



St Lalluw, Menheniot

Priest In Charge: Reverend Becca Bell revbeccabell@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: Reverend Li Selman revliselman@icloud.com

Dear Adrian,

Thank you for giving the time to bring this letter to your meeting on the 21st September.

Whilst I have been in Menheniot I have appreciated the increased collaborations between the PCC and MPC. I know that working with other groups and building unity for the common good is close to your heart. We all benefit from mutually supporting each other. The warm bank, the response to the Late Queen's death, the Coronation, the gardening in front of the church have all been very positive and I was delighted by the village's response to our Carol Service last year. Many groups came together, some for a good sing song, others to worship. I look forward to future joint projects. Thank you for your part and to many other key players on the MPC who have enabled these projects.

As we both know, the village at large does appreciate the church being here, if not the building then the grounds which are used extensively for walkers and others wanting to find a peaceful spot. Indeed, it is used regularly by the playgroup during the summer months.

I am sure I don't need to put that case to you, we all value the space, be it for faith/spiritual reasons or just as a place to walk the dog or as the landmark that marks us being home. Many mention that the spire comes into view after a trip out and welcomes them home.

The crux of the letter is to therefore ask for help. The recent cost of repairing the wall was £3600. We appreciate the help you give us for grass cutting and maintenance of the graveyard each year. This is for us another expense, one which I hope you agree is appreciated by the whole village. We wondered if you might help cover this cost.

I am not sure if you are aware that the cost of graveyard and building upkeep along with the costs of ministry falls solely upon those who attend church on a Sunday

morning. We are not given an income from the Church of England, these costs are met wholly by the congregation.

We understand that you would not want to contribute at all to our ministry costs.

The cost of stipend and housing of a priest, utility bills, insurance and the institutional costs of the church which include our legal support and safeguarding advise, all enable us to minister to the needy of this Parish but **they are our costs as Christians and irrelevant to those of other faiths and none.** I mention this to help you to understand our situation and appreciate that a very small group of people have to meet these substantial costs on top of the current graveyard, clock and wall bills.

Our door is always open to all, our service is for all and I deeply respect other spiritual and faith groups and those for whom faith is unimportant. We fed and housed a Buddhist group from Thailand only last year, and our church provides a network for many who struggle with poverty or loneliness, bereavement or physical need. We work alongside and for many, regardless of 'membership'.

Our congregation consists of about 40 people who have to give/raise well over £40,000 a year to stay open. After considering all this I hope that you will appreciate my openness and will consider contributing to this particular bill.

In kindness and hope,
Li

Rev'd Li Selman
Assistant Curate of the Benefices of Menheniot, St Cleer, and St Ive and Pensilva with Quethiock