



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

Newsletter – December 2011

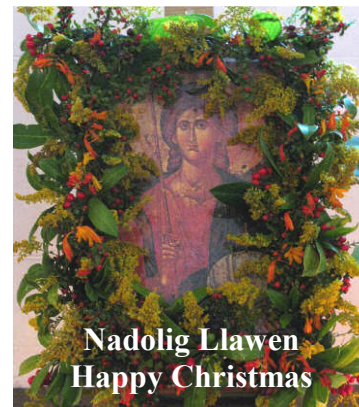
Candle Light Carol Service

We will be holding our annual Carol Service on

Sunday 1st January 2012 at 6.00 pm

Please come and join us to welcome in the New Year

Seasonal refreshments will be served after the service when there will be an opportunity to meet the committee



How have we got on in 2011?

It has been a surprisingly good year for St Michael's, in a year when we were really just expecting to hold our own.

Our key event, the Flower Festival raised a stunning £868.62, an increase of just over £100 on the 2010 total. As ever we received tremendous support from the local community for this event in both producing close to forty displays and attending the event. Thank you all.

The quality of the displays seems to improve year on year. This year seemed to be a year of stunning colour combinations.



*Floral display by Ann Watkins for
Betws-y-Coed Community Council*

A huge thank you goes to Lilian Boughton, who organises this event for us every year. To those who performed a variety of tasks and toiled over the weekend, Lilian, Jim, Jillie, Jon, Clive, Sheila, Marion and Kathy, thank you.

Other fundraising efforts included Jillies White Elephant Stall in August which raised £185, and a stall at the Betws-y-Coed Village Fair in December raised £103.35.

Meanwhile, by keeping the church door open whenever possible our sales and wall box collections have been tremendous. The total to date at the end of November, excluding the Flower Festival total, was £3,596 compared with £2,298 last year.

Work with the Sacred Doorways project, which was completed this summer, provides us with an improved visitor experience and an updated range of merchandise which is helping to boost these figures. We are indebted to Conwy County Borough Council and in particular Suryiah Evans for making the vision a reality.

Further payments from HM Court Services Confiscation Unit have totalled £1,400 this year.



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We were happy to welcome the Society of Architectural Historians who made a visit one rather damp day in September. Thank you to the group for the generous donation.

We also received another generous donation of \$500 from our friends the Mosley's in America.

Our St Michael's day service at the end of September was attended by seventeen people and a collection of £50.62 made.

Plaster repairs to the ceiling above the west side of the north Transept have been completed and a certain amount of re-decoration carried out. There will be more to do in 2012. This little church always seems to have a new damp patch or crack appearing and it is important that we keep on top of things. Your help makes this possible.

So what next? Plans for next year include the completion of the work on the Vestry and the development of a churchyard trail. This will draw together the histories of some of the people who rest there, to be presented in a new booklet. Do get in touch if you know any interesting stories.

As ever, there will be the continued need for further fundraising. Although we are hopeful of some further grant assistance for the churchyard trail, the completion of the internal re-decoration is estimated at £4,000 and further external notice and information boards required are estimated at £1,500.

Finally we will be rounding off the year and indeed welcoming in the new with our annual candle light carol service. This year it is on New Year's Day at 6.00 pm. We would love to see you there and hope that you might join for some festive cheer after the service.

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<http://www.stmichaelsbyc.org.uk>

Facebook:

We now have over 25 people who 'like' our Facebook page. Find us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsbetws>

Just Text Giving:

Just text SQNX30 and the amount (say £5) and send it to 70070