

# **RE-ROOFING ST. TUDNO'S CHURCH**

**2012**

## **EXTRACTS FROM NEWSLETTERS OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. TUDNO'S CHURCH**



# NEWYDDION ST TUDNO NEWS

**CYLCHLYTHYR CYFEILLION EGLWYS ST. TUDNO  
NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. TUDNO'S CHURCH**

**RHIFYN 12, EBRILL 2012 — NUMBER 12, APRIL 2012**



## ST. TUDNO'S NEWS

### **Re-roofing - 27 February - May**

A picture of the church surrounded by scaffolding might not appear a very attractive cover photo but it marks a great achievement. After years of saving and a great contribution from the Friends' fundraising, it has finally been possible to re-roof St. Tudno's - and without receiving any grant aid. The church roof was last replaced in 1855, during the restoration funded by Mr. William Henry Reece and the majority of the slates and all the main timbers are still in good condition.

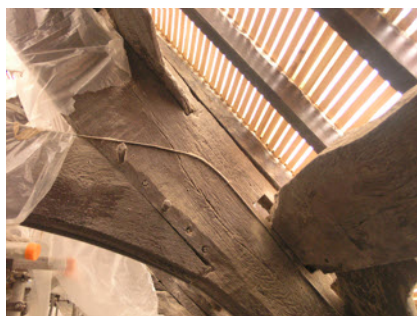
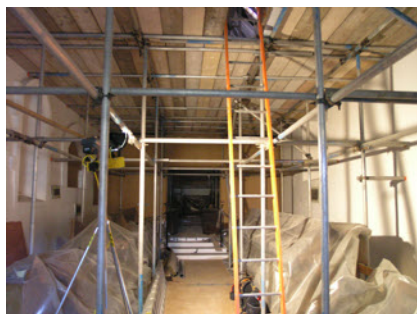
After the Friends had cleared the church (see Friends' News), the church was surrounded by scaffolding and a security fence. Inside the church, more scaffolding formed a "mezzanine floor", while the pews, altar, carvings and timbers were wrapped in protective cardboard and polythene (as appropriate) and protective covers were placed over the windows.

The slates were stripped from the roof and all the good ones were stacked on the scaffolding ready for re-use. The lathes and plaster were then removed and new lathes, roofing felt and battens fixed ready for the re-slating. At this point, on 16 March, I was privileged to visit the church to view and photograph the work from the scaffolding (see p 7).

Slates from different quarries have different colours and St. Tudno's is considered to be Penrhyn slate, from the quarry near Bethesda. To provide a good match with the original slates, the replacements for broken slates will be used Penrhyn slates.

Clearing the church for re-roofing (below).







On 22 March I was back on the scaffolding to photograph Archbishop Barry's slate being nailed into position (top right). Each label has been securely fixed between its slate and the batten, using two nails. The labels are further protected by the overlapping slates. By this time the majority of the south side of the roof had been re-slated and the architect had instructed that the bell turret should be re-pointed (bottom right). It had also been necessary to rebuild the top of part of the north wall, which was crumbling.

*Christine Jones*



## **FRIENDS' NEWS**

### **Clearing the church - 18 February**

To prepare for the roofing work, everything except the large items of furniture had to be removed from St. Tudno's - and it was surprising how much there was! The final service at St. Tudno's was the Saturday Morning Prayer, after which the Friends got busy and all the books, cards and leaflets were packed into boxes and the cupboards were emptied. Anything which might suffer from damp was taken to Holy Trinity, while other things were stored in St. Tudno's sheds. The roofers helped by transporting the organ to Holy Trinity on the day that they started work.

Once the church had been emptied, notices were fixed to the doors and to the churchyard gates, explaining that the church was now closed until the roofing work was completed, though the churchyard would still be open. The notices had not been on the gates for long when "Bertie" came along to see what was happening (see p 10)!

### **Sponsor-a-Slate labels - 12-13 March**

Before the church was cleared, the Rector, St. Tudno's Wardens and Friends' Chairman met the roofer and diocesan architect at St. Tudno's. We were all in for a few surprises as the architect learnt for the first time of our plans to inscribe the slates and we learnt that it would not be possible for us to do this! The roofer suggested that if we could produce suitable labels they could be attached with the slates. We eventually agreed on metal labels which could be embossed by hand. With only a



“What does this notice say - *The church is closed.?*”

“But the church-  
yard is still open,  
isn’t it?”



“Well, that’s all  
right then.”

Bertie then  
jumped nimbly  
across to the  
churchyard wall  
and into the  
churchyard.



week left before the re-slatting was due to start, we had to emboss more than 1000 labels (our target had been 1000 sponsored slates and the final number was 1071). A series of working parties was arranged, to allow for availability of volunteers, but the work was completed in just two mornings, at a rate of about 100 labels per person per morning. Each label was embossed with the name, the number of the slate and the year, as shown below for the 1000<sup>th</sup> slate.

The next stage will be to prepare the sponsor forms for binding and to mark the forms with the slate numbers. Invitations to the slate blessing service will also be prepared. **A working party for this has been planned for the morning of Monday 16 April. Please contact the Secretary if you would like to take part.**



Embossing the labels (above).

An arrangement of all the completed labels, a piece of St. Tudno's slate and the 1000<sup>th</sup> label (below left). The label for the 1000<sup>th</sup> slate, sponsored by Archbishop Barry (below right).



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**CYLCHLYTHYR CYFEILLION EGLWYS ST. TUDNO  
NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF ST. TUDNO'S CHURCH**

**RHIFYN 13, MEDI 2012 — NUMBER 13, SEPTEMBER 2012**



## ST TUDNO'S NEWS

### **Service in the Shed, Sunday 3 June**

By May it was clear that, with some additional restoration required at St. Tudno's, the church would not be ready when the season of open air services started. If the weather were good (as it was for the first service) this would be no problem but what should we do if the weather were bad? We enquired about using the cemetery chapel but were told that would not be possible and we didn't want to cancel any services. At one of the Committee meetings Iris had suggested using the shed and, though she claimed it wasn't a serious suggestion, the idea started to become more attractive. The Rector was dubious about the suitability of the shed but the Wardens were keen and so the working party tried to make the shed as comfortable as possible.

Sunday 3 June was wet (as those who attended the Jubilee Thames Pageant will remember), so we were pleased to have the shelter available and we had a delightful, candlelit Service in the Shed as shown in the photos.

The Service in the Shed, taken by Derek Simpson (below and below left).



### **Completion of restoration, Friday 8 June**

By 18 April the re-slating had been completed and so I was back on the scaffolding to admire the roof with its new ridge tiles and the refurbished bell turret. Inside the church, the plasterer was busy applying three layers of traditional lime and horse hair plaster and all the guttering and down pipes had been painted and were ready to be replaced. However, it was evident that some additional work would be required sooner or later, including repointing the west gable and some internal painting. The PCC agreed that these jobs should be completed while the scaffolding was in place and the Friends donated a further £1000 towards the costs.

A month later the external work had been finished and the external scaffolding removed. On 25 May, before the internal scaffolding was taken down, I took the opportunity of photographing the dragon and stigmata carvings from the scaffolding. By then, the plaster under the roof had been painted, the protective coverings taken off the woodwork and the roofers were busy applying beeswax polish to all the beams and woodwork. On 8 June the work was completed and when some of us visited the church Ken and Dafydd of Furlong and Davies were finishing the cleaning - and treating all the pews and other wooden furniture with more beeswax polish.

We would like to thank Ken Davies of Furlong and Davies and all his team for their excellent work, attention to detail (including repainting the donations box and step edges) and all the care which they took of St. Tudno's. We would also like to thank everyone who supported Sponsor-a-Slate and the Friends' other fundraising efforts, without which it would not have been possible to undertake this very necessary restoration at this time.

*Christine Jones*





## **Service of Rededication and Thanksgiving, Sunday 1 July**

It's not always easy to decide whether a particular event should be listed under St. Tudno's News or Friends' News and that is certainly true of this service. While completion of the restoration is very much a St. Tudno's event, the service also marked the culmination of three years hard work and fundraising by the Friends and all the Friends' Committee were involved in the service.

Invitations had been sent to all the slate sponsors whom we could contact and the *Daily Post* (the regional daily paper) had published a good article on Sponsor-a-Slate, the restoration and the service (thanks to Barbara and Denis's contact there). BBC Radio Wales saw the article and conducted a telephone interview with the Rector and we had advertised the service on the parish website and in the Community News section of the local paper. However, we had no idea how many people would attend.

The service was held at 3.00 pm on what turned out to be a bright afternoon and a few of us had taken picnics to eat between the two services. The first people arrived at about 2.00 pm, then a few more, then more and more, till we were quite overwhelmed by the number who attended. Llandudno Town Council was represented by the Deputy Mayor and there were representatives of some of the sponsors of "blocks" of slates: The Lodge of St. Tudno, Llandudno Lions Club, the local branches of the Royal Naval Association and Soropotimists International. Our local MP, Mr. Guto Bebb, was unable to attend but sent a message of support and congratulations. We were delighted to welcome Friends of St. Tudno's, locals and people who had travelled specially to attend the service.

The service began outside and it was wonderful to see such a big crowd of people sitting on the benches. After the Rector opened the service, Chris, as crucifer, led a procession around and into the church, while Denis played the keyboard outside, Michael joined in on the organ inside, and we sang *Now thank we all our God* - several times! The church was full to overflowing, with a crowd standing at the back, and we do apologise to those who were unable to get into the church at all. The Rector led the service, Dean Emeritus Alun preached (we hope to include

the text in a future issue but the address included several references to the Friends' newsletters and a mention of "Bertie" - to the amusement of all the Friends present!) and the Deputy Mayor gave a short message of thanks from the Town Council. Stephanie and Vernon read from the Bible, Shirley read a poem, I read the prayers and we sang a new hymn for St. Tudno, which had been written for the service. During the service Barbara rang the bell while the Books of Sponsors and a slate were carried through the church and placed on a table in front of the altar. Iris and Anne carried the books, while Ken Davies, of Furlong and Davies, carried the slate as a representative of all who had worked on the restoration.

It was a wonderful, joyful service in which we gave thanks for all who had supported restoration of the church, both now and in the past, and celebrated the craftsmanship which maintained the church that we will pass on to future generations.

After the service the Friends served tea, cakes and other "goodies" outside (thanks to everyone who contributed), while people queued up to examine the Books of Sponsors and see their own entries. We tried to talk to as many visitors as possible but apologise to anyone whom we missed.

The Books of Sponsors are being kept at St. Tudno's until the end of the summer service season and are available for people to look at before and after services. After this they will be transferred to the drier atmosphere of the parish archive at Holy Trinity, where arrangements can be made to view them after services. A good many people have looked up their entries in the books, while quite a number of locals have told me that they have been to St. Tudno's to see the result of the restoration work.

The unanimous opinion is that the restoration work has been excellent and the church now looks beautiful. However, there are still jobs to do, so the Friends will not be "resting on their laurels" - see the Friends' Events for details of our next projects.



Top row: the congregation waiting for the service to begin, Ken Davies and his wife are in the foreground of the RH photo. 2nd row: Rector, Dean Emeritus Alun and Chris. 3rd row: the beginning and end of the procession. 4th row: the end of the procession eventually reaches the door.





Top row: standing room only at the service. 2nd row: refreshments after the service. Thanks to Iris for at least half of the photos of the service.



## **FRIENDS OF ST. TUDNO'S NEWS**

### **Book of Sponsors Working Party, Monday 16 April**

Some of the Committee, plus Denis, got together to prepare the Sponsor-a-Slate forms for binding into the Book of Sponsors. Each form was labelled with the number(s) of the slate(s) sponsored, cut to separate the message and Gift Aid sections and, where required, an envelope addressed to send an invitation to the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication. Later, some of the Committee prepared the invitations for posting and Mark cycled 22 miles around Llandudno making local deliveries. The sponsor forms were divided into four volumes, each with an index to all volumes and beautifully bound by Delrue Bookbinders of Ruthin. Many thanks to those who so kindly made donations towards the costs of the binding.

### **Working Party, Saturday 23 June**

All the things which had been put into storage during the re-roofing were retrieved from the shed, Holy Trinity and Committee members attics and dusted if necessary (particularly those which had been in the shed). However, there still seems to be one box missing - probably buried under a stock of fair goods in the shed. This box contains the cruets, jug, bowl, etc which are used in preparation for Communion. "Improvise!" said the Rector, so for the first two services we used some of my collection of Llandudno crested china, though we have now progressed to vinegar bottles!



Preparing the sponsor forms for binding (left) and the finished articles (below).



At the June working party (above) and the improvised cruet set (left).