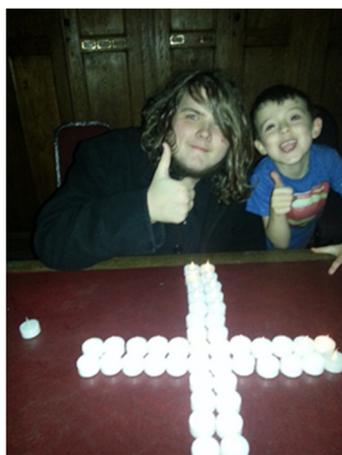


Plwyf St Catherine Pontypridd **Pontypridd St Catherine Parish**



Proclaiming and Living God's Transforming Love

*Annual Report of the
Parochial Church Council
for the Year Ended
31 December 2013*

Registered Charity number 1151985

ST. CATHERINE' S CHURCH and Glyncoch All Saint's Congregation
are in the parish of PONTYPRIDD ST CATHERINE, in the Area Deanery of
PONTYPRIDD and the diocese of LLANDAFF, in the CHURCH IN WALES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Kingsley John

Parish Bank Accounts with the Co-operative Bank

CHURCH ARCHITECT: Steve Knott, The Ferris Partnership

MEMBERSHIP of the PCC

“It is the responsibility of both the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent to work together and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance to the parish for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the parish”

Constitution of the Church in Wales, Chapter VI section 22.

(from Annual Vestry Meeting 2013)

INCUMBENT: Revd. Peter Lewis, The Vicarage, Gelliwastad Grove, Pontypridd CF37 2BS

CHURCH WARDENS:

Lisa Evans (Vicar's Warden) Val Booth (People's Warden)

ELECTED PCC MEMBERS (in addition to wardens)

Mark Broadway, Rhian Satherely, Andrew Sowerby, Lorraine Booth, Pat Williams, Julie Davies, Bianca Broadway, Stephen Cousins.

At the Annual Vestry Meeting in 2013 it was that the PCC would have to have a total of 12 members, including wardens and Treasurer; staff members would not be on the PCC ex-officio.

PCC Secretary: Rhian Satherley

Parish Treasurer: David Tazzini-Lloyd

OTHER PARISH OFFICERS

Health and Safety: Sam Trask

Safeguarding: Rona Satherely

Diocesan Conference Rep: Rhian Sathererly

Deanery Conference: Mark Broadway, Rhain Satherely, Rona Satherely, Sam Trask, Jason Cardy.

1. Review of the year

Vicar's Report for 2013

A number of church folk have mentioned that they felt that Marcus, the previous vicar, helped the congregation to know the Christian Faith, and my own role since I arrived in 2012 has been to help them live out the Christian Faith. Certainly 2013 has been a year of activity, in part driven by the completion of the building project and its subsequent usage. Spiritually, we have been driven forward by certain scriptural verses which proclaim the need to rebuild the community around (Isaiah 61:1-3a The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor... Isaiah 58: 12 You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community liveable again... Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...) but also the conviction that unless we build this Kingdom of God in Pontypridd alongside and with other churches, we labour in vain.

So 2013 has been a busy year as we've acted upon the way people have been listening to the LORD and responding in trust that He will provide all that is needed. I'm grateful to Trish, Gill, Mike, Lorraine, David and all who've been in leadership to putting up with so much uncertainty as progression has taken place, but not without the giving of much time and effort. Great excitement accompanied the challenge of using the renovated hall in creative ways that engaged with the community and partner organisations. I'm thankful for the people who gave time and energy into the planning of developing the existing children's and older peoples work into CONNECT, the umbrella for these activities, the new community cafe and hiring of rooms. Having had some 6 months of these works, we have seen great connection into the lives of people who would have never come into church, but with whom we are coming alongside and nurturing faith. In 2014, I would like us to develop the business plan of Connect to strengthen links with community groups, employ a co-ordinator (especially to develop the volunteering), and to provide the context for sharing our faith. I perceive that we are a faithful presence in Pontypridd. Theologically, we are an 'apologetics of presence', testifying to the goodness and power of the LORD through being here, extending welcome, demonstrating love, proclaiming transformation. We observe this in Jeremiah 29:7, where the people of God who were in exile were encouraged by the LORD to seek the welfare of the city where they were now living, to contribute critically and constructively to a flourishing public square. I believe that St Catherine's, with other town churches, has this central geographic position so that we can establish a relationship with the town itself.

Sunday services remain an important time of worship and teaching; building up confidence of sharing faith will be key in our teaching in 2014. Whilst we remain a relatively small church in

terms of our congregation size, the staff feel that we've been given a substantial agenda from the LORD. It is a careful balance for me to try and perceive what God is encouraging us to be and do, but all these things need people to support projects and be part of groups. We have struggled over the year to get key responsibilities taken over by folk and in some ways I ended 2013 feeling rather frustrated and concerned with the level of jobs left hanging with me to look at. This has to change in 2014, with a realisation that all need to develop an outlook of discipleship that declares we are all called and all able to contribute to the life and mission of St Catherine's.

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council in 2013

The PCC met 5 times in 2012/13.

- The PCC became a registered charity (1151985). Thanks to David TL for managing this transition which will help us in our funding applications and the development of CONNECT. It was decided that Connect would not be set up as an independent charity, but would operate under St Catherine's, as advised by the Church in Wales legal team. To comply with the aims and objectives of the Church in Wales, the voting members of the Connect Management Committee can only be members of the PCC.
- The PCC adopted a new Mission Action Plan in July under the theme of Proclaiming and Living God's Transforming Love. This is reviewed and developed at meetings and a copy is in the appendix of this report.
- The PCC subgroups continued to meet, with some groups developing their projects with more ease than others. Resources and Pastoral group looked at welcoming people to church, Discipleship looked at using the church for prayer, Mission group changed it's focus to evangelism and set up the monthly evangelism on the streets and a regular series on sharing faith in sermons. Children & Youth continued to strategise the use of Messy Church. As 2013 progressed, we identified that better communication was needed between groups
- The PCC staff reviews continued and following the end of the Big Lottery Funding in September, Mike Ford moved to Egypt. We are grateful for his involvement in developing partner organisations with Connect.
- Peter discussed some building works with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and we did not need to apply for a faculty for moving the sound system to the back of church (planned for 2014) but did need approval for changes to the car park and outside lighting. Planning permission was received from RCT and a faculty applied for in January 2014.
- A number from the PCC joined the Vicar at a church leaders conference organised by Willow Creek in October and Andy and Peter began to work on how his roles in leadership could be delegated through a new leadership structure in church life.
- The expected changes in parish boundaries in relation to neighbouring parishes were not undertaken but some informal meetings took place between Peter and other priest, with the expectation that in future years all the parishes in Pontypridd would become one mission area.
- The PCC were made aware of changes to the safeguarding process in the diocese and how those applying for DBS approval (police checks) had now to send their confirmation of clearance to Peter or Rona for sending on to the Representative Body for approval. An updated Church in Wales safeguarding policy wording was adopted.

- Eucharistic Assistants nominated following the Annual Vestry Meeting were licensed by the Archbishop: MaryAnne Cousins, Stephen Cousins, Syliva Clayton, Pat Williams, David Jenkins, Val Booth, Richard Griffiths, Stuart Gregory, Tegwyn Lewis, Jane Lewis, Gill Morgan, Elspeth James, Derek Philips, Alan Wilson, Stewart Franklin, Rhian Satherely, Mark Broadway, Emma Franklin.
- The church in Wales web sites were updated.
- A quinquennial inspection was undertaken by Steve Knott in March and although we had planned to apply for a grant for some of the remedial work (repairs to have flooring, to organ chamber window and outside walls) he advised us in November that competition for the Heritage Lottery Fund as too great and we should delay until 2014 and apply to CADW in March.
- It was agreed that at every PCC meeting we would have both Connect Management Committee reports and Health and Safety report on the agenda.
- It is with much sadness, we remember Lil Jones and George Johnson, church members who died since our last annual report was published. We thank the Lord for their example in life and faithfulness.

Parish Life in 2013

Proclaiming and Living God's Transforming Love

Resources:

- The building work was completed and we moved in during February. Additional work was undertaken in the hall to open up the kitchen for the cafe. The old kitchen area in church was demolished and the sink moved to the inner vestry with hot water provided there also. The new mezzanine floor was great for storage but sound travelled easily from one side of the first floor to the other over this open air, with the result that by the end of the year we needed to approach Ferris Partnership for advice on how to build a partition wall on the mezzanine floor to reduce sound. They advised that storage would then be limited. The new lift in the hall has been beneficial but often breaking down. The new alarm system was completed in 2013 and is now used when the building is empty.
- The parish office was set up with volunteers producing the weekly news letter. A photocopier was hired and a NAS set up for data storage.
- We have developed the foyer as a place of welcome and tidied the church. Wifi is available in the church.
- We have had a push on gift direct as the best way of giving to church life.
- Working with folk from Interlink (RCT's volunteer group) and from Community 2.0 (getting RCT online), our Connect business plan was compiled and used to develop the use of the hall, which led us to a grant to install wifi and computers in the hall.
- Our church Log book and Terrier was updated and a copy sent to the Representative Body. This should be repeated in 2014 to include recent changes after the building works.

Pastoral:

- We welcomed more people into church through the Connect groups and started some new meetings in the cafe for people with IT, Tai Chi and walks. The provision of low cost soup and sandwiches and hot drinks and cakes has drawn people into the cafe and we want to promote this for more vulnerable people to find a welcome. Homeless people and those without money are offered free drinks.
- PCC subgroups planned a welcome team for people coming to church on Sunday
- The parish visiting group continues to support people and it is likely that in 2014 we will visit more of the residential care homes in the town.

- We organised some great Wednesdays visiting other churches: Newport Cathedral, Brecon Cathedral, the Lightship in Cardiff Bay.
- The Mothers' Union took the decision to disband at the end of the year as there was no one who would take on the role as Branch Leader. However, members were encouraged to join neighbouring parish Mothers' Union Branches and the St Catherine's group continue to meet each month for social interaction in the cafe.
- Although our connections with the student population remained weak we welcome students from overseas with us during summer courses, especially teachers from Mexico.
- Martine and Peter organised 3 marriage preparation evening events for couples marrying in church and Barbara Thomas became the organist for weddings.
- People attended a Care of the Family course on bereavement care.
- We were part of the leadership for the LAVISH women's group started up in Pontypridd.

Children and Youth:

- The renovated building was appreciated by those at the weekly minikidz groups, with good numbers attending. Trish partnered up with...
- The Godly play centre was used for visiting schools, and Peter met with the RCT county SACRE group for RE to promote this more in 2014. Trish used resources going into schools
- Messy church became a focus in 2013 with more families attending from the toddler groups and an alternative Halloween messy church and Christingle messy church were great events.
- The Sunday night youth club in the hall became unsustainable and we need to reconsider our youth work in 2014. However the SPREE youth camp was very successful in July.
- Over 2013 Trish spent time training a team to lead Junior Church (Sunday school).
- Trish continued in her role delivering collective worship and classroom work with local schools on behalf over all the Pontypridd Anglican parishes.
- Peter started assemblies and PSE classes in Ponty High.
- We began to support Home for Good, a group promoting adoption and fostering. A representative from RCT fostering visited church in November and Connect cafe provided cakes for their Xmas event.

Discipleship:

- To centralise our nurturing and to encourage people to come to a central venue the two evening homegroups were stopped and a weekly meeting held on Thursdays in the hall. The monthly prayer meeting was very poorly attended and so this was stopped so that the Thursday night group would taken on that function.
- We offered the diocesan Living Faith course with other local parishes but this was not very popular. We put on the START introduction to Christianity at the end of 2013 to which some people from Connect groups came.
- We offered opportunities for prayer ministry on Sunday mornings in church.
- We held three parish retreats at Ty Mawr convent: one on being held in God's hands, one for prayer and one on the prayer "My boat is so small Lord and Thy ocean so great".
- Peter began assisting at Cardiff deaf community church each month.
- The Glyncoch Sunday service moved to their new community facility.
- A library of books to help people grow in faith was set up in church.
- We held an event in February to help people see their gifting and what God is calling them into.
- Rhun apIwan from St Michael's College was on student placement with us.
- An icon area was set up church with candles to light as part of their prayer, which has proven very popular to visitors to the church and parents in the toddlers group and Connect adult groups.
- Following the trip to Mable, a weekly 6am prayer meeting was held in Temple Baptist church cottage to pray for our town and area.

Mission:

- With Temple Baptist and Trallwn Elim, we set up Christians Against Poverty debt centre, managed by Lorraine with Eirys as a debt coach. They developed this with volunteer befrienders in our churches going out to clients. We held a successful New Year hoedown in church to raise funds.
- Seven people were trained to run CAP money management courses and the first was held in November as a trial for 2014.
- We initiated monthly street evangelism on Saturdays with other churches and were involved with Easter's Power in the Park (although we felt this the wrong time of year for the event).
- Peter accompanied other church leaders to Mbale in Uganda in September, after which we set up a church link with Namatala's Anglican Church. We agreed in 2014 to provide money for a computer for vicar Michael and training for poultry rearing, brick making and micro-finance projects. The Pont churches subgroup reformed in Pontypridd.
- Connect Cafe was set up as place to meet and to interact with folk who don't come to church. We developed volunteering in the cafe as an opportunity for non-church folk to be involved.
- We partnered Purple Shoots (starting small business) and Welcome Friends (work with older people) in Connect as well as the Saturday Contact Centre, RNIB, local police drop in.
- We continued to support Pontypridd Foodbank with donations of food and were able to encourage other groups to give.
- Peter continued as RCT Mayor's Chaplain and networked with our MP and AMs, town council and Pontypridd regeneration groups (including SPLASH for the new open air pool).
- A noticeboard for Care for the Family was put up and two book boxes bought (to be used in 2014)
- Street Pastors continued to be a focus of action and prayer and in November we had a marriage service for a couple we befriended.
- At Christmas we enjoyed singing in the indoor market and Peter plans in 2014 to have a more regular presence in the market to offer prayers to people.

2. Church Attendance in 2013

- There has been a drop in the numbers attending services, but the actual number of different people who are coming to church has gone up (the average attendees each week) which indicates that people coming to church on Sunday but less likely to come to more than once service. In particular there are less people coming to church in the evening. Whilst we are getting new people coming to church, the personal circumstances of many faithful parishioners have meant that they've not been coming to church so frequently in 2013.
- In 2013 we had less baptisms of non-church babies in the all age services resulting in a drop in the numbers at all ages. The thanksgiving services took place on Saturdays and these families and not included in our figures here.
- The number of weddings have increased and in 2014 there will be more again.
- The Wednesday service has a growing number of people attending who are new to our church or who have transferred from Sunday services.
- When there is a 5th Sunday of the month (and no 11am or 6pm service) as in 2012, there is no corresponding increase at the 8am service on that Sunday. This is the Sunday that we encourage folk to go to another church congregation.

	2011	2012	2013
Electoral Roll at AVM	128	132	130
Easter Communicants		82	107
Christmas Communicants	100	103	100
Pentecost attendants	50	96	73
Trinity III (4 th Sunday Pentecost) attendants	60	88	67
Average weekly numbers in church over 18 yrs:			
Average weekly numbers at St Catherine's 8am		18	14
Average weekly numbers at St Catherine's 11am		59	54
Average weekly numbers at St Catherine's 6pm		26	18
Average weekly numbers at Glyncoch Hall 9.30am		6	6
Average weekly numbers Wednesday communion		19	20
<i>Normal Sunday St Catherine's (8am, 11am, 6pm)</i>		<i>103</i>	<i>86</i>
Total average weekly numbers		128	112
Parish share, weekly attendees in church, the figure used for calculating parish share *	70	88	90
Funerals in church	3	6	0
Funerals – taken by clergy at other places	9	13	10
Weddings	9	8	10
Baptisms: babies to 7 years	8	6	4
Baptisms: 7 -10 years	0	4	0
Baptisms: over 11 years	0	4	5
Thanksgivings	0	3	4
People who were confirmed	1	0	3 under 18yrs 6 over 18yrs
Children admitted to Communion	0	6	1
	2011	2012	2013
Average number under 7s at Sunday church	10	12	13
Average number under 7-10s at Sunday church	10	10	8
Average number under 11-17s at Sunday church	8	10	14
Average number under 7s at groups (not Sunday)	75	80	110
Av number under 7-10s at groups (not Sunday)	8	12	13
Av number under 11-17s at groups (not Sunday)	2	4	-
Messy Church adults			46
Messy Church under 18 year olds			38

*the average attendees is meant to reflect the total number of different people who attend church per week. We can't accurately know who attended which particular services and so we have calculated this figure by adding all those present at 8am, 9.30am, 11am and Wednesday communion for each week. We believe that a good estimate of those coming twice to church is obtained by not adding in the attendees at the evening service. Once we had all 52 weekly figures we put these in ascending order and removed the bottom and top 13 figures and averaged the remaining 26 figures.

Numbers of communicants and people attending each service in 2013

Which Sunday	Time	Church	<i>Average</i> under 18	<i>Communicants</i> 18 + years	<i>Average</i> under 18	<i>Attendees</i> 18+ years
First	8am	1984 Communion	-	15	-	16
	9.30am	Glyncoch community Hall	-	6	-	6
	11am	All Age Service	-	-	16	51
	6pm	Healing Communion	1	14	1	14
Second	8am	1984 Communion	-	13	-	13
	9.30am	Glyncoch community Hall	-	6	-	6
	11am	Communion	8	52	16	60
	6pm	Evening Worship		-	1	16
Third	8am	1984 Communion	-	13	-	13
	9.30am	Glyncoch community Hall	-	6	-	6
	11am	Communion	8	44	14	50
	6pm	Café Church	-	-	1	18
Fourth	9.30am	1984 Communion	-	14	-	14
	11am	Glyncoch community Hall	-	6	-	6
	11am	Communion	8	46	15	53
	6pm	Youth led service	-	-	7	12
Fifth	8am	1984 Communion	-	18	-	18
	10.30	PCC worship	-	-	4	14
Wed	10am	Communion	-	20	-	20

4. Financial Report Summary 2013

Balances of church accounts as at 31.12.2013

Unrestricted: £4554.53

Restricted: £91684.38

2013 was a challenging year in many respects because we saw a long awaited vision give birth to a brand new building. The Church Hall Project was the culmination of many years of design, patience, austerity and passion.

With most of the money now spent on the Capital project, we resulted in ending under budget slightly which has provided us with some scope to fund other aspects of work that had previously been removed from the Project due to other factors taking precedence; the new Hall roof as one example. We still have some invoices to settle after the Retention period ends; so the Project is nearing completion.

The year saw many new projects planned and established:

- We opened, in conjunction with other Churches in Pontypridd, a Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre. This Project in itself costs over £7000 per year to run, and it is the PCC's conviction to develop the Centre through to a Long Term Project.
- The Café started trading in 2013, and I am pleased to report that it is making a healthy profit in the first six months of trading.
- In 2013 the PCC committed St Catherine's to support the RCT-wide PONT Project in Uganda. St Catherine's is now linked with an Anglican Church in Namatala which we are looking to assist financially.

At year end, the Church had an unrestricted income of £106,785.78 and a total expenditure of £111,759.37, which upon initial inspection does not make a good headline. However, when you consider the new Projects that we have embarked upon, much of the expenditure may be seen as a 'one-off'.

I must exercise a word of caution too. Our expenditure has increased by 3%. But when one considers the increased front line service that we are providing, we are doing very well indeed. Overall, we have done well in minimising our expenditure, but we do need to increase our income in order fulfil all of our mission and charitable objectives.

One issue was raised during 2012-13, and that was around the area of personal giving to the Church. We discussed several ways in which we need to make St Catherine's financially viable and self-sufficient. This has been an ongoing issue. As we look to 2014, we will continue to look at this very important area. Without an increase in giving, we will be unable to achieve more than half of what we would like to do in our community moving forwards.

In 2014, we also need to build up our Reserves, as the Building Project and the volume of cash injections to the Church from the Reserves, means that we are very low indeed in this respect. I have attended several free courses which have been run by the Diocese in it's SALT programme. This is has been a good opportunity to learn and share best-practices with other Churches in the Diocese.

I would like to thank Kingsley John for his valued support in examining and approving our Financial Return for 2013, which I present to you.

I would like to thank Mark Broadway for his help as my Assistant and for being someone to bounce my ideas off, along with Rev Peter Lewis, Trish, Gemma, the PCC and the Connect Management Committee. All of your support and prayers have been greatly valued and appreciated.

A Church of this size simply cannot run without the help of volunteers. This is evidenced each and every day, involving so many people. No monetary value can be placed upon those who give so freely of their time and talents. The truth is, we cannot do without you. Thank you; and may the Lord bless you!

David Tazzini-Lloyd

5. Fabric Reports for 2013

1. Steve Knott undertook the quinquennial report in March and a subgroup of Lisa, David Carver and the Vicar was set up to determine ways ahead. Taliesin were asked to remove vegetation around the building but this was not carried out in 2013. The group identified 3 important works to be funded in 2014: repairs to the nave flooring, repairs to the window behind the organ, repairs to the outside wall causing ingress of water problems near the All Saints Chapel end of the nave.
2. The renovation project for the church hall was completed in February 2013 and over the continuing months we settled into the new building and foyer which acted as the new main entrance. Snagging points were picked up as time went by and it is likely that we will have a small amount of money left over to fund the outside lighting and a partition wall on the mezzanine floor to prevent sound transfer from one end of the building to the other. The kitchen in church was removed and the sink and cupboard transferred to the inner vestry with an improved water supply.
3. From 2013, both the hall and church are classed as one building, St Catherine's Church for insurance matters with Ecclesiastical Insurance. They required an electrical certificate and the inspection was carried out in June with a new switch board installed in church for the lighting.
4. David Carver and the Vicar drew up plans for works on the car park to improve lighting and access. The Form 1 was submitted for faculty and a visit of the DAC resulted in some suggestions. Form 2 will be submitted in early 2014. Planning permission from RCT was applied for in September, in conjunction with the change of use of the church hall into the part-time café. By the end of 2013 we were still awaiting their consent.
5. We were successful in obtaining a grant from the Welsh Church Act for the fencing work between Vicarage and church but at the end of 2013 were still awaiting a start date from Taliesin. Part of this work involving the capping stones on the walls would be good to combine with the re-design of the drive entrance walls.
6. Plans were drawn up for moving the sound system in the church to the back of the nave. Funding was in place but at the end of 2013 we were still awaiting a start date from Tim Phipps. Sarah Perons of the DAC advised us that a faculty was not required for this.
7. Taliesin replace light bulbs on three occasions in 2013 and it was agreed that in time we should investigate a new light system. The Vicar arranged for two lighting firms to visit the church but neither returned plans for the works. He and Stewart Franklin looked at an infrared system in a church in Somerset that combined lights and heating units, that would be used to give heat when people were in the building, with the gas on for background heat. The PCC submitted Faculty form 1 for the Diocesan Advisory Committee to give feedback. They were not very keen on the idea of electricity as they felt this would be expensive, however the PCC will pursue this.
8. Egan Waste investigated blocked drains outside the vestry and flushed the system, preventing further flooding in that area.
9. Health and Safety Issues. These have been discussed at the PCC and action taken but at the close of 2013 one outstanding work was to collate COSH forms for substances used in Connect and cleaning.

2013 Parish Report

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Peter Lewis

Feb 19th 2014

Signed by The Revd. Peter Lewis
PCC Chairman
Date

Living and proclaiming God's restoring love

St Catherine's Mission Action Plan (MAP) from summer 2013

Vicar Peter had a picture of St Catherine's people being used by God to spread good news: a late summer garden border of plants full of seeds being dispersed in different ways: shooting off, dropped, stuck to animals, helicoptering away... This MAP reflects our calling to further God's kingdom as the Parochial Church Council and staff have worshipped, prayed and discussed. The plan considers both the attitude of our church fellowship and specific action points for the next year (**short term, S**), the following 2 to 3 years (**mid term, M**) and up to the next 5 years (**long term, L**)

Key Bible verses from Isaiah and Matthew

We each have a great calling to demonstrate to the people of Pontypridd that God puts things right in the lives of people around us. We need to be sensitive to the needs in our community and act by faith to seek God's restoration and regeneration unfold around us.

Isaiah 61:1-3a (New International Version) *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,*

because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Our church building is to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where we strive to welcome all and connect their life into the love of God. Our worship services, community projects and everyday-life should resound with good news.

Isaiah 58: 12 (The Message) *You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past.*

You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,

make the community liveable again.

The prophet Isaiah is both calling his people into holy living, centred on worshipping the Lord in everyday life and also declaring that God will work through them to further His Kingdom as they reflect his goodness in their community. We therefore want to equip church members to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus knowing that He equips them in practical ways as part of the local fellowship of church congregations in the town.

Matthew 11:28-30 (New International Version) *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Mission Action Plan Points

Living for Jesus. We are to be a church where there is a place for each person to share what God is saying so we have a common vision in creating a strategy for church life and mission, yet we are to be driven by God's Spirit. We will continue to develop a shared pattern for governance through the PCC with subgroups taking forward certain areas: discipleship, pastoral, children/youth, resources, evangelism.

- We welcome people as part of our fellowship from all backgrounds and stages of faith, encouraging people to explore how God is gifting them. This means putting on Christian enquirers' groups, equipping people for participation, investing in training, helping us to listen to God's calling. **ACTION:** *Change the Wednesday lunch time Bible group to an enquirers group, (S); plan regular Alpha groups, (M)*
- In worship services we'll celebrate diversity of styles & traditions to be accessible to newcomers, expand our experience & bridge to other church traditions in Ponty. We will nurture music. **ACTION:** *develop our sound system (S); revamp our red worship music books (M); put on training events for musicians e.g. invite Greg Leavers (M)*
- A key development is growing disciples so that our congregations can be better agents of God in life. We seek a practical edge to our sermons and we want to teach more about growing our prayer-life. We are to be caught up in our everyday worship and will promote a sacrificial attitude to the Lord, including giving of time, prayer, money, joy. **ACTION:** *create a library in church of key books that can help people offer themselves afresh to God (S); encourage people to a central discipleship group mid-week which we want to grow in time to other groups (S); create sermon series on topics over several weeks (M); have a 24 hour prayer meeting to encourage folk to gather for prayer (S); promote our annual parish retreats away and encourage folk to come to the New Wine summer conference together (M)*
- A sense of healing and God speaking to us should be part of each service. **ACTION:** *seek support from New Wine Cymru for a leader to spend time with us and discern a plan as a critical friend (M); teach in sermons and train more people so we can offer prayer ministry in all our services (S).*
- We need to develop our parish administration. **ACTION:** *find funding for a part-time post for co-ordinating the administration side of the church (also a role in Connect) (S); the staff need to find ways of organising some work so that others can help with the admin and we can train more volunteers in the office (S); develop a parish database for communication (S); improve our web site and social media profile (S)*
- Create better social relationships within (and between) the congregations; use our improved facilities for socialising. **ACTION:** *set up informal gatherings that can help us grow as friends and allow us to bring our friends along e.g. monthly pub night, after Sunday services (S); have a plan for church social*

events throughout the year that can be promoted at all the services and for Connect groups – set up an social events group (S)

- The parish children's worker will continue to hand over the running of Sunday children's activities to other leaders so that a team will grow this work and allow the children's worker to focus on mission projects. **ACTION:** *encourage the Sunday children leaders (S).*
- Invest in our youth discipleship. **ACTION:** *Focus our youth work on the children coming up into Year 7/8 and look to follow this age group providing ways that equip them in their discipleship and involves them: develop a youth band, revamp 4th Sunday 6pm service, connect more to PYC/Big Ideas/ Urban Saints (S/M); pursue using our parish as an internship for Church youth workers in training as way of growing our youth work e.g. Bristol courses (M).*
- Improve our service to people in residential care, housebound folk and those not well. **ACTION:** *put on new training, recruit extra visitors, work with other parishes (S/M).*
- With a growing level of activity we will encourage church members and other to take on small volunteer roles. **ACTION:** *gardening & cleaning teams will take place more regularly, use a board in church for people to find out what is needed and sign up. (S)*

Community Projects bringing renewal. As our town infrastructure is being renewed, we seek the renewing of the hearts of people because our God is a missionary God.

- We will rebrand all the work in the parish hall under the umbrella of Connect, to include Connect cafe and the hiring of rooms as our parish social enterprise and also our community projects with children and with adults. As we build relationships with the families, individuals and organisations that come, Connect will be our hub of mission offering pastoral support and developing friendships, generating income. Connect will continue to have a management group to oversee its roles but be subject to the PCC's authority with PCC members as its core voting members. **ACTION:** *Integrate Connect as a structure with the PCC, find Connect committee members including treasurer (S)*
- We will develop new links for Connect and continue to develop the cafe area: **ACTION:** *sound-proof the hall (S) put in a better serving area (S); partner with Care for the Family for courses like positive parenting, opening a children's clothes bank/exchange; with CAP for CAP money course, CAP job club, a CAP clinic; partner with RSVP lunch club; sign-post to community agencies (S, M)*
- Connect needs a part-time member of staff for roles of administration, co-ordinating volunteers, welcoming user groups. **ACTION:** *Look for funding for this role to sustain Connect work and combine it with administration roles in the parish office (S); in time, we would like to use CONNECT to offer practical*

- help to people who may be in need e.g. decorating, gardening, befriending (M/L); explore the use of the church and hall as a conferencing facility (S).*
- After the present funding for the children's worker comes to an end in 2014, we will develop this role with a greater focus on community projects and less church based. **ACTION:** *look for funding (S).*
 - We need to listen to God for us to know how to increase our presence in Glyncoch, **ACTION:** *the Vicar to increase his time in the village, using the Community Centre as a base (S); seek links for the children's worker to start up our toddler's work at Glyncoch community centre (and seek funding) (S); develop more of a partnership with David Carr's church (M)*
 - St Catherine's has connections to the civic side of Pontypridd and deepen these links. **ACTION:** *the Vicar to try and regularly meet up with those in local authority and town council, MP and AM just to help support them through prayer (S); encourage church members to be involved in local issues (M)*

Working alongside other Christians. We believe that we should always engage with other churches in the parish to work alongside them, to collaborate with and to bless their projects.

- Promote an understanding that mission in Pontypridd should involve all Christians working in unity. **ACTION:** *invite speakers from other churches to our services (S); develop joint times of prayer and worship (S); promote joint projects like Street Pastors, Power in the Park, CAP, Food Bank (S/M/L)*
- When we feel that God is prompting us into action, we will invite other churches to be part of these projects. **ACTION:** *set up Healing on The Streets; look for ways to serve homeless people in the town (S/M)*
- Develop meaningful relationships with Christians overseas. **ACTION:** *grow our new links with Mbale via PONT (M), promote The Soteria Trust as way of our church folk sponsoring children and workers in Nigeria (S); use our information boards to tell the stories of how our church members support world church projects, find someone to co-ordinate this (S).*
- Develop our links with schools. **ACTION:** *The children's worker will continue as a Ponty deanery schools workers and seek to be a resource for those parishes to deepen their school's connection (S/M); the Vicar will continue to offer his service at the High School to support curriculum work, collective worship and to offer CAP Money course (S/M)*
- There is virtually no Welsh language worship in Pontypridd. **ACTION:** *Pray to discern if it is right to foster links with Welsh speaking Christians in order to develop our Welsh language prayer, worship and evangelism (M, L)*

St Catherine's as a place to find refreshment. For folk who think they are in hopeless situations, we want them to find their lives and hope restored through God's presence through seeing the church building as an oasis of peace.

- We need to build a better sense of welcome in the church and foster a deeper sense of care amongst our congregation. **ACTION:** *We will improve the physical welcome around the buildings as money comes in (S); we need to build a team of people who can sustain a welcoming attitude during services which endures for people to stay connected to St Cath's (S)*
- Invite people to use the church for prayer. **ACTION:** *The church is to be kept open more often as a place of prayer and we will set up a simple prayer walk around the church that also describes some of its features (this will also be wifi driven using our website for smart phones) (S/M). We will have a simple prayer station in the foyer for users of the building to connect to prayer, using these in church intercessions. (S)*
- We will focus on the quinquennial inspection report's recommendations. **ACTION:** *repairs to the nave flooring, outside pointing (ingression of water near the godly play area), the area behind the organ (S/M); we will build a plan for improving the heating & lighting (M); develop the memorial garden as a public area (M)*
- Improve our links to students. **ACTION:** *form better links with the University through offering space for art/installation displays and connecting better to the Student Populations, possibly through CAP Money course (M).*
- Invite more people into church as a venue. **ACTION:** *develop our godly play work amongst local primary schools (S); include the local deaf community more in church events (M); extend our marriage preparation to putting on events for enriching marriages (M); continue to use Messy Church as a regular time of worship for drawing in families (S)*
- Consider the repair needs of the church organ. **ACTION:** *Consult with the diocese on ways forward and costings (M/L)*