Flower Festival, and the 20th and 21st of September. The Church will be open for the whole of these three weekends, 10 am to 5 pm each day.

Flower Festival

Our Flower Festival this year will take place from Friday 12th September to Sunday 14th September inclusive, 10am to 5 pm each day.

The church will be open on Thursday 11th for the delivery and setting up of floral displays.

St Michael's Day Service

Sunday 28th September, 5.30 pm.

Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday 28th December, 5.30 pm

Stewards

We are still in need of some extra stewards to open up the church and look after visitors at weekends. Please contact us if you think you could give us a little bit of time. New Stewards usually shadow an experienced Steward in order to learn the ropes. It's very easy!

Contacts

Membership and Newsletter:

Kathy Laws, Afallon, Tanygrisiau, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 3RH. Tel: 01766 830328.

General:

Jim Boughton, Bron Celyn, Lôn Muriau, Llanrwst Road, Betws y Coed LL24 0HD. Tel: 01690 710333

Finances and Gift Aid

Jon Richmond, Brynardd, 4 Llan Isa, Capel Garmon, Llanrwst, LL26 0RR. Tel: 01690 710773

E-Mail: friends@stmichaelsbyc.org.uk

Web Site: Newly updated this year, why not take a look at <http://www.stmichaelsbyc.org.uk>