

South East Wales Unitarian Society



Annual General Meeting 2011

120th Annual Report



Nottage General Baptist and Unitarian Chapel

Saturday, 21st May, 2011

At 11am

Programme

11am Coffee

11.30am AGM

12.30pm - 1.45pm Shared Lunch

2pm Talk - Karen Hanley of the Faith Commission will speak on the subject of Social Responsibility & Visibility.

Agenda:

1. Opening Devotions by the President - Mrs Sarah Boyce
2. Silence in Memory of Paul David
3. Apologies
4. Minutes read, approved and signed - Page 3 et seq
5. Matters arising not on the agenda
6. President's Report - Page 11 et seq
7. Reports - To receive and adopt reports as printed in this leaflet
 - Secretary - Page 13 et seq
 - Treasurer - Page 8 et seq
 - District Women's League - Page 15 et seq
 - South East Wales News - Page 16 et seq
 - Publicity (including IT) - Page 17 et seq
 - Musical Union - Page 18
8. Nomination & Election of President
9. Nomination of Officers - Current Officers listed on page 7
10. Event Arrangements -
 - Summer Rally
 - G.A President's visit
 - Carol Service
11. Any other business
12. Vote of thanks to the Nottage congregation for hospitality.

MINUTES OF
DISTRICT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
HIGHLAND PLACE CHURCH ABERDARE
SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2010

Prior to the Annual General Meeting worship was led by the District President, Mrs. Sarah Boyce.

AGM Opening Devotions by the District President.

Apologies: Paul David, Philip Griffiths, Annette & David Marsh, Marie & Alastair Rosenberg, Isobel & Elizabeth Rosenberg, Avril Protheroe, Mansell Lalis.

(Best wishes were sent to Paul David and others not able to attend due to ill health)

Minutes of the AGM held Sunday 17th May 2009 at Nottage

Following the correction of an error relating to the SEWUS News the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Ken Morgan Seconded: Julianne Morgan

Matters Arising

There is still a need for more members of this District to become Associate Members of the General Assembly. All were encouraged to take up membership.

Reports

Presidents Report

This emphasized the need for collaborative working towards a successful ministry in the east of the district; social activities and the need for us to engage with organizations outside our own.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that income was down this year due to:-

- A drop in interest at Cafbank caused by the recession. It is now down to ½%

- M&G Charities are slightly down, showing a loss of £500 over the year
- Subscriptions and collections are generally down across the district
- The cost of the visit of the GA President was unusually high although South Wales District will pay half the amount and the SEWUS Women's League has contributed towards the cost.

The Treasurer further commented that we must be mindful of the cost of contributing towards the salary for a Welsh Department General Secretary and the cost of Ministry, for which the district has agreed.

This report was accepted.

Proposed: Morgan Chambers Seconded: Margaret Evans

Women's League Report

The President congratulated the Women's League for the substantial contribution made each year towards the National Project.

Future Ministry

The President briefly explained the situation in South East Wales following the unsuccessful 'fm' bid and Ella Lewis-Jones spoke of the hard work of the Steering Group in preparing for the future appointment of a minister for the group of churches including Aberdare, Cardiff and Cefcoed.

South East Wales News

Ken Morgan spoke briefly about the content of his report and Keith Lewis –Jones was thanked for his assistance in putting the document on the web site. Ken again appealed for interesting and relevant articles to be sent to him for inclusion.

Publicity

A completely new web site has been set up by Keith Lewis-Jones using the DUWIT system of the GA. Grateful thanks were extended to Keith for all his hard work and to Helen Bhanaut (Wick) for her work on the first web site.

Musical Union

Congratulations were extended to the organizers of the Gymanfa Ganu held in Swansea this year and especially to the conductor (Rev. Eric Jones) and organist (Stephen Wilson)

Cwmwrddu

As Cwmwrddu has its own committee this report is for information only, however the concerns expressed to the meeting on the general condition of the building will be passed on from this AGM

Nomination of Officers

- Vice President - Paul David (already elected for two years)
- Hon. Secretary - Lis Dyson-Jones
Proposed: Ella Lewis-Jones; Sec: Marion Whippey
- Minute Secretary - Ella Lewis-Jones
Proposed: Sarah Boyce ; Sec: Morgan Chambers
N.B. Anne Jones will support Ella in this task when needed
- Treasurer – Rev Eric Jones
Proposed: Sarah Boyce; Sec: Lis Dyson-Jones
- Newsletter Editors – Ken Morgan: Philip Griffiths (Re-elected)
- Publicity Co-ordinators - Rev. Eric Jones, Stephen Wilson (re- elected)
Keith Lewis-Jones was elected to join the group
Proposed: Lis Dyson-Jones Sec: Anne Jones
- Welsh Dept. Representatives (Ken Morgan & Anne Jones)
and Observer (Sarah Boyce) were re-elected
- Musical Union Co-ordinator – carried forward and will be decided
according to venue of Gymanfa Ganu
- Auditor – Ken Morgan
- Youth and RE Co-ordinators –
Sarah Boyce & Marie Rosenberg (re-elected)
Joy Foster will join the group
Proposed: Anne Jones Sec: Ella Lewis-Jones
- Women's League Representative – Anne Jones (re-elected)

Events Arrangements

- Summer Rally – will take place this year at the St. Madocs Centre, Llanmadoc. Arrangements have been circulated and all congregations were urged to pass on details of anyone who may have visited the Centre in the past so that they can be contacted and invited to attend.
Names and contact details to Lis or Eric.
Those attending were asked to take old photographs.
- Details of the next Gymanfa Ganu to be decided by the District Executive committee
- Carol Service (Winter Rally) will be held this year at Highland Place, Aberdare on Sunday 19th December in the afternoon. The GA President (Mr. Neville Kenyon) will attend the celebrations which will form part of the 150th Anniversary of the opening of Highland Place.
- GA President's visit to the district will be 30/31 October.

Any other Business

A vote of thanks was given to Aberdare for hosting today's meeting

The Secretary will write to Mr. Philip Griffiths to extend the thanks of the district for all his hard work as District Secretary.

Following the meeting Mr. Neil Sumner (Development Officer) for the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust spoke about the work of the Trust and the renovations currently being undertaken at Hen Dy Cwrdd Trecynon.

Current Officers

President	Mrs Sarah Boyce
Vice President	The late Paul David
Hon. Secretary	Ms Lis Dyson-Jones
Minute Secretary	Mrs Ella Lewis-Jones
Hon. Treasurer	Rev. J. Eric Jones
Newsletter Editors	Mr Ken Morgan Mr Philip Griffiths
Publicity Co-ordinators	Rev. J. Eric Jones Mr Stephen Wilson
Information Technology (IT)	Mr Keith Lewis-Jones
Students Fund Rep.	Mr Gareth Evans
Welsh Dept. Reps.	Mrs Anne Jones Mr Ken Morgan
Welsh Dept. Observer	Mrs Sarah Boyce
Musical Union Co-ordinator	Mrs Julianne Morgan
Auditor	Mr Ken Morgan
Youth & RE Co-ordinators	Mrs Maria Rosenberg Mrs Sarah Boyce Mrs Joy Foster
Women's League Rep.	Mrs Anne Jones

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President's Report

I write this report to reflect on the events that have happened in the district since our last AGM in May 2010 in Highland Place, Aberdare. It may be helpful to view events in the district in relation to the strategic priorities which have been set by the Executive Committee following the 'Difficult Choices' questionnaire which congregations nationally and in our district completed. The strategic priorities were ministry, visibility, local leadership and improving the service to the movement by staff and volunteers.

Developing Ministry within the denomination

We give thanks to our lay pastors and leaders in the district and were all glad to see Lewis Rees reading at the Anniversary Service at the General Assembly meetings in Swansea. Congratulations to Julianne Morgan who celebrated 20 years as GA recognised lay leader at Wick last Summer 2010.

Many congratulations to the Reverend Eric Jones on his retirement as Welsh Secretary. He was honoured at the General Assembly meetings in the Social Evening on Saturday 16th April 2011 with speeches from the Rev. Wyn Thomas and the Rev. Ceu Llwyd and he received a presentation of gifts and a cheque. He is followed by our new Welsh Secretary, Carwyn Tywyn who shows a clear vision for his role and an impressive grasp of Unitarian issues in Wales when speaking at the General Assembly.

Many congratulations to Lis Dyson-Jones from all in our district on her service to the Executive Committee and for being our 'link' to the EC, she is now standing down from this role but is taking on a new role as Vice President of the General Assembly. Dilys Evans has finished her term as National Women's League President and we congratulate her for her work in this role.

Worship in the district has been helped by the preparation of the pulpit plan by Lis Dyson-Jones and we are fortunate that we have a core of worship leaders. This is likely to be slightly more stretched in the forthcoming year as we have sadly lost Paul David who was one of our worship leaders. Lis Dyson-Jones will have engagements as Vice-President of the GA and will be unable to take as many services for the next two years and Lewis Rees is still recuperating. The congregations of Aberdare, Cardiff and Cefncoed were unsuccessful in receiving applicants for their collaborative ministry post advertised last Summer 2010 and the congregation of Cardiff are now

planning to advertise for a part time Development Officer post shortly.

We have enjoyed services together in the district such as a Flower service in Cardiff in June 2010 at the Friends Meeting House, the District Rally at Llanmadog in July 2010 and the Harvest Thanksgiving service at Aberdare in the Autumn which was an absolute delight in hearing the contributions of so many of the congregation. Unfortunately, the District Christmas service at Aberdare (to tie in with their 150th anniversary) had to be cancelled due to the snow in December 2010. This was rescheduled for 27th March 2011 with Neville Kenyon, President of the GA, his wife, Betty and other dignitaries attending. We were also fortunate to greet Neville Kenyon on his GA President's visit to Nottage on the 17th October 2010 which was followed by a shared lunch.

Raising the visibility of the Unitarian movement

Congregations in the district have been holding events for publicity or celebration. This is an excellent start for one of the new strategic objectives of the General assembly which is *Visibility*. Wick Chapel held an Open Day in July 2010. Cardiff Unitarians/Undodiaid Caerdydd held an open Christmas event at Penrhiw chapel in December 2010 and a talk at the Friends Meeting House in April 2011. The congregation of Highland Place, Aberdare have held a series of talks, concerts and Anniversary service and dinner throughout 2010 and the beginning of 2011. There have also been some excellent publications produced such as the history of Highland Place, 'A Story of Resilience' by members of the congregation.

Other notable events in the district have included the setting up of a tent at the National Eisteddfod from 31st July to 7th August 2010 in Ebbw Vale in collaboration with South Wales district. We are very fortunate to have the services of Ken Morgan and Philip Griffiths who produce our excellent South East Wales Unitarian Society News. We are also indebted to Keith Lewis-Jones in the district for his work on the SEWUS website and support to congregations with their own websites.

Local Leadership

A district 'Away Day' was held at the Glyn Neath Training Centre on 13th November and this was enjoyable and felt to be useful by members of the different congregations in looking at issues of health and safety, constitutions

and rules of congregations and public liability insurance. Sarah Boyce and Joy Foster are training as leaders for RE to children and young people in the district as part of the national REvolution training.

It is heartening to be able to report developments in these areas but we do recognise in the district that attendance at services is declining for some of our congregations. As District President I would personally also see a need to develop areas which are not strategic priorities set by the General Assembly such as the role of children, young people and young adults in our congregations and our role as church communities in local areas of social concern and responsibility.

I would like to thank all in the district for my time as District President from 2009-2011 and wish Philip Griffiths well as he has kindly agreed to take on the role of District President following our loss of Paul David.

Sarah Boyce



Secretary's Report

The past year has been a busy one with some happy occasions spent together and others which have been incredibly sad. However, the District has continued to represent and uphold those things for which we stand.

The Executive Committee has met on six occasions not all meetings were well attended, but our business has been completed in a collaborative way and our finances, thanks to a prudent and able Treasurer are healthy. The decision to hold an 'Away- Day' in October 2010 was attended by almost all Executive members and a couple of visitors also. Spending a day together enabled us to complete much more than a two hour meeting, discussion and specific input from some, was helpful. The success of the day will be repeated this autumn.

At our AGM 2010, held at Highland Place, Aberdare, we welcomed Neil Sumner of the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust whose interesting talk included a great deal of information about Hen Dy Cwrdd Trecynon. During the year we have welcomed the GA President on two occasions, at the District Service in October 2010 at Nottage chapel and again in March this year, at the 150th Anniversary Service Celebration at Highland Place. We visited Llanmadog in July 2010 for our summer gathering and despite a poor forecast, the sun shone on us for most of the afternoon. After an inspiring

service from the District President, many were able to walk along the magnificent cliffs of the area. Many memories and stories were exchanged on that occasion. Our Christmas Rally, due to be part of the Aberdare celebrations was curtailed, due to bad weather.

After a great deal of preparation and hard work, three of our chapels (Aberdare, Cardiff and Cefncoed) had to re-think the plan to have a joint Ministry when there was little response to the advertised four year appointment. Grateful thanks must be given to the representatives of all three congregations, but in particular to Ella Lewis-Jones who spearheaded the process. Cardiff has continued in preparing to advertise for a Development Officer.

We have a very well designed and up to date web site, thanks to the tremendous hard work and interest of Keith Lewis-Jones. We are so lucky to have such an innovative and creative person in charge and I offer personal thanks to Keith as well as on behalf of all SEWUS members. Thanks also to Ken Morgan and Phil Griffiths (Cefncoed) for their continued dedication to ensure we have such a fine newsletter.

It was with great sadness that we all heard of the death of our President elect, Paul David, just weeks before his installation. I am so happy that he is being honoured at this meeting. I and members of the Executive Committee are deeply grateful to Philip Griffiths for agreeing to accept the role of President of the SEWUS District at such short notice.

Sadly, illness has also affected some of our loyal members and we were all sorry to learn that Lewis Rees (Student Lay Pastor) and the Rev Eirion Phillips, both from the Trebanos and Gellionnen congregations (and both previous District Presidents) have had to spend time in hospital. We send our best wishes for better health in the coming year.

Gratitude and praise must be given to our retiring President, Sarah Boyce for the exemplary way she has undertaken her duties and represented us so well. It has been a personal joy to work with her and I am grateful for her support.

Several members of the District attended the GA Annual Meetings in Swansea in April and to those who acted as guides and those who provided Welsh cakes and offered voluntary help in other ways, I offer my congratulations on a job well done. It was especially pleasing to have the National Women's League President, Dilys Evans and Dr Carwyn Tywyn, the new Welsh Department Secretary, present for all of the meetings. It was with great pride that we saw and heard the Rev. J Eric Jones deliver the John

Relly Beard Lecture. We were all delighted to hear the congratulations given to Joy and Tony Foster from Aberdare, for their creative and spiritual decoration of the Quiet Room. It was inspired. Thanks to Marion Littlepage for agreeing to be the SEWUS delegate.

Finally, my thanks to all committee members but especially to Eric Jones (Treasurer) and to Ella-Lewis Jones (Minutes Secretary), and to all the chapels which have hosted our meetings during the year.

Lis Dyson-Jones



Treasurer's Report

See Statement of Accounts on pages 4 to 6



District Women's League Report

It has been another action packed year for the District, with the branches coming together on a number of occasions. On June 6th 2010, members of Cefn Coed visited Highland Place for the Women's League Service. Abergavenny was the destination on 23rd June, with a visit to the Tithe Barn to view the tapestry and then to a garden centre.

On the 28th July we had a trip to 'Labels' in Ross on Wye and then on to Ledbury.

On October 27th a District meeting was held at Highland Place and was very well attended with Aberdare ladies providing the refreshments.

A trip was organised for November 10th to the Railway Garden Centre at Three Cocks, then back to Brecon for a meal and shopping.

On 23rd February 2011, members of Highland Place joined Cardiff members. An enjoyable afternoon was hosted by Margaret Evans, and members discussed what Women's League meant to them. Excellent food was provided by the Cardiff ladies and valuable funds were raised for the District.

The District AGM was hosted by Cefn Coed, who also provided the refreshments. It was an AGM with a difference, as we had a guest speaker, John Hewardine, who gave a talk about the Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village in the Khasi Hills, India. The National Women's League President, Dilys Evans, had chosen the Children's Village for the League Project.

On Saturday 16th April a bus was arranged to take members of Cefn Coed and Highland Place to Oystermouth for the morning, and the afternoon was spent at the GA in Swansea for the Women's League meeting. National President, Dilys Evans gave her report, and a cheque for £8,500, raised through the Project, was presented to John Hewardine.

Raffles and 'bring and buy' were held at every opportunity to raise vital funds for the work of the League.

A very successful year, and we hope to forge closer links between the branches in the future. Lots of activities and fund raising events are planned for the coming year. Onward and upward, may we long continue.

Joy Foster



South East Wales Unitarian News

There were five issues of the *South East Wales Unitarian News* in 2010, at 10/11-week intervals. Bundles were dispatched to the congregations at Aberdare, Cardiff, Cefn Coed, Gellionnen, Nottage, Swansea, Trebanos, and Wick. In addition, the newsletter was posted, on a regular basis, to interested individuals who are not attached to any of these congregations, and also to the Bangor fellowship. Included on the mailing-list were the Ceredigion-based members of the Unitarian Welsh Department. (Carwyn Tywyn, the new Secretary of the Welsh Department, has now been added to the list.)

The Newsletter was also sent to:- the National Library of Wales, the Information Department at Essex Hall, the Editor of *Yr Ymofynnydd*, the Editor of *The Inquirer*, the Editor of *The Unitarian* and to the students' common room at Unitarian College Manchester and at Harris Manchester College Oxford. A few 'one-off' mailings were made to others when appropriate.

The publication schedule has evolved into a settled pattern with copy deadlines well publicised and (for the most part) adhered to. (Some flexibility

is allowed in order to accommodate particular circumstances.) SEWUS members receive their copy free of charge.

In order to function effectively the District must have an efficient means of disseminating information. The newsletter plays an important (and, it is hoped, effective) role in this process – it covers District events that have taken place and gives notice of future ones; Key-Messages from the Executive Committee of the GA are also included. Each congregation is encouraged to report on any local happening of general interest, and articles submitted by individuals are also welcomed. Reports by attendees at Unitarian events outside the District are appreciated—in particular those regarding the youth-scene.

Past issues of *South East Wales Unitarian News* (January 2009 onwards) are archived on the SEWUS website at www.ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/ .

We thank all contributors, especially the small band of skilled snappers whose artwork continues to give the newsletter an added flavour.

Ken Morgan, Philip Griffiths

If you have any ideas about how the South East Wales Unitarian News can be improved, or if you would like to write an article for publication, please contact Ken Morgan on 01685 379016 or via kenneth.morgan25@tesco.net, or Philip@philipgriffiths.co.uk



Publicity Report

Including IT

The district advertisement has continued in the Western Mail and discussions have continued on publicity in the South Wales Evening Post.

The web site has continued to develop. A link has been provided to the Welsh Department site and a page listing the past Presidents of the Society has been added. The history page has been enhanced with photographs of most of the defunct chapels. Those congregations with calendars now have them available from their individual pages; the remaining congregations have their pulpit plan displayed. Cefn Coed are now making use of their page as

their own web site. For congregations with no web site of their own this is a very easy way to have a presence on the web and I will incorporate any material sent to me (preferably by email).

I have transferred all of the information contained on the out of date websites of Gellionnen, Nottage, Swansea and Wick to the relevant page of the South East Wales site. The GA website now accesses these pages instead of the old sites.

The Penrhiw Chapel page has been enlivened with interior photographs and the Cardiff Unitarians 'Victorian Carols & Storytelling' event held in December 2010.

The site continues to show a full-colour version of the South East Wales News.

There have been 546 visits to the site. Individual pages show 129 to SEW News; 69 to Aberdare; 92 to Cardiff; 96 to Cefn Coed; 98 to Gellionnen; 8 to Nottage; 77 to Swansea; 63 to Trebanos and 79 to Wick.

As I am now a member of the GA 'DUWIT' team, I am able to incorporate many more facilities on the site. This year I have also created the bilingual Welsh Department site, a site for The South Wales District Association and a new, bilingual, site for Cardiff Unitarians.

Keith L. Lewis-Jones



Musical Union Report

There is no report as no events were held during 2010 apart from the Cymanfa Ganu held in Swansea in March 2010. This was reported in the 2010 Annual Report.



Past Presidents of the South East Wales Unitarian Society

1891-3	C.H. Perkins (Swansea)	1952-54	M. R Morgan (Aberdare)
1893-4	Thomas Thomas (Merthyr)	1954-55	David Thomas (Nottage)
1894-6	G. Carslake Thompson (Cardiff)	1955-56	Leslie Thomas (Swansea)
1896-8	Prof Philemon Moore (Carmarthen)	1956-57	Rev. D. Jacob Davies (Aberdare)
1898-0	J. Moy Evans (Swansea)	1957-59	Mrs. E.A. James (Trecynon)
1900-2	H Woolcott Thompson (Cardiff)	1959-61	Rev. Roy John (Cardiff)
1902-4	Thomas Phillips (Aberdare)	1961-63	Miss Edna Dando (Swansea)
1904-6	Rev. W.J. Phillips (Nottage)	1963-65	Rev. L. Baker Short (Swansea)
1906-8	L.N. Williams JP. (Aberdare)	1965-67	Josiah Hewitt (Trebanos)
1908-10	Gomer Thomas JP. (Merthyr)	1967-69	Rev. T.J. Jones (Cardiff)
1910-12	Mrs. Reid (Swansea)	1969-71	Alice Howells (Trecynon)
1912-14	John Lewis (Pontypridd)	1971-73	Rev. Alan Taylor (Pontypridd)
1914-16	Rev. Simon Jones (Swansea)	1973-75	Gwyneth Thomas (Pontypridd)
1916-18	Sir D.R Llewellyn (Trecynon)	1975-77	Rev. J. Eric Jones (Aberdare/Cardiff)
1918-20	Mrs John Lewis (Pontypridd)	1977-79	Dorothy Lloyd (Cardiff)
1920-21	Charles E. Edwards (Cardiff)	1979-81	Julianne Symons (Swansea)
1921-22	Mrs John Lewis (Pontypridd)	1981-83	John Morse (Aberdare)
1922-23	Rev. D.G. Rees (Trebanos)	1983-85	Margaret Evans (Cardiff)
1923-25	George Payne (Pentre)	1985-87	Ken Morgan (Cefn Coed)
1925-28	Rev. E.R Dennis (Trecynon)	1987-89	Rev. Eirion Phillips (Swansea)
1928-30	Miss Sophia George (Aberdare)	1989-91	Dr. Beverley Littlepage (Nottage)
1930-32	Rev. H.H. Ceirion Jones (Cardiff)	1991-93	Anne Jones (Aberdare)
1932-33	Rev. E.R Dennis (Trecynon)	1993-95	Hilda Dumpleton (Swansea)
1933-34	Tom Lewis JP. (Cefn Coed)	1995-97	Richard Howells (Graig & Gellionnen)
1934-35	J.L Rowlands (Aberdare)	1997-99	Bill Ward (Swansea)
1935-37	Rev. T.L. Jones (Cefn Coed)	1999-01	Humphrey Evans (Aberdare)
1937-38	Miss H.E. Hargrove (Swansea)	2001-03	Lis Dyson-Jones (Cardiff)
1938-39	Rev. E. Shirvel Price (Swansea)	2003-05	Morgan Chambers (Cefn Coed)
1939-41	Lewis Edwards (Cefn Coed)	2005-07	Avril Protheroe (Nottage)
1941-42	Rev. J.D. Jones (Trebanos)	2007-09	Lewis Rees (Graig & Gellionnen)
1942-43	Taliesin Griffiths (Trecynon)	2009-11	Sarah Boyce (Cardiff)
1943-44	Rev. Marles Thomas (Cefn Coed)	2011-13	<i>Paul David (Aberdare) passed away before taking up office.</i>
1944-46	Rev. S.R Butler (Cardiff)	2011-13	Philip Griffiths (Cefn Coed)
1946-47	Rev. Basil Viney (Swansea)	2013-15	
1947-48	D.T. Williams (Trecynon)		
1948-49	Tom Morse (Aberdare)		
1949-51	Rev. E. J. Williams (Nottage)		
1951-52	Rev. E. Rosalind Lee (Stourbridge)		

South East Wales Unitarian Society

Website address:

ukunitarians.org.uk/sewus/

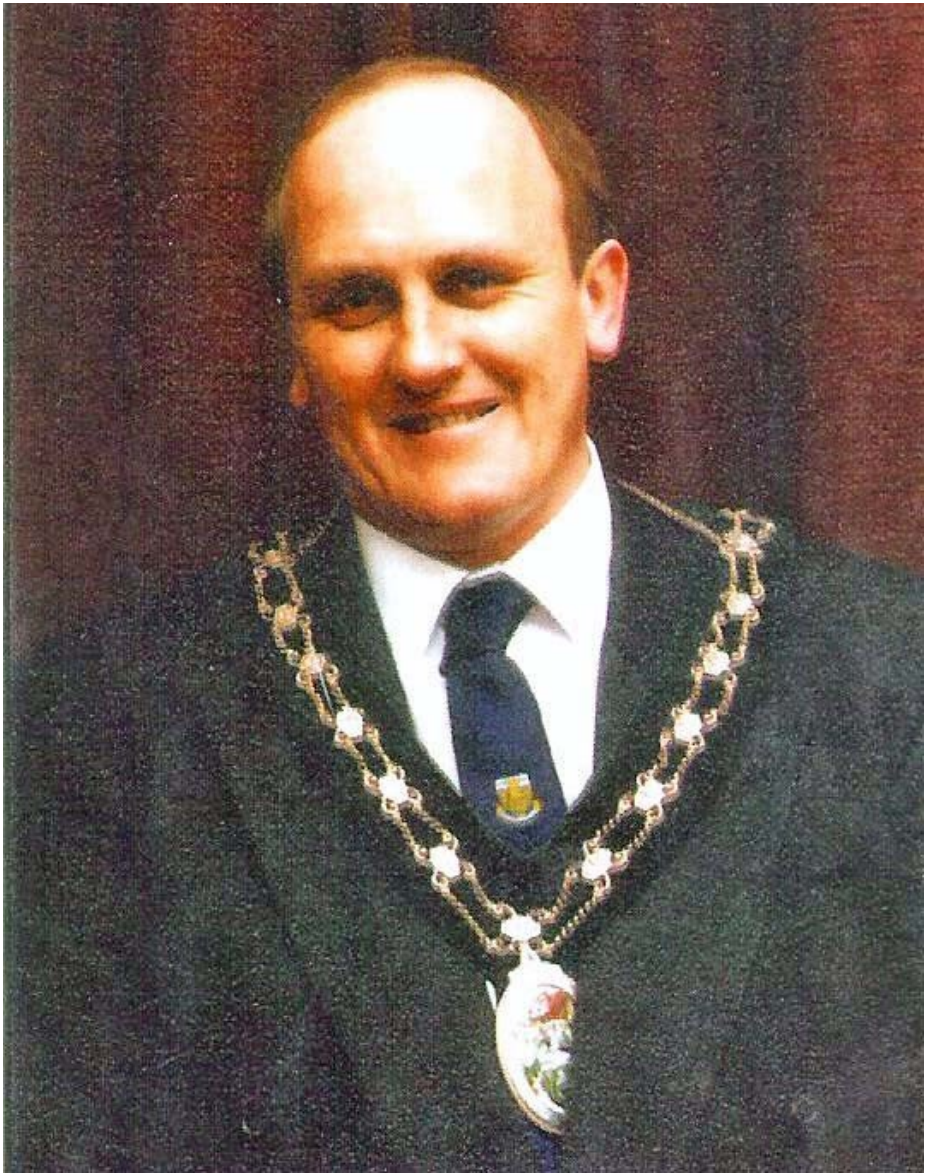
Charity Registered Number 511354

Life Members

Rev J. Eric Jones

Mrs E. Margaret Evans

Annual Report compiled and produced by Keith L. Lewis-Jones



Paul David
1949 - 2011