

Cyfeillion Ynys Tysilio / Friends of Church Island Annual Report from the Chair 2020

The first big event following the 2019 AGM was the annual Gŵyl Tysilio Festival. Our theme was The Tree of Life and the festival climaxed on the Sunday with a service to bless our iconic Monterey Cypress and its seedling that was found growing in the wall of the car park and is now a healthy metre-high young tree planted on the south-western slope of the memorial hill. All the festival events, at lunchtime and the three evening concerts, were well attended, and our thanks go to all the performers as well as the stewards and other helpers. A special thank you goes as usual to Lis Perkins, the festival director and prime mover, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Hazel Smith also, with her loyal assistant, Ray, for, yet again, producing a beautiful flower festival linked to the festival theme.

At our meeting of the Friends in the autumn of 2019 there was a proposal to revise or rewrite the guidebook to the church and the island. The proposal led to a discussion about our communication policy in general and it was decided that we needed not only a revamped guidebook, but also information for children and information to be available to visitors when the church is shut during the winter months, etc. etc. A small group was set up consisting of the Chair (Gareth Hughes), the Vice-Chair (Malcolm Rogers), Lis Perkins and Andy Hawkins. Since then I am please to announce that we have been able to obtain grants of nearly £5,000 from the Anglesey Charitable Association and £3,000 from the Gaynor Cemlyn-Jones Trust. With this funding we have produced a new fully bilingual guidebook (to be sold in aid of the Friends) and a bilingual booklet for younger children inviting them to explore the island and its church. By Easter 2021 there will be a bilingual information and interpretation board for visitors to the island, pending planning permission from the County Council and formal approval from the Church. The contents of all three of these projects have been provided/donated by local people (most of them Friends) and my thanks go to all of them for their talents and generosity.

In addition to the work on publications, we have also continued to be actively maintaining and conserving the island, its flora and fauna, and its infrastructure. Work on the unsafe graves was completed (for the time being). The stonemason completed his work on two projects to repair dry-stone walls and to make safe a grave plot, where dangerous subsidence occurred. The forester continues to monitor the health of our ash trees. A small number were taken down, in consultation with the Angelsey Tree Officer and the Church authorities. New plantings will gradually replace the trees we lose. Last year the following trees were planted: the baby Monterey Cypress, a hornbeam, a walnut, a sweet chestnut, a Bardsey apple, and a new yew hedge. The hedge suffered from the very dry weather in the early summer of 2020 but the damage was mitigated by a number of volunteers who used to take water down to the island on their regular walks there. Our thanks go to them. In the autumn we were able to enjoy another walk with Nigel Brown, and we had a couple of gardening sessions for volunteers. Thank you to all involved

This year for the Friends started so well in the summer of 2019. Little did we know that Covid 19 was going to cast its shadow over 2020. We managed to hold a meeting in February at which two volunteers from the Gwynedd Family History Society, Helen Hughes and Lorna Shaw, talked to us about the graveyard surveys they have done, and gave us tips and encouragement to do a new one on Church Island. But after that, we were not able to open the church, organise any more walks, hold any meetings, etc. Femke van Gent's spring festival was cancelled. Our plans for a special festival covering the whole of Bro Tysilio to mark the 100th birthday of the Church in Wales had to be scrapped. But on the positive side you learnt in the first part of this report of what we achieved nevertheless. On top of that our finances are still in good shape, as the accounts show, and we plenty of plans for the future. My thanks go as usual, to the officers of your association, and to you, the Friends, who donate your money and your time to caring for our beloved little island and its ancient church. Thank you everybody!

Gareth Hughes

CYFEILLION YNYS TYSILIO ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL O'R GADAIR 2020

Y digwyddiad cyntaf mwyaf ar ol Cyfarfod Blynyddol 2019 oedd Gwyl Tysilio. Ein thema oedd Coeden Bywyd a darfu'r Wyl ar y Sul gyda gwasanaeth i fendithio ein Coeden Monterrey Cypress a'i had a welwyd yn tyfu yn wal y maes parcio ag sy'n awr yn goeden ifanc medr o daldra iach wedi ei blannu ar lethr de-orllewinol o'r allt at y Gof Golofn. Yr oedd holl ddigwyddiadau'r Wyl, amser cinio a thair cyngerdd gyda'r nos wedi eu mynychu'n dda ac aiff ein diolch i'r holl berfformwyr a'r stiwardiaid a chynorthwywyr eraill. Unwaith yn rhagor mae diolch arbennig yn mynd i Lis Perkins Cyfarwyddwr yr Wyl ac arweinydd blaenllaw ac fe hoffwn gymeryd y cyfle i ddiolch i Hazel Smith yn ogystal gyda'i chynorthwywr triw Ray am unwaith yn rhagor gynhyrchu Gwyl Flodau hardd yn gysylltiedig a thema yr Wyl.

Yn ein cyfarfod o'r Cyfeillion yn yr Hydref o 2019 cafwyd cynnig i adolygu neu ail ysgrifennu ein llyfryn tywys i'r Eglwys a'r Ynys. Dilyniwyd y cynnig gyda thrafodaeth am ein polisi cyfathrebu yn gyffredinol ac fe benderfynwyd fod angen nid yn unig llyfryn tywys wedi ei ail wampio ond hefyd gwybodaeth i blant a gwybodaeth ar gael i ymwelwyr pan fo'r eglwys wedi ei chau yn ystod misoedd y Gaeaf a.y.y.b. Ffurfiwyd grwp bychan yn cynnwys y Cadeirydd (Gareth Hughes), Is-Gadeirydd (Malcolm Rogers), Lis Perkins a Andy Hawkins. Ers hyn yr ydwyf yn falch o gyhoeddi ein bod wedi medru cael grantiau o bron i £5,000 o Gymdeithas Elusennol Ynys Mon a £3,000 o Ymddiriedolaeth Gaynor Cemlyn-Jones. Gyda'r arian hwn yr ydym wedi cynhyrchu llyfryn tywys newydd dwy-ieithog (i'w werthu er budd y Cyfeillion) a llyfryn dwy-ieithog ar gyfer plant ieuengach yn eu gwahodd i archwilio yr Ynys a'i Heglwys. Erbyn Pasg 2021 bydd Bwrdd Gwybodaeth dwy-ieithog ar gael i ymwelwyr a'r Ynys cyn belled ag y bydd y Cyngor Sir yn rhoi Caniatad Cynllunio a chymeradwyaeth ffurfiol gan yr Eglwys. Cafodd cynnwys y tri prosiect ei roi/roddi gan bobl leol (rhan fwyaf yn Gyfeillion) ac fe ddiolchaf iddynt i gyd am eu talentau a'u haelioni.

Yn ogystal i'r gweithgareddau hyn yr ydym hefyd wedi parhau i fod yn fywiog yn cynnal a chadw'r Ynys, ei blodau a'i hanifeiliaid, a'i lwybrau a.y.y.b. Cwblhawyd y gwaith ar y beddi (am yn awr), cwblhaodd y Saer Maen y gwaith ar ddwy brosiect i atgyweirio waliau cerrig sych ac i wneud bedd lle oedd tir lithriad wedi cymeryd lle yn saff. Mae'r Coedwigwr yn parhau i gadw golwg ar gyflwr ein Coed Onnen. Tynnwyd rhif fechan ohonynt mewn cydweithrediad a Swyddog Coed Ynys Mon ag awdurdodau'r Eglwys. Fydd plannu newydd yn lle y coed a gollwyd. Llynedd planwyd y coed canlynol: Monterrey Cypress fechan, Oestrwydd, Walnut, Sweet Chestnut, Afal Ynys Enlli, a gwrychyn Ywen newydd. Dioddefodd y gwrychyn oddiwrth y tywydd sych yn nechrau Haf 2020 ond roedd y difrod yn llai oherwydd nifer o wirfoddolwyr oedd yn mynd a dwr i lawr i'r Ynys ar eu teithiau cerdded aml. Aiff ein diolch iddynt. Yn yr Hydref yr oeddem wedi mwynhau taith gerdded gyda Nigel Brown a cawsom ddau sesiwn garddio gwirfoddol. Diolch i bawb a gymerodd ran.

Bu'r flwyddyn yma gychwyn yn dda i'r Cyfeillion yn Haf 2019. Ni ddychmygwn fod Covid 19 am ddiwydd dros 2020. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod ym mis Chwefror lle ddaeth dau wirfoddolwr o Gymdeithas Hanes Teuluol Gwynedd, Helen Hughes a Lorna Shaw i siarad a ni am eu gwaith ar arolwg mynwentydd a rhoi cyngor a syniadau ar sut i wneud hyn ar Ynys Tysilio. Ond ar ol hynny ni allwn agor yr Eglwys, trefnu rhagor o deithiau cerdded, cynnal cyfarfodydd a.y.y.b. Cansliwyd Gwyl Wanwyn Femke Van Gent. Cafodd cynlluniau ar gyfer Gwyl dros Fro Tysilio i ddathlu Canmlwyddiant yr Eglwys yng Nghymru eu canslio. Ond ar ochr positif fe gawsoch wybod yn y rhan gyntaf o'r adroddiad yma beth yr oeddem wedi llwyddo ei wneud. Ar ben hyn mae'n cyllid mewn cyflwr da fel y dangosir yn y cyfrifon, ac mae gennym nifer o gynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Aiff fy niolch fel arfer i swyddogion eich cymdeithasau ac i chwi y Cyfeillion sy'n rhoi arian ag amser i ofalu am ein Ynys fach annwyl a'i Heglwys hynafol. Diolch i bawb!

Gareth Hughes