



Y R E G L W Y S
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THE CHURCH
IN WALES

**St. Barnabas, Parish of Waunarlyydd,
Swansea**
www.saintbarnabaschurch.org.uk

02 December 2007

ST. BARNABAS – your local parish Church, serving Waunarlyydd since 1888

GIFT DAY/RESTORATION APPEAL

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council, I wanted to invite you to consider contributing to our upcoming Appeal, part of which is our *GIFT DAY* on Sunday December 2nd, (the 1st Sunday in Advent – all welcome, details on flyer). As you might be aware from a recent report in the Evening Post, St Barnabas Church, which has been at the heart of the community for nearly 120 years, is facing a serious financial situation in respect of carrying out the remedial works necessary to bring the Church and Parish Hall up to a satisfactory state of repair.

St. Barnabas has been the focus for a number of initiatives that have helped suffering families in Romania through the work of Val Newton, most recently donating pasta at Harvest Thanksgiving. It also recently hosted the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning which made over £400.00 to help Cancer Research (and thank you to all who helped!). These are just two recent examples of the tremendous fund-raising in which many are involved. So the community is used to looking outwards to others and their needs.

Since arriving in the parish just over a year ago I've been struck by the incredible generosity of the folks here in Waunarlyydd, and their responsiveness to worthy causes, and feel it's time to share some of the financial challenges your local parish church is facing.

I hope you'd agree that maintaining a Christian witness remains a priority in a world crying out for direction and a sense of belonging. We have been seeing growth in those attending our services as we discover together the amazing love of God in Jesus Christ – and we have a lively work amongst children/young people and their families, as well as a full programme of activity with community groups making use of the parish hall. But this is only possible through the generous giving of those who support church life in practical, financial ways. Perhaps I can illustrate this with some figures (and these might come as a bit of a shock to those who haven't seen them before).

All the Anglican Churches in our Diocese of Swansea and Brecon contribute to the overall costs of maintaining Christian ministry in our local parishes. This used to be called the 'Quota', but is now termed 'Parish Share'. Along with the ever-rising cost of living, our 'Share' this next year has increased 6% to £20,110.00. Together with the costs of heating, lighting and maintaining church and hall, this basically means that to merely stand still we need an income of something like £500.00 each week. In addition, St. Barnabas underwent its 5 yearly inspection recently, and the architects' report on the physical state of our church and hall commits us to renovation work in the region of **£75,000** over the next few years. So there are difficult challenges ahead – and we're going to need to pull together to face these - but with the confidence of knowing that we're all involved in that process of building and establishing God's Kingdom that has been part and parcel of what's special about Waunarlyydd community life through many years.

So that's the reality of the ongoing situation we're facing. But the specific outcomes of a successful Gift Day could go some way towards addressing other important issues, for example the resources we would need to level and surface the ground outside the church to create some much needed car parking space for those regularly using the church and hall.

Therefore I sincerely trust that, whether you have personal or family connections with St. Barnabas Church through marriage, baptism or bereavement or just possess a sense of

Revd Dr Ian Davies

The New Vicarage, 59A Victoria Road, Waunarlyydd, Swansea SA5 4SY

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wishing to support a long established part of the fabric of your local community, that you will feel able to make a donation to the appeal.

Below you'll find a detach slip which you can forward with your kind donation and an explanation of the Government's Gift Aid scheme and how it works. We'd love to be able to count on your support as we move together to make St. Barnabas the kind of resource that this community deserves.

With all best wishes ~ and thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Revd Dr Ian Davies
Priest in charge

Name -----

Address -----

Please find attached the sum of £_____ as my/our personal contribution to the St. Barnabas Restoration Appeal

Please forward your donation to:

Revd Dr Ian Davies
The New Vicarage
59a Victoria Road
Waunarlwydd
Swansea SA5 4SY

GIFT DAY/Ongoing offerings – & the Gift Aid Scheme

Did you know that you could help the parish financially if you pay any form of Income Tax? I'll try and explain what is involved as simply as possible.

The Gift Aid Scheme is simply a way that parishes can reclaim a refund of the Tax that you paid on the donations you make.

Question. How much Income Tax must I pay to be able to take part in Gift Aid?

Answer. You can join the Gift aid scheme if you are an Income Taxpayer and pay tax at either the basic or higher rate. Lower rate Taxpayers including those paying Tax on pensions, savings and investments can also join, providing they pay an amount of tax at least equal to the amount of any refund claimed by the parish (see table below). Therefore provided you pay at least £14.67 Income Tax per year you can donate £1 per week. The parish can reclaim £14.67.

If you give each week	This amounts to each year	Income Tax reclaimed by the parish	Total real donation to parish
£1.00	£52.00	£14.67	£66.67
£3.00	£156.00	£44.00	£200.00
£5.00	£260.00	£73.33	£333.33
£7.50	£390.00	£110.00	£500.00
£10.00	£520.00	£146.67	£666.67
£20.00	£1040.00	£220.00	£1333.34

Question. Do I have to make my earnings known?

Answer. No

Question. What if I have already signed a covenant?

Answer. Your existing covenant will continue to be valid for the covenanted amount and payments will continue to be collected and nothing further is needed to enable us to recover the tax. However, if you wish to increase the amount of giving to the parish and wish the parish to benefit, you will need to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. We would therefore ask any taxpayer to seriously consider completing a new Gift Aid Declaration (even if they already have a covenant).

Question. Can I change the amount I give?

Answer. Yes. You can increase or decrease the amount you give at any time without having to complete a fresh declaration. Gift Aid allows us to reclaim tax on all amounts given, including irregular, one-off payments (no matter how small, or large). It also means that where existing covenanters give more than they have covenanted we can make reclaims on the extra amounts.

Question. What if I stop paying Income tax to the level the parish can reclaim (see table above)?

Answer. Let us know and we will cancel the declaration.

Question. Is the Gift Aid confidential?

Answer. Yes. The parish has to keep accurate records of receipt, but only our People's Warden has access to details.

Question. What methods of giving are allowed by the scheme?

Answer. Cheques, Standing Order or Cash. However, if you give in cash, it needs to be put in a numbered envelope so there is a proper 'audit trail'. (Please note that the amount you give is confidential as the cash counters don't know to whom the envelopes belong)

Question. What about High rate Taxpayers?

Answer. High rate Taxpayers will benefit through additional tax relief if they declare their Gift Aid Declaration on their tax return.

Question. How does the scheme work?

Answer. The standard rate of Income Tax is 22p in the pound. If a person earns £1.28 the tax off is 28p (22% of £1.28). This leaves the person with £1.00 "in the pocket". If the £1.00 is then given to the Church, and the parishioner signs a New Gift Aid Declaration, the parish can claim back the 28p. (The £1.00 has to be given in an envelope which can be recorded. An increasing number of parishioners are now pay regularly by standing order.)

Question. What about couples?

Answer. A Gift Aid Declaration can only be made in the name of an individual parishioner since Income Tax is claimed back against his or her own tax. If both spouses pay tax they may wish to make separate Declarations for the amounts that they give and must then use their own numbered envelopes or separate banker's order. This enables accurate records to be kept.

Please join the Scheme at the earliest opportunity. Forms and information available from our People's Warden Christine Griffiths (Tel. 01554 821202),