

TAFF RHYMNEY MINISTRY AREA CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act).

We report in respect of our examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of The Act, and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of The Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and we are qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ACCA.

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect: -

1. accounting records are not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of The Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

JLS + Co Accountants Limited

JLS & Co Accountants Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
112 Gilfach Street
Bargoed
CF81 8LQ

Dated

27 October 2025
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Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December, 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	890,000	-	890,000	-
Investments	7	53,163	-	53,163	-
Total fixed assets		943,163	-	943,163	-
Current assets					
Other Debtors	8	1,320		1,320	
Cash at bank and in hand	9	102,395	66,700	169,096	-
Total current assets		103,715	66,700	170,416	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	121,442	-	121,442	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		(17,727)	66,700	48,974	-
Total assets less current liabilities		925,436	66,700	992,136	-
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities		925,436	66,700	992,136	-
Funds of the Charity	11				
Unrestricted funds		35,436	-	35,436	-
Restricted funds		-	66,700	66,700	-
Revaluation reserve		890,000	-	890,000	-
Total funds		925,436	66,700	992,136	-

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Susan Rivers, Lay Chair

S. a. Rivers
Signature

26th October 2025
Date

Angela Treherne, Secretary

A G Treherne
Signature

26th October 2025
Date

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st December, 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
		£	£	£	£
Incoming resources	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		197,813	28,390	226,203	-
Charitable activities		13,329	3,066	16,395	-
Other trading activities		56,397	20	56,417	-
Investments		4,764	890	5,655	-
Separate material item of income		-	-	-	-
Other Income		3,464	-	3,464	-
Total		275,768	32,366	308,133	-
Interest Gross					
Resources expended	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		842	-	842	-
Charitable activities		191,136	14,116	205,252	-
Separate material item of expense		189,510	-	189,510	-
Other Expenditure		10,521	-	10,521	-
Total		392,009	14,116	406,125	-
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(116,241)	18,250	(97,992)	-
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(116,241)	18,250	(97,992)	-
Extraordinary items				-	-
Transfers between funds		5,174	(5,174)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	7	890,000	-	890,000	-
Other gains/(losses)		3,263	-	3,263	-
Net movement in funds		782,196	13,076	795,272	-
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		143,240	53,624	196,865	-
Total funds carried forward		925,436	66,700	992,136	-

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

1 Basis of preparation

1.1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value except for certain items of fixed assets as stated below.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

The Statement of Recommended Practice(SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014;

The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);

And with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at historical cost and all costs incurred to bring it to its working condition are included in the cost. The revaluation method is used for subsequent measurement of the fixed asset through recognition of revaluations gains / losses less depreciation and impairment charges. Church buildings and Churchyards are vested in the Representative body of the Church in Wales and do not ordinarily form part of the fixed assets of the Ministry Area. Moveable Church contents are inalienable property and require a faculty for disposal. Many are historic for which no reliable cost or valuation bases exist. They are not recognised on the Balance sheet nor listed, to reduce the risk of theft and vandalism.

Depreciation

Depreciation is charged to write-off a fixed asset's carrying amount over its useful life to its estimated residual value, using a method that best reflects the pattern in which the asset's economic benefits are consumed by the Charity. Non-residential buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis at the rate of 1.5% per financial year.

Item	Depreciation Method	Average Useful Life
Non-residential Buildings	Straight Line	50 years

Since all valuations were performed soon after the 31 December 2024 year end date, no depreciation has been charged in this year.

Opening Balances

This is the first set of annual financial statements for the Charity since its registration as a charitable incorporated organisation(CIO) and therefore all opening balances are from the individual churches that pooled resources into the formation of this Ministry Area.

1.2 Going Concern

The Trustees have considered whether the Ministry Area continues to be a going concern and are satisfied that there are sufficient funds to meet obligations as they fall due for at least the twelve months following the year end.

2 Accounting Policies

2.1 Income

Recognition of income

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:
the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and
the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP).

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

Legacies

Legacies are included in the SOFA when receipt is probable, that is, when there has been grant of probate, the executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met.

Government grants

The Charity received grants from the Caerphilly Borough Council during the year.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when the donor has expressly consented for the claiming of gift aid tax relief/refund from the HMRC on the donated amount. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

Reserves Policy

The Ministry Area is committed to maintain unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover basic Ministry Area expenditure costs of the Charity including staff and redundancy costs for a period of three months.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

Income from interest, royalties and dividends

This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

Settlement of insurance claims

Insurance claims are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met (5.10 to 5.12 FRS102 SORP) and are included as an item of other income in the SoFA.

Investment gains and losses

This includes any realised or unrealised gains or losses on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

2.2 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Redundancy cost

The charity made no redundancy payments during the reporting period.

Deferred income

No material item of deferred income has been included in the accounts.

Creditors

The charity has creditors which are measured at settlement amounts less any trade discounts.

Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

2.3 Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

They are initially measured using the historical cost model and subsequently measured using the revaluation model.

The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in note 1.

Investments

Fixed asset investments in quoted shares, traded bonds and similar investments are valued at initially at cost and subsequently at fair value (their market value) at the year end. The same treatment is applied to unlisted investments unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.

Investments held for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than 1 year are treated as current asset investments.

Debtors

Debtors (including trade debtors and loans receivable) are measured on initial recognition at settlement amount after any trade discounts or amount advanced by the charity. Subsequently, they are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be received.

Current asset investments

The charity has investments which it holds for resale or pending their sale and cash and cash equivalents with a maturity date less than one year. These include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity date of less than one year held for investment purposes rather than to meet short term cash commitments as they fall due.

They are valued at fair value except where they qualify as basic financial instruments.

3 Analysis of Income	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Donations & Legacies				
Donations and Gifts	153,462	27,760	181,221	-
Gift Aid	18,508	-	18,508	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-
General grants provided by government/other	25,843	630	26,473	-
Other Income	3,464	0	3,464	-
	201,277	28,390	229,667	-
Charitable Activities				
Fees	13,329	3,066	16,395	-
	13,329	3,066	16,395	-
Other Trading Activities				
Fund raising	56,397	20	56,417	-
Rentals	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
	56,397	20	56,417	-
Income from Investments				
Dividends/investment income	4,050	0	4,050	-
Bank and building society interest	673	890	1,564	-
Rent from investment land or buildings	41	0	41	-
	4,764	890	5,655	-
Total Income	275,768	32,366	308,133	-

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

4 Analysis of Expenditure

	This Year			Last Year		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds						
Raising funds	842	0	842	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	842	-	842	-	-	-
Charitable activities						
General Parish Expenses	29,062	0	29,062	-	-	-
Maintenance of Churches	72,007	13,986	85,993	-	-	-
Parochial Expenses of Clerics	10,670	0	10,670	-	-	-
Other Ministry Support	55	0	55	-	-	-
Maintenance of Services	6,360	0	6,360	-	-	-
Maintenance of other property	53,772	130	53,902	-	-	-
Exceptional Expenditure	14,561	0	14,561	-	-	-
Mission: Parish	4,648	0	4,648	-	-	-
Other Expenditure	10,521	0	10,521	-	-	-
	201,657	14,116	215,773	-	-	-
Separate material item of expense						
Diocesan Share	189,510	0	189,510	-	-	-
	189,510	-	189,510	-	-	-
Other						
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	392,009	14,116	406,125	-	-	-

5 Paid Employees

5.1 Staff Costs

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and wages	1,611	-
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	-	-
Other employee benefits	-	-
	1,611	-

5.2 Average headcount in the year

	This Year	Last Year
Charitable Activities	1	0
Total	1	0

Stipendiary clergy are appointed and supported by the Diocese of Llandaff.

Contributions are made by the charity to the Diocese, which are pooled and used to pay clergy and other costs across the Diocese.

The Trustees are volunteers and receive no remuneration or other payments from the charity beyond reimbursed expenses.

There were no transactions with Trustees or related parties in the year

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

6 Fixed Assets	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
6.1 Cost or Valuation					
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	890,000	-	-	-	890,000
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	890,000	-	-	-	890,000
6.2 Depreciation and Impairments					
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	-	-
6.3 Net Book Value					
Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value at the end of the year	890,000	-	-	-	890,000

6.4 Revaluation

The services of an independent valuer were engaged in performing the valuation of the Holy Trinity Ystrad Mynach Church Hall Valuation and the St Gwladys Church Hall. The valuation reports estimated the current value of the properties at £300,000.00 per each property. The analysis methodology used in determining the property values involved investigating comparable commercial properties within a 5-mile radius & 3-mile radius respectively of the properties as well as factoring-in their own unique features, amenities and historical significance. The same independent Valuer also undertook the valuation of the St Tyfaelog Church Hall in Pontllytyn and established its value to be £200,000. The methodology involved investigating comparable commercial properties a 5-mile radius, considering its unique features, historical significance, amenities and its location.

Lucas Estates performed valuation analysis for the Community Hall at St John the Baptist Church in Nelson, Treharris and the Community Hall at St Mathias, Bargoed, Treharris. These were respective valued at £50,000.00 and £40,000.00. The ages of the buildings and obtaining planning permission in the event of demolition were considered in determining the valuations.

7 Fixed Asset Investments

	Cash & cash equivalents	Total
	£	£
Carrying (fair) value at beginning of period	49,194	49,194
Add: additions to investments during period	706	706
Less: disposals at carrying value	-	-
Less: impairments	-	-
Add: Reversal of impairments	-	-
Add/(deduct): transfer in/(out) in the period	-	-
Add/(deduct): net gain/(loss) on revaluation	3,263	3,263
Carrying (fair) value at end of year	53,163	53,163

8 Debtors & Prepayments

	This Year	Last Year
Other Debtors - Gift Aid receivable	1,320	-
	1,320	-

9 Cash at bank and in hand

	This Year	Last Year
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	169,096	-
	169,096	-

10 Creditors and Accruals

	This Year	Last Year
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Other creditors - Diocesan Share	118,442	-
IE fees provision	3,000	-
	121,442	-

Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year to 31st December, 2024

11 Charity Funds	Balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains/ losses	Balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Current reporting period						
Unrestricted						
St Aidan, Rhymney Bridge	1,304	474	(579)	-	-	1,199
St Gwladys, Bargoed	13,910	33,481	(38,746)	(300)	300,000	308,345
Parish of Treharris	21,228	43,228	(52,252)	-	90,000	102,205
St Mary and St Andrew, Fochriw	18,911	2,061	(2,464)	(17,227)	-	1,281
St Tyfaelog, Pontlloftyn	7,536	21,752	(24,868)	-	200,000	204,420
Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach	73,016	66,922	(74,918)	(6,968)	300,000	358,052
St Catwg, Gelligaer	7,335	12,035	(37,248)	25,000	-	7,122
St Margaret, Gilfach	-	43,776	(27,251)	(16,631)	-	(107)
Taff Rhymney - central	-	-	(88,876)	-	-	(88,876)
Holy Trinity, Ystrad Mynach Kitchen Fund	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
St Gwladys Church Hall	-	42,039	(44,807)	300	3,263	795
St Catwg's Church Repairs	-	-	-	21,000	-	21,000
Elimination of Inter-Company entries	-	-	-	-	-	-
	143,240	275,767	(392,008)	5,174	893,263	925,436
Restricted						
Church Repairs	-	21,000	-	(21,000)	-	-
Churchyard Maintenance Fund	-	577	(130)	17,227	-	17,674
Holy Trinity Church Yard	-	7,018	(13,986)	6,968	-	-
St Cattwg's and St Margaret's Restricted	41,448	559	-	(25,000)	-	17,008
St Tyfaelog Restricted	-	630	-	-	-	630
St Margaret's Window Repairs	-	2,458	-	16,631	-	19,089
St Margaret's Restoration Fund	12,176	124	-	-	-	12,300
	53,624	32,366	(14,116)	(5,174)	-	66,700

Purpose and Restrictions

St Cattwg's Church Repairs

These funds have been earmarked for the Church repairs at St Cattwg's church.

Churchyard Maintenance Fund

This fund was opened with an express intention to finance the maintenance costs to the churchyard at St Mary's and St Andrew's Church in Fochriw as stated to donors to this fund from inception.

Holy Trinity Churchyard

This fund was setup to finance the maintenance costs of the Churchyard at Holy Trinity Church in Ystrad Mynach.

St Cattwg's and St Margaret's Restricted

Restricted to repairs and maintenance at St Cattwg's and St Margaret's churches.

St Tyfaelog Restricted Fund

Restricted to repairs and maintenance at Tyfaelog church

St Margaret's Window Repairs

The donor to this fund has expressly stated that she desires that the fund be used solely in carrying out window repairs at St Margaret Church in Gilfach.

St Margaret's Restoration Fund

Restricted to cater for repairs and maintenance costs at St Margaret Church

**The Taff Rhymney Ministry Area CIO
Report and Statement of the Trustees
Year ending 31 December 2024**

The members of the Ministry Area Council (hereafter MAC), who are also Trustees of the charity, present their report with financial statements of the Charity for the year ending 31st December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, Accounts and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended practice (SORP) and the Church in Wales Accounting Regulations.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

1208522

Registered Charity Address

The Vicarage,
Cedar Way,
Ystrad Mynach,
CF82 7DR

Trustee Details:

The Trustees and Members of the MAC during the year were as follows:

Clergy

The Reverend Stuart Tanswell (Ministry Area Leader)
The Reverend Gary Powell
The Reverend Gareth Coombes
The Reverend Darren Lynch

Church Wardens

Mrs Sue Hankins
Mrs Louise Lynch

Treasurer

Jane Gibson (August 2024)

Secretary

Angela Treherne (August 2024)

Ministry Area Lay Chair

Edward Williams-Price (until July 2024)
Sue Rivers (August 2024)

Trustees

Emma-Jane Gummet-Preece
Jeff Hankins
Gaynor Middleton
Arlene Samuels
Vicky Morgan
Pam Morgan
Carolyn Corbin

Linda Bartlett
Sarah Steadman (resigned September 2024)
Sue Rivers (until July 2024)
Lorraine Batten (August 2024)
Susan Mills (August 2024)

Independent Examiner

JLS & Co Accountants Limited
112 Gilfach Street, Bargoed,
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Governing Document and organisational Structure

The Church in Wales is a Province within the Anglican Communion and seeks to advance the Christian religion through a worldwide mission.

The Ministry Area of Taff Rhymney was created by decree in 2021 and is part of the Diocese of Llandaff. Taff Rhymney MA has 10 Churches:

- St. Tyfaelog's Church, Ponylottyn,
- St. Aidan's Church, Butetown,
- St Mary & St Andrew's Church Fochriw, Pentwyn,
- St Matthias Church, Treharris,
- St Mabons Church, Llanfabon ,
- St Johns Church Nelson ,
- St Gwladys Church Bargoed,
- St Catwgs Church, Gelligaer,
- St Margaret's Church, Gilfach Bargoed and
- Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach.

MAC members are appointed for 1 year. Additionally, Wardens and the Lay Chair are appointed by the Bishop of Llandaff for terms of 3 years. Clergy are automatically members of the MAC.

Induction and Training of New Trustees

Trustee roles and responsibilities are communicated verbally and through relevant documentation from the Charity Commission. All undertake Church in Wales Safeguarding Training. Whilst there is no formal induction training, Trustees are already members of the Church and so are aware of the goals and aims of the Church. Several are already Trustees for other organisations.

Objectives and Aims

The objectives and aims of the charity are the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical in the Ministry Area (hereafter referred to as the MA). Short term plans and objectives are agreed with the Diocese.

It is the responsibility of the MAC and the Clergy to work together and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance to the MA for the promotion of the objectives and aims.

As required by the Charities Act 2011, the MAC has given due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission in respect of the operation of the public benefit

requirement. The activities undertaken fulfil the MAC's purpose for the public benefit, as described hereunder.

Charitable Activities and Main Achievements

The Ministry Area

The main activities of the MA during the year have been to promote the mission of the Anglican Communion and spread the Gospel to the people of our communities. The MA provides pastoral care, including visiting the sick and local schools, and carries out the usual weddings, baptisms, and funerals.

The 10 churches of the MA are grouped in 5 Districts. Both the MAC and the District committees met regularly through the year.

During the year the original model for the MAC structure saw a change in the Trustee Board with the appointment of Sue Rivers as MA Lay Chair, Angela Treherne and MA Secretary and Jane Gibson as MA Treasurer in August 2024. The establishment of a Ministry Area Executive (comprising the Lay Chair, MA Leader, MA Treasurer, MA Secretary, Clergy and MA Wardens) to formulate the agenda for MAC meetings and deal with key items to bring to the MA Council's attention. MAC meetings are now held every two months (formerly every quarter), meeting at venues around the MA to ensure fair and equal visibility to all our congregations.

A number of Policies were adopted by the MAC in November 2024, namely:

Social Media Policy;

Complaints Policy;

Conflict of Interest Policy;

Whistleblowing Policy;

Equality and Diversity Policy;

Trustee Expenses Policy;

Health and Safety Policy (as laid down by Ecclesiastical Insurance is adopted by the Ministry Area);

The Church in Wales Safeguarding Policy is adopted by the Ministry Area

The MA works tirelessly to cover DBS security checks across Communities. The process of ensuring all who need to be screened is now in place with the appointment of a MA safeguarding Lead.

The Rev Stuart Tanswell, MA Leader, announced that he would be moving to Swansea & Brecon Diocese in the new year and the process began to find a replacement with the assistance of the Diocese.

Financial Management and Review

In 2024, we succeeded in finding a Treasurer who managed to bring District Treasurers together to gain an insight of the financial status across the MA. A number of changes were introduced. Firstly, a Central MA bank account was set up to meet common expenses. Secondly, the Diocese provided the services of Rev Peter Watson, Diocesan Finance Advisory Officer, together with a Bookkeeping and Accounting service to help the Treasurer in their role. Much of this was achieved by the end of 2024. Thus far, the Finance team has been successful in meeting the needs of the Ministry Area by managing on a District basis.

Over the year the income in each district saw a decline and this reflects the fall in congregation numbers and the restricted incomes of individuals as the increasing cost of living continued to bite.

The largest cost for the Ministry Area is the contribution to the Diocese to meet costs of clergy and central costs such as safeguarding and training. The MA struggled to meet this commitment, but the Diocese has been very supportive and is working with the MA to balance its budget going forward, including a review of the level of contribution that the MA can afford.

Bringing the MA together remains challenging as movement outside the original parish structure saw people remain strongly loyal to their "local" church, but is moving in the right direction as people adjust to this significant change. The flow of food to local Foodbanks has been maintained in ongoing challenging times experienced by our communities. Remembrance Sunday was marked at several locations. Some of the Remembrance were broadcast to a wider audience.

The MA collaborated with the Diocese to prepare an ongoing plan for future activities across the MA communities. The plan has reviewed through the mechanism of an Archdeacons visitation programme. In 2024 an evangelical plan has been created and lodged with the Diocese, a statement noting the condition of all the buildings and potential use of such buildings has similarly been lodged with the Diocese under the Archdeacons visitation process.

Our collective mission noted in our ongoing plan set in 2024 for 2025 onwards will be subject to regular Archdeacon's visitations.

Fabric Review and Tasks Undertaken in Year.

Maintaining our buildings remains a constant duty dealt with, and particularly the historic buildings). The needs of each church are noted at MAC meetings and where possible and finances in place, faculties are agreed.

A Monitoring and Compliance visit to all churches in the Ministry Area had been completed in October 2024 by the Area Dean, with all aspects of church record keeping and registers conducted. The outcomes were good with a few items identified which have been addressed.

During 2024 work has continued in respect of the Fabric of our Churches, churchyards and church halls. There have been no major works undertaken in the year.

Ministry Area – Main Achievements and Successes

The Ministry Area (MA) has made significant contributions in both worship and community life over the past year. Alongside vibrant parish ministry, it has extended support to several local foodbanks, providing a considerable weight of much-needed supplies for families in crisis.

Below are highlights of achievements and activities across our churches:

St Gwladys Church, Bargoed

- **Worship & Fellowship:**
 - Weekly Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 am, with a monthly lay-led "Morning Praise."

- Thursday 10:00 am Eucharist, followed by coffee morning in the hall.
- Mothers' Union (2nd Wednesday), Tuesday prayer gatherings.
- Known for vibrant and enthusiastic worship, despite fluctuating attendance.
- **Community Connections:**
 - Strong partnerships with the British Legion (Remembrance Services) and St Gwladys Primary School (visits, festival celebrations).
- **Church Hall – Community Hub:**
 - For over a decade, hosted wide-ranging activities: support groups, charity events, clubs, and health initiatives.
 - Current programmes include Fairshare food distribution, craft and art groups, dance classes, coffee mornings, and health/weight loss groups run by outside agencies.
 - Upcoming: Family Fun Day (half-term) and new mother & toddler group.

St Catwg's Church, Gelligaer

- **Building Renewal:** Refurbished Vestry; restored church floor, tower window, and exterior masonry.
- **School Links:** Clergy and Reader serve as governors, lead assemblies, and welcome schools for Harvest and Christmas services.
- **Pastoral Ministry:** Annual *Candle to Remember* service offers comfort for bereaved families.
- **Pilgrimage:** District group joins Glastonbury Pilgrimage annually for spiritual renewal.
- **Community Hall:** Neuadd St Catwg serves both church and wider community, available for parties, meetings, and events.

St Margaret's Church, Gilfach Bargoed

- **Building Adaptations:** Window renovations planned; pews replaced with chairs to improve flexibility.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Weekly Community Dance Group.
 - Bargoed Community Choir (30 members), supported by Head 4 Arts and grants, led by soprano Ms. Ali Shone with repertoire spanning Mozart to ABBA.

St Tyfaelog's Church, Pontlloftyn

- **Services:** Regular Eucharists on Sundays and Wednesdays, plus seasonal services.
- **Schools & Youth:** Strong connections with local schools; recent Bible-based activities for teenagers.
- **Ecumenical Links:** Growing partnership with Elim Church, including a joint Christmas event.

St Mary & St Andrew's Church, Fochriw, Pentwyn

- Small, faithful congregation
- Monthly Eucharist services remain a cherished tradition.

St Aidan's Church, Butetown, Rhymney Bridge

- **Revival Story:** Reopened after Covid closure through passionate community petition.
- **Worship:** Monthly non-Eucharistic services with new, diverse congregants.
- **Mission Opportunity:** Whole village engaged in preserving and growing the church.

St Matthias Church, Treharris

- **Worship & Music:** Welcomes congregations from Trelewis and Bedlinog; maintains a strong choir tradition.
- **Community Use of Hall:**
 - Mental health support group.
 - Food bank.
 - 1st Merthyr Cubs & Beavers (youth development).

St Mabon's Church, Llanfabon

- Grade II listed, with roots back to the 11th century, a landmark of historic and spiritual significance.
- Hosts traditional services and unique events such as the *Blessing of the Well*.

St John's Church, Nelson

- **Worship:** Modern Catholic tradition; Eucharist-centred. Services broadcast online.
- **Community Activities:**
 - Tuesday coffee mornings; Friday seasonal lunches.
 - Environmental initiatives: church tower home to barn owls; hedgehog house and bird boxes installed.
- **Social Action:**
 - Hosts Taff Bargoed Foodbank (part of Trussell Trust).
 - Runs St John's Food Co-operative & Community Larder.
- **Partnerships:** Supported by Nelson Rugby Club through fundraisers.
- **Community Life:** Popular quiz nights at the Nelson Inn; ongoing commitment to restore service patterns.

Holy Trinity Church, Ystrad Mynach

- **Worship:** Strong Anglo-Catholic tradition. Weekly Said Eucharist, Sung Mass, and Evensong; weekday Eucharist on Wednesdays. Services (except early Sunday) live-streamed.
- **Church Life:** Active committees and Mothers' Union. Refurbishments include new heating, lighting, sound system, live-streaming, disabled access, and new seating.
- **Facilities:**
 - All Saints Room (adapted former crypt).
 - Large churchyard with garden of remembrance.
- **Church Hall:** Hosts community cinema club, schools, and organisations; well-equipped with stage, kitchen, and modern facilities.

Conclusion

Across the Ministry Area, our churches continue to offer worship that is both traditional and innovative, while serving their communities with compassion and creativity. From foodbanks and school partnerships to music, dance, and environmental initiatives, each congregation contributes to building the Kingdom of God in its own distinct way. Despite financial and

demographic challenges, the commitment of clergy, volunteers, and local partners ensures that our churches remain vibrant centres of worship, outreach, and community life.

Public Benefit

The benefit to the public is a feeling of spiritual stability and freedom within the MA for the benefit of all God's people. This is exercised through the provision of regular public worship and pastoral work, including visiting the sick and bereaved; the teaching of Christianity through Sermons, films, and small groups, plus the taking of Assemblies in local schools; the promotion of Christianity through special services where possible. All of this is across ten weekly open and active Churches.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

.....*S. A. Rivers*.....

Susan Rivers, Lay Chair

Date *26th October 2025*

