

A New Future for St Mary's Northop Hall?

Earlier in the year we sent out a survey to as many homes in Northop Hall as we could. We are really grateful for all the responses, which we have considered carefully. The full report including all comments can be seen on our website at www.northopchurch.org. It became clear to us that the building is important to many people in the village for many different reasons, and that there is a desire to see it used by the community. However it was also clear that there is no particular appetite for regular Sunday acts of worship.

Currently, the large majority of our time, effort and money is being put into running such services, and very little into other activities and this is clearly not sustainable. Therefore the congregation, together with the Vicar and Church in Wales authorities have made the difficult and sad decision to suspend regular acts of worship from 6th January 2019 - but we do so with great hope that this will free up resources to allow the church to be used for many other things. **THE CHURCH BUILDING IS NOT CLOSING OR BEING SOLD.**

St Mary's will be run by the local family of Anglican Churches in the Mold Mission Area, and, operating in some ways like a church hall, will continue to mark special occasions like Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance.

It will continue to be available for Baptisms, Funerals and wedding/relationship Blessings. (Weddings themselves will not be able to be legally certified in most circumstances.)

But we will also be particularly encouraging other uses. We have already had a number of successful gigs and concerts and at least 6 more are planned for 2019. We have been delighted to see increased use and interest by the school and community groups.

We are exploring adult education classes, a community library and garden and other ideas.

We would love everyone in the community to feel that the church building is available to them and for their activities, and for local people to come forward with ideas. We would also welcome volunteers to be on a steering group, and no religious affiliation is necessary, only a desire to see St Mary's be of service to the village.

The building has been made much more flexible, and basic toilet and refreshment facilities can be made available.

If you would like to get involved or have any ideas, please contact Rev Richard Hainsworth on 01352 840842 or stmarysnorthophall@gmail.com



Please turn over for news from Northop Churchyard