



St David's Church, Groes Faen

Tŷ Bach Dewi
project

St David's, a Church for the Community

St David's Church is an iconic building on the edge of the village of Groes Faen which has stood for 100 years as a place of Christian worship and where significant events in the lives of the people of this community have been marked. Here, people have come to express their joy at the birth of a child, seek God's blessing in marriage or shed tears as they commend their loved ones to God's care. Whilst the Church stands in the village of Groes Faen it has traditionally been understood to be the Church serving the village of Creigiau too which is where the Parish hall is located.

Opening up

Over the last couple of years the Vicar and parishioners decided that the time had come to encourage anyone to take the opportunity to pop into the Church for a time of quiet and prayer whenever they are able, not just for services. So, we now have a rota for opening and

closing the Church through the week for public access. If the visitor's book is anything to go by, the chance to spend a time of prayerful quiet and reflection in this holy place is welcomed by local people and others who are just passing through or visiting family graves.

So, to the future

The appreciation voiced by visitors has encouraged us to make a further decision about the future use of the Church: Our hope is to create a small room for a toilet and wash basin and also an area for serving tea towards the rear (West) of the Church. Hence, the title of our project: Tŷ Bach Dewi.

The process

The project may not seem like a major one at first glance however there are all kinds of significant hurdles and challenges we will have to face and overcome if this is to become a reality:

The Church authorities have already agreed to the project. A special committee called the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) considered the plans and the rationale for our proposed adaptations of the building. The Committee comprises architects, clergy, representatives from CADW and other related bodies such as the Victorian society. They reflected on the proposals and eventually recommended the project to the Diocesan Chancellor who has granted a faculty.

The unseen challenges

People living in the village of Groes Faen itself will know that connecting to the main sewage system is not always as straightforward as one might hope. It is impractical for the Church to connect to the mains sewage so have had to instal a cess pit in the Church grounds. This represents just one of the practical challenges to be overcome.

Creating space

We need to do a little reordering to make a usable space at the rear of the Church so we'll be moving the font to the front of the Nave and rearranging some of the current furniture to ensure we can gather comfortably for meetings and fellowship. But the main body of the Church will keep its traditional arrangement.

Money raising and donations

The cost of this project will need to be met by donations and grant applications. The Church itself is beautifully kept and many of the faithful regular worshippers are enormously generous in their regular giving which ensures we can do the work of a local Church, but we will have to fund raise to ensure this project becomes a reality.

As Christians we aim to make all of our decisions in the light of a loving relationship with Almighty God and his people. Our Church building is not our Faith, it is a place where we gather to worship God, but we also wish it to be a place where all members of the Community will come to be refreshed, sustained and consoled. So, we hope that all will think of St David's Church as their Church and make it part of their community life.

How can you help?

Clearly we would be delighted if you would be able to help us by donating something towards our appeal. The cost is likely to end up being in the region of £60,000 but we have already secured a grant from a Trust that has links to the Church so we've made a good start. Should you wish to make a donation there are several ways in which you can do this:

A one off cash/cheque donation via a Church warden, treasurer or the Vicar

A donation direct to the Church account via BACS Nat West. Account number 01072653 sort code 54 30 01

Online donation via <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ty-bach-dewi>

Regular donations to the Church via the Church in Wales gift direct scheme.

Please remember to ensure you sign a gift aid form if you are a UK tax payer and we will benefit from an additional 25% of the value of your gift from the Government scheme.

Small Village groups

If you live locally and think you would like to use the Church as a meeting place for a small group once these crucial improvements have been made we'd love to hear from you. Our aim is to ensure that St David's becomes an even greater feature of the life of this Community.

When

Ground work started in November 2018 and hopefully the inside work will be completed early spring 2019.

Finally

We hope you'll support us in this venture in whatever way you are able.

Please visit our website or sign up to our twitter page to keep up to date with the progress of the project.

www.parishofpentyrch

@parishofpentyrch

