

St Edmund's Church Crickhowell

In the Diocese of Swansea & Brecon

Annual Report for 2025



Rector/Curate's Report

Dear Friends,

In the absence of Revd Rana because of health issues, it is my privilege to have had an early read through this report, prepared in advance of our Annual Meeting this year. As we are now members of the St Catwg MA, this report is no longer a legal requirement, however in his introduction to last year's report, Rana suggested that we should maintain this practice as a reflection of who we are and a source of inspiration for us and those around us. So what does this report say about us?

This year, our wardens are getting into the swing of using a new App which enables us to log everyone who volunteers their services to the day to day running of the church. There are well over 100 and new ministries keep coming to light. Let us give thanks for every single one of them! We continue to look out to our community, with a presence among the elderly and housebound, with the children and youth ministry, and with all the ages in between, meeting as groups during the week. We are all able to contribute in one way or another, and praying for the day-to-day life of the church and for those who lead us is a ministry in itself.

As we approach this meeting, we thank Lynda and Kathryn our wardens for keeping the show on the road. I would also like to propose a vote of thanks to Simon Large and Anthony Seys – Llewellyn as they step down from their Church Committee posts as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. If you feel you have any expertise in these two key areas and time to spare, then please do contact them and offer your services. We are considering how these two roles could be divided to make the workload manageable.

In 2026 we are focusing on prayer in the MA. Many of us have attended the Lent Course and Lent Lecture and been challenged to deepen our relationship with God, allowing him to access all areas of our lives, to develop a rhythm of daily prayer and to be challenged in our faith. Jesus' commission to his friends to 'go and make disciples of all men' is a significant one for us too. Persuading others to

join us in church is one thing: making disciples and helping people to develop a prayerful and robust faith which sustains 24/7 remains our task.

It is growing in this faith which will enable us to keep looking to God for guidance as we move forward. There may well be challenges ahead, there may be minor changes in the things that we hold dear. But God is constant and faithful and will always supply generously for all that we need if we continue to look to him for our strength and our joy.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Mairwen Large

Pastoral Team

Transferring Nell's **Anna Chaplaincy** employment to the MAC and securing the funding has been an ongoing issue in the last year and the effort is thankfully bearing fruit as we look to renewing her contract in August 2026. More than half her salary is now funded by Standing Orders. Donating just £5 per month – the cost of a coffee and bun in a tea shop - could make a huge difference to ensuring availability for a visit to somebody who is housebound.

Nell continues to do great work in the community and in our care homes; the ministry in Greenhill is an important element of our outreach with relationships being built up with residents, staff and families who visit. Thanks to Frances for her sterling commitment and support. The volunteer bureau will also reach out to her and request home visits for those who are housebound

We continue to offer support for the monthly **Caffi Croeso**, again offering support for people in the community who are struggling with their role as carers

Plans are underway for a pilot **The Bereavement Journey** course which Sally and Nell will be running with the specific aim of supporting the staff in Greenhill. Cathy, Nell, Mairwen and Anthony Silwood have run the course twice in the Parish Hall in 2025 and this ministry is widely appreciated. A new addition to this ministry has been the Easter Saturday service in Llangattock for those who have been bereaved.

There is a recruitment drive afoot for new members for the Pastoral team after Easter. Please contact Mairwen if you are interested in being licensed as a **Pastoral Visitor**.

Evangelism

The TELUSK team continues to meet on the first and third Sunday evenings in the month for worship and prayer at the Parish Centre in Gilwern. The main activity of 2025 was the preparation and launch of a Celtic Roots Festival at the end of October. Particular highlights were two concerts and a Twmpath, all with free entrance and well-supported by the community. Pilgrimage walks linked all the churches and engaged powerfully with many people who are not regular church attenders. We celebrated St Edmund and all the other patronal saints at a special service for All Saints Day. The showing of "The Chosen" video series in Gilwern has continued to be very well received.

Worship and Music

Sunday Worship arrangements

Church services continue to encourage the contributions of many in our congregation. The clergy have been well-supported by the evangelist and worship leaders who have continued to co-ordinate many of our services, ably supported by church members who have led the intercessions and read Scripture. Thanks to those who support the worship in so many ways, particularly Vaughan and the Music Group and those who welcome new attenders. Thanks too for our Eucharistic Assistants who regularly support this sacramental ministry. We are all grateful to Simon, Vicky and Phillip who have continued to live-stream and record our Sunday services and other meetings.

Music Group

We continue with our Music Group under the leadership of Vaughan to support the congregation and lead worship at St Edmunds with traditional and more modern hymns and songs. Most weeks we number around 6 to include musicians and singers. Some of us have been in the group for a number of years, and others e.g. Claire, Caroline and Ruby have recently joined us or rejoined.

Vaughan is grateful to Philip who supports the group and deputises for him from time to time on keyboard and voice along with Anthony a singer who also plays keyboard. A list of the songs is kept and circulated to the Worship Leaders. We are all grateful to those who assist on the AV system. Thanks to Simon, Vicky and Philip.

Children's Work

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks for everyone's prayers, which are the main source of strength in keeping this ministry going, especially Messy Church, despite the challenges we have faced.

As many of you know, we have sadly lost two valued members, Sarah and Richard, who have moved away from the area. We are so grateful for the care, service, and gifts they shared with us, and they are deeply missed. Another key person who was a big help, Teresa Hendreson, has also stepped down because of other commitments. As we now have fewer people in the team, we unfortunately had to cancel Messy Church in January due to limited availability.

Despite the challenges, we have been able to continue, and we have clearly seen God's provision in this ministry. We are thankful that some new families with young children have joined us. Jess (Reggie's mum), who is very active in the community and well connected, has been helping to publicise Messy Church, and as a result, some of her friends are now attending regularly.

We plan our Bible stories according to the theme or season. We have also started displaying the crafts in the church that have been made by the children and parents. This has been greatly appreciated by many members of the congregation, as it helps them see what we have been sharing with the families and young children. In doing this, we are reminded of the importance of nurturing faith from a young age, as it says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is often evident that adults remember what they learned in their childhood, those who attended church or Sunday school rarely forget what they were taught about God.

We held a Christingle service which was well attended, and the Crib Service was the largest service during the Christmas season, with nearly 200 people attending. This was a joint effort between Messy Church and the Youth Group and was a great success.

Special thanks to Kerry and Gaby for their support in working with the youth and helping them take part in acting out the Nativity story.

I would like to humbly invite anyone who has a heart for working with young families to get in touch. It is such a joy to connect with parents, grandparents, and children alike. This ministry is not just for children, but for the whole family. It provides a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with the younger generation, helping them grow in confidence and become familiar with the church through crafts, games, songs, storytelling, and fellowship over food. As Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." This remains at the heart of all that we do.

We are truly blessed to have a very committed and hardworking team, for which I am deeply thankful to God. Bleddyn, Gaynor, and Cathy are key members of the team, and each of them brings incredible gifts and talents to this ministry.

Looking ahead to Easter, we will once again be working in collaboration with the Youth Group to lead the Good Friday Messy Church service at St Edmund's.

Another important area of ministry among families with children is our work in schools. In Crickhowell, we are blessed with a strong Open the Book team, which is ecumenical in nature. We work closely with Christ Church (formerly known as the Evangelical Church). Alison Stedman led the team until last summer but stepped down due to health reasons, and we are very grateful for her faithful service. The team is now led by Helen Fraser from Christ Church, Crickhowell.

Looking ahead, our vision is to continue growing this ministry and to create more opportunities for families to feel part of the wider church community. We hope to organise an additional Messy Church service during the year as part of the main Sunday morning service. This will help encourage families to come together

with the wider congregation, feel more connected, and experience being part of the bigger church family.

Youth Group

The St Edmunds church youth group continues to meet weekly at the parish hall for food, fellowship and games, with some sessions held in church and practising tower bell ringing and Taiko drums. Themes for the year included: Celtic Christian Saints, Pentecost and the Disciples. Some members of the group were involved in the Easter play at St. Edmund's and the Crib service as well as ringing bells at the late-night Christmas market. They regularly take part in crafts, food -making and decorating biscuits/cakes for themed sessions or birthdays.

When weather permits, we set up activities in the local park or woods.

The local organisation PEAK Cymru have visited the youth group throughout the year and put on art workshops with local and ecological themes. The group also went to Penpont conservation project for a camp in August, joining in with activities such as river sampling and other Eco-activities, which was fully funded by the organisation.

The youth group is led by Gaby and continues to be assisted by 4 dedicated volunteers on the Youth Team. We are currently raising up young leaders, namely those who are turning 18 - and asking them to complete safeguarding modules and DBS checks in accordance with CinW policy. The youth group receives close support and useful resources from Scripture Union representative Jack Newbold.

Schools Ministry

Crickhowell Primary School - The Open the Book team, consisting of joint church members from Christchurch and St Edmund's Crickhowell (including Gaby and Kerry from Youth Team), continue to perform bible stories to the primary school children. This key ministry provides a crucial link between schools and church, as year 6 pupils can and do attend the Youth Group.

In Summer 2025, Gaby went to the primary school with *Hope for the Valleys* and James from Christchurch for a 2 day 'football cage' and sports event, where the children learn bible stories through sport.

Gaby and Kerry worked with Mr Oram at the primary school with the year 6 students transitioning to high school, using the Scripture Union initiative 'It's Your Move'.

Crickhowell High School - Gaby led 5 assemblies in 2025 at CHS on themes including 'Protected Characteristics' and was joined by Rev Rana Khan for the Easter assembly. She also worked with Mrs Katy Jones for the Celtic Roots Festival school art competition in October. In December, Gaby and Rev Rana met with the new headteacher Mr Marc Yeoman to discuss future church- school relationship, including the possibility of the Youth Worker going into the school to offer a lunchtime Christian union or prayer space in 2026. The high school held their annual Christmas concert at St Edmunds church as well as two special award ceremonies for the students with musical performances. We are looking forward to engaging with more young people from CPS and CHS with some new projects in 2026.

Eco Church Group

The group met 5 times during 2025, usually a week or two before Church Committee meetings where we could make suggestions or requests. We continued to discuss and make progress in the 5 Eco Church categories:

Worship and Teaching:

'Creation' service - 23rd Feb - used some of A Rocha's resources. The theme was spring and new life.

Members of the group were also involved with the Harvest service and the Celtic Roots Festival service, highlighting the Celtic Christian's strong connection with nature

Gaby invited Ellen McCarthy from PEAK (local arts community organisation) to visit the youth group 3 times during the year to initiate and include young people's art in local environmental art projects. Gaby also organised a one-night

camping trip to Penpont with Molly Singleton. For 2 days, the young people participated in conservation work and learned how to weave a willow lantern.

In our Messy Church 'Noah's Ark' afternoon we added to the half-built bug hotel, learned about and looked for insects living in the churchyard, and heard about poorly hoglet who had been found, was being restored to health and would be returned as a healthy hedgehog to the churchyard.

Buildings

We continued to work on ways to improve energy efficiency. We still need to measure the church's carbon footprint and develop a Climate Action Plan.

We added new recycling posters of what to put in bins - to encourage the correct sorting and disposal of items straight into appropriate bins.

Crisp packets, silver-lined coffee bags and biscuit/cake and other wrappers were collected in a separate bin and taken to supermarket collection points.

Candles are still taken to a craft workshop near Brecon

Cleaning products and oasis continued to be replaced by more eco-friendly ones

Land

The 'Churchyard Fund', sponsored by individuals, still allows the church to employ Simon Harbutt for 2 ½ hours/week to mow from early March to October and work on other areas during the winter. He does a great job at keeping the churchyard looking beautiful. However, other jobs also need attention and sadly, very few are able to help. Offers would be very welcome.

One very positive action was taken by Sue and Anthony when they replanted the 'Rose Garden' in memory of Ruth who used to look after it with Sue.

Despite the national call by environmentalists and many organisations, such as 'Caring for God's Acre', there were still some objections to a full 'No Mow May' period, allowing flowers and grasses to grow to their potential in the east end of the churchyard. However, a compromise was agreed to allow the edges and a few patches to grow as a wildflower meadow.

In May we celebrated 'Love a Tree Day' with display of photographs of our favourite trees and information, showing the importance of trees in the environment.

During 'Churches Count on Nature Week', the wildflowers were photographed. Teenagers and children were again encouraged to take part.

We took part in Crickhowell's 'Open Gardens Scheme' again and welcomed members of the public to look at the many flowers and enjoy the refreshments. It was organised by Crickhowell Garden Society. CGS kindly allowed us to keep the proceeds, £500 of which will go towards the cost of the planned churchyard improvements.

We took part in the Big Butterfly Count in July and August. Nationally, numbers were still down, which is alarming. A display of charts and photos of some of the butterflies seen in the churchyard showed these wonderful creations in their glory.

A flock of pigeons found a way into the Chancel loft and inevitably made it very much their home. Unfortunately, their droppings penetrated the gaps in the floor, marking the Chancel ceiling and some landed below. They were eventually expelled; the hole was closed and the ceiling cleaned.

A few of us entered the CGS flower and veg show and came away with some 2nd and 3rd prizes!

The faculty application to resurface the east path, install plinths for new benches, restore the shed and site the fingerpost to the Parish Hall was returned again, despite providing more info. We have added a French drain and a bike stand to the latest submission and the architect and archaeologist have been more involved. We hope it will be accepted in 2026.

Community & Global Engagement

A 'Pre-loved Clothes Sale' in the spring raised £1,100!!

'Open Church Saturdays' during August, including history talks and bell tower tours, not only sold refreshments, but also various garden produce, cakes,

second-hand books, 'pre-loved' items, and this year, Jess sold home-made preserves from the abundant crop of plums from Dilys and Eric's garden!

We created Fairtrade displays in February and September to encourage people to consider supporting this when they shop

We have been raising awareness of other Eco-related topics e.g. National Bird Count, Plastic Free July, Second-hand September, Global Recycling Day, Cut the Clutter week, Stop Food Waste Days, and we provided links to engage with COP30 in November and Wales Climate Week in December.

We also celebrated National Poetry Day, including poems about nature led by Helen at the Harvest Supper.

Lifestyle

We continue to share lifestyle tips in newsletters, MA magazine and our Eco Church website.

Some members attend webinars on a variety of eco- or nature-related topics to broaden our understanding and pick up tips on what we are trying to do, i.e. praise God for and be good stewards of His creation, and educate and involve others, reduce the carbon footprint of the church, improve biodiversity, work with others in the community and abroad, and play our own part in doing what we can.

We welcomed 2 new members last year. The Eco Church group meets about 4 times/year. We would welcome anyone with an interest to join us. We will continue to strive to reach the gold standard within the next 1-2 years using the new Eco Church survey and aim to reach the church's overall goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

We continue to meet in the Parish Hall twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 8.00am. We enjoy exchanging news etc. while eating a continental breakfast. One of us then leads a discussion on a bible reading or associated reading. This is then followed by requests for prayer and prayer itself.

We usually finish at about 10.00am. encouraged and refreshed. All men are welcome from any parish or denomination.

Home Groups

Alternative Home-Group

This year has been difficult for our Home Group because of Rosalind Matty's long illness and her passing in October 2025. John was unable to lead us for much of the year, but we still managed to study eight lessons from Genesis at the beginning, and then the last chapters of Luke during Lent. We briefly returned to Genesis before John needed to care for Rosalind full-time. Home Group resumed later in the year with an Advent study. While John was away, Liz led the group in worship, prayer, and many lively conversations.

Bryn Nant Home Group

We continue to meet every Wednesday at various locations and times, though rarely at Bryn Nant. We have been following a form of Celtic prayer and meditation and with the help of YouTube and subtitles we manage to belt out a few worship songs. In preparation for the Celtic Roots Festival, we studied some of the Celtic Saints, some of whom were new to us.

Most of us attended the Lent courses and found it informative and enjoyable. Thank you Mairwen.

As a home group we meet socially and have been to see Rob Parsons in Cardiff. We have done several cinema trips and meals out. We have set up a WhatsApp group, and we keep in touch most days. We continue to share fun, faith and fellowship.

Glan y Dwr Home Group

The Home Group has continued to meet on Wednesday evenings. A highlight of the year was an autumn programme when we learnt about some of the Celtic Saints who helped shape the Christian faith in Wales over a thousand years ago. How relevant was their missional story for our 21st Century church? Maybe, more than we would expect.

Mission Group

Connection to the Global Church is an integral part of our corporate worship and prayer ministry at St Edmunds. Members of our Church family have worked overseas in resource poor settings and retain connection with friends and colleagues living and working in many countries across the world.

Traditionally the Church has given annually to organisations working both in the UK and overseas as directed by the Mission Group. However, the work of the Mission Group has been largely dormant in 2025.

Going forward we would love to hear from anyone interested in being part of the group and shaping its work.

For the next six months the group will co-ordinate a 'Global focus' slot in the first Sunday service in the month.

For those interested in being part of this ministry please contact Sally Venn

Rukungiri Orphan Partnership

As I write this report two of our trustees, Sue and Steve Read, are at the primary school that we support in Uganda. They will have been there for 6 weeks by the time they return and have overseen some of the projects we have funded this year. They always organise a feast day for the whole school which is funded by their home church.

A security fence has been constructed around the nursery school, partly to keep the children in but mostly to keep strangers out! There was a project to keep rabbits and chickens in the school grounds for meat and eggs, but they were apt to mysteriously disappear!

There has been a water problem too with the old bore hole running dry, so we are trying to find a solution for that. There is a town supply but it's not very reliable.

We have about 300 children sponsored by our charity in the primary and nursery schools. We always have more children waiting and hoping for a sponsor (£25 per month) so if you or your friends would like to help a child to have a good

education we would love to hear from you. Some children are orphans, but others are just from very poor families who could not afford to pay school fees. Some of the children who were sponsored earlier are now in responsible jobs and able to help other family members to escape from the poverty trap.

Thanks to all those at St Ed's who already sponsor a child or help with a monthly donation. Also, to the mission group who give us a lovely donation every year.

Our website is in the process of being updated (www.rop.uk.net) if you would like more information about us or ask me about anything you feel you could do to help.

Wardens' Report

This year's has been a busy year for us both. We began by meeting up with various groups within the Church from the Youth group to the flower arrangers. We talked about what each group does and discussed how we could work together.

The carpet was replaced in the hospitality area, and we have further plans to improve this area. Watch this space.

We've made sure all the statutory inspections and repairs have been done. We continue to appreciate all those who help keep the Church open every day and insure it is clean, safe and welcoming. Thank you to all concerned.

In the coming year we hope to revamp the welcome area.

We will continue to support all those who volunteer to help make everything we do possible.

Fundraising

We kicked off the year in January by serving wine at a concert held in Church by The Treorchy Male Voice Choir. The Church was packed and the choir were very appreciative of the welcome they received, so much so, they have booked to come again next year. That little venture raised £400.00.

In March, we thought we would try something new and held a Good as New Sale. It was tremendously successful, tremendously well received and even more tremendously hard work! We learnt a lot of lessons very quickly so, if we do decide to repeat it, we have a list of dos and don'ts. However, that apart we raised £1125.00. This is approximately £1000 more than we anticipated. We donated the leftover stock to St David's Hospice in Newport.

May brought the Crickhowell Music Festival when the Choral Society took over the Church for the first bank holiday weekend. Once again, we were called upon to serve wine and soft drinks during the interval. This brought us in £447.00.

We hosted the Open Studios during the bank holiday at the end of May. We called upon the congregation to supply cakes and to lend a hand serving tea and coffee. The exhibitors are really kind and enjoy coming back every year. This raised £1286.00.

In June we were off on a jaunt to Oxford. We had an almost full coach carrying lots of the usual customers but quite a few new ones as well. Oxford is a lovely place to visit although a bit far for a few people. We were so lucky with the weather, it rained all the way there and most of the way back but managed to stay fine for the important bit in between. Some of us went shopping, others visited various art galleries or museums, and some just people watched and enjoyed the time away. This raised £648.00

We spent most of July planning and preparing for Open Church in August (yes, we really do plan!). We had the usual Bottle Stall, Book and Produce stalls as well as cakes, tea and coffee etc. Eric was on hand on two of the Saturdays with his ever increasingly interesting church tours and Kerry took numerous visitors up the tower to ring the bells. This year we had badges "I rang the Bells at St Edmund's" to give out and the children were thrilled with them. We had a mix of visitors, old and new, and their dogs, and we never cease to be amazed at the conversations we have, the coincidences we hear about, and the stories people share. We are really blessed to be able to open church on this annual basis. We

raised an absolutely amazing £2281.00! More importantly though we provide and receive a lot more than tea and coffee.

We held The Harvest Supper at the beginning of October. We enjoyed a two-course meal of sausages and baked potatoes followed by apple pie and custard. We also had puzzles on the tables and were entertained with poetry read by members of the congregation. A good time was had by all and we raised £316.00.

In November, we were off on our travels again, this time back to Bath which is always a favourite. Once again, the coach was almost full. Lynda and Sue did another marvellous job with the raffle and, once again, we all had a really good day out. This raised £765.00

December came and we were unsure whether to go ahead with the Annual Coffee Morning. Feeling pretty tired, lots to do, I was just back from holiday. It seemed like quite a good idea to postpone.....however, one last push and we decided to go ahead. We are so glad we did. We decided to keep it to just 4 hours instead of the full day we had done the previous two years. It was amazing. So many people came and we raised another £835.00

We would like to thank everyone who made, baked, poured tea, washed up, sold raffle tickets and the other dozens of jobs we call on you to do to make the fundraising events a success.

I'm sure you'll agree, we had a wonderful successful year once again, the best yet. I do have to say though, our Fundraising Team has dwindled down to three reasonably active members, Despite our pleas we are struggling to find any people that would like to join our happy band, and, believe me, although it is hard work, we do enjoy doing it but it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep going. There are lots of people who say they will help, and they do but we really need some that will help us to plan, shop, advertise, sell tickets, lose sleep on occasions and come up with new ideas. If you could be that person, please let us know.

Friends of St Edmunds

The Friends of St Edmund's now have a separate charitable status and will report back to their own AGM later in 2026. Last year, they played a facilitating role in hosting the Celtic Roots Festival and provided financial backing and an effective "bridge" between the church and the schools and local community.

Treasurer's Report

The full accounts for the year 1st January 2025 – 31 December 2025 have been prepared, and copies will be made available at and for the annual meeting. This is a report on the more important aspects, and this year it needs a little detail.

Ministry Share. This is what used to be called the "parish quota", the money which the Diocese requires to be paid by its churches to cover the costs of providing clergy (salaried, pensions, accommodation, training, etc). It is by far the biggest outgoing of St Edmund's Church and always has been.

The course for 2025 was not smooth. Parish quota used to be levied on each individual church or benefice (we were in a benefice together with St John's, Tretower and St Michael's, Cwmdru) in a sum individually set by the Diocese. After the Ministry Area reorganization, the Diocese the MA total and the MA Council ("MAC") decides the percentages of that to each individual church.

In 2025, the MAC took a survey of average attendance at services in each church, to set up-to-date percentages of the overall Ministry Area sum. In April 2025 it notified each church of the resulting sum and for St Edmund's Church it was £57,500 (rounded). In July 2025 it made a *volte face* and went back to sums based on the out-of-date percentages, and so reset our figure at some £67,500 (rounded). So be it. It was no use trying to revisit this mid-year, but I made several representations to the MAC. I also noted to them that St Edmund's Church has funded the employment of a Youth Worker since August 2024 whose employment is emphatically not restricted to mission and outreach in St Edmund's Church or Crickhowell, as opposed to the wider MA area. and continues to do so. In 2025, St Edmund's Church has been able to pay some £59,000 (rounded) which is either about 100% of the initial assessment of April

2025 or about 85% of the volte face assessment, (or if one did include some £10,000+ paid to St Catwg MA in costs of employing a Youth Worker, about 118% of the April 2025 assessment or, about 100% of the volte face assessment).

For 2026 and on, St Catwg MA has decided to apply percentages based on real average attendance. I am grateful St Catwg MAC for listening to the arguments and accepting them. Precise figures are not yet to hand but for us it is likely to be closer to £60,000. For budget purposes (we must adopt a budget and report it to the MAC) I recommend to the Church Committee that we allow that sum for Ministry Share in 2026.

Gas and electricity. This is a significant cost in our very large and high-ceilinged church. It has been about £7,000 a year. The current electricity contract, at prices fixed for 3 years, was due to expire this Summer. In June last year I was able to fix a new contract, for 3 years, at fixed prices which I consider advantageous. The gas contract, at prices fixed for 3 years, was due to expire in late April 2026. I was able recently to fix a new contract, for 3 years, at fixed prices about 15% lower, in the name of the MA.

We almost lost the gas contract I had signed, at a critical time given war in Iran, because the supplier did not understand our new MA structure. Thank you to Richard Stunt and the Executive of St Catwg MA for assembling by Zoom at short notice to pass the resolution I requested that I be expressly authorised to enter into the contract.

Mission Giving. I am proud that in 2025 our church gave a total of some £2,500 in 2025 to chosen charities locally, nationally and internationally. I am even more proud of the effort and success of the **fundraising group**, without whom Mission Giving would not have been possible, and nor would we have been able to pay the high proportion we did and do of our Ministry Share.

Youth Account. This used to be supported by giving from a large number of supporters. That fell away considerably, either by members of the church moving away or, I think because we were no longer currently employing a Children and Young Persons Worker. The youth account was rescued and hugely expanded so that it could fund and offer secure employment to our Youth Worker, Gaby

Kelland. This was by exceptional individual giving, not from the wider church. We need to gradually recover and widen support over the next 2 or 3 years if we are to look to equal security in the years ahead.

Fabric. Repair and strengthening of the West Boundary wall adjoining New Road is imperative and will be hugely expensive; but the responsibility will be discharged by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales not by St Edmund's. The East gable end of the church building needs essential repair and strengthening, and this falls to us, but by gathering the sums remaining in our two fabric accounts, it will be possible.

Yourselves. In essence, it takes around £20 per week average from each individual member of our church to fund all the outgoings. Please consider what you are currently able to give. As I have said before, if you cannot give more, then please don't. If you are able to do so, please consider it, especially if your giving has been unchanged for a long while. Thank you to those who have increased their giving spontaneously.

The Treasurer. In this meeting in 2025, I gave my firm wish to retire in May 2026. It will be 7 years I have done it. Also, I do not wish to stay so long that no one else will be willing to volunteer, already a risk. There was - quite a lot! - of advising and drafting in the years of transition to the present Ministry Area but the practical transition is now all but complete. I appreciate the warmth and goodwill there is in the MA. It is time to find a new Treasurer. During all my time gift aid has been dealt with by Phil Reed, and I have received the skill and unlimited support of Vaughan Bennett in the business of the accounts and otherwise. A very large thank you to both of them. I will of course remain available to assist any incoming Treasurer, generally and in detail.

Minutes of AVM held on 1 June 2025

Revd Rana Khan opened the meeting with prayer.

Apologies: Kerry & Adrian Andrews, Dilys Gower

Annual Report and AVM Minutes for 2024: The report and minutes had been circulated by email, and a few copies were available in church. Both were accepted.

Ministry in 2024: Revd Rana Khan thanked all those who take part in the ministry of the church in a wide variety of ways. He also thanked Sue Foster for her many years as church warden and welcomed Lynda Dickenson as the newly appointed warden. Sue has stepped down from churchwarden duties but will continue to serve on the church committee. The appointment of Gaby Kelland as youth worker has been a huge step forward this year.

Financial Report 2024: Anthony Seys Llewellyn gave particular thanks to the fundraising team for the contribution they make to keeping the church solvent, an amount probably unparalleled in the diocese. He also thanked Phil Reed for his work in processing the Gift Aid claim, and Vaughan Bennett for his work as auditor and advisor. In the light of the difficult financial climate, he asked everyone to review their regular giving.

Elections and Appointments

Lynda Dickenson has been appointed as Rector's Warden

Kathryn Bullon was elected as People's Warden.

Anthony Seys Llewellyn was elected as treasurer

As there were fewer nominations for the CC than there were spaces, no election was needed. The following were elected en-block to the CC for 2024: Kerry Andrews, Sue Foster, Gaby Kelland, Simon Large, Anthony Seys Llewellyn, Anthony Silwood, Julian Stedman, Ed Walker, Sherill Worgan.

Ed Walker agreed to continue as Ministry Area Representative for a further year.

Appointment of Independent Examiner: Vaughan Bennett has accepted this responsibility for a further year, and Rana thanked him for taking this on again.