



Hidden Gems: Delightful Discoveries



We are looking for your suggestions for churches and other sacred places in the diocese to visit: Inviting places of uniqueness that might entice curious visitors. In this edition, we feature two, very different hidden gems.

The Finest Georgian Church in Wales

We tend to think that the churches that are gems of history in Wales are always ancient ones, writes **Canon Sue Huyton, Mission Area Leader of Maelor**. And yet, the history of our church buildings has spanned many centuries and at various times in history different styles of architecture have held sway. Saint Deiniol's Church in Worthenbury is a beautiful example, reputedly the finest, of a Georgian Church in Wales.

The present church was rebuilt on the site of previous buildings between 1735 and 1739 funded in part by a large contribution from the Puleston family. They had been sent to the district, on the border between England and Wales, by King Edward I, to live at Emral Hall and have been part of the church's history ever since. Their hatchments are displayed on the west wall. Today, family members are scattered across the world but still gather occasionally in Worthenbury. In 2015 a copy of the Book of Common Prayer dated 1766 was found in a local charity shop. This prayer book was originally given to the church by the then Rector, the Revd Philip Puleston, in October 1773 and is inscribed in his own hand. It is now on display in the church.

Light streams into the church through the clear glass of the nave windows. There is a complete set of box pews which used to be a source of income for the church, since families would rent them. In many churches the Victorian mania to modernise has removed such pews but

fortunately the Puleston family ran out of money before they could do the same thing. The two pews for the landed Gentry, those nearest the altar, contain fireplaces so that the wealthy could keep warm in winter. For the remaining pews there was a descending order of seniority according to social class and local job description. There is a three-decker pulpit whose sounding board I am assured will still project the voice of the preacher clearly to the back of the church.

The small congregation has a huge responsibility to care for this building and offers a warm welcome to groups of visiting pilgrims and historians who follow the Wrexham Historic Churches Network or are just passing and feel drawn to its beauty. **You can see a film about the church at <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/property/church-tourism>**

Victorian Tin Church

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury is in Borderlands Mission area and is called a "tin" church, writes **Pat Cole**. The church was built in 1899 and the wooden paneling inside originates from Sir William Gladstone's library in Hawarden. We intend to start pilgrimage walks from Hawarden Library to the Good Shepherd Church. We are a small church community with a long and strong association with St Matthew's Church in Buckley. Everyone is welcome to come and visit our unique church. **For more information, please contact patatherton@googlemail.com**

Where is your hidden gem? Do you have plans to entice curious visitors? Teulu Asaph will be featuring these inviting places of uniqueness across the diocese in future editions. Contact the editor to offer your church or Mission Area.