

St Barnabas Church Committee

21st June, 2021

Can I begin by thanking you all, firstly, for agreeing to serve on this committee, and secondly, for all your hard work over the last 18 months during this difficult pandemic time we have all endured.

Yesterday's gospel reading from St mark, chapter 4 related to us the well-known story of the calming of the storm, and the fear the disciples were experiencing. In my address at St John's I spoke about fear, and also emphasised that our Lord instilled "peace" into the fearful minds of those in his company, there are many references to this in the Gospels.

I am more than aware of the fractious time that St Barnabas has been living through of late- due to many and varied reasons. It is very obvious to me that as a congregation you are in need of the "peace giving and healing presence of our Lord Jesus Christ" if any sense of community is to be restored.

So tonight, I propose a figurative line is drawn and past issues and arguments are confined to history, so to

speak, so that together we can embrace a new future as the Benefice of Pont Gors Fawr.

This committee will oversee the finances and fabric of St Barnabas, always reporting fully to the new Benefice PCC, which will then address worship, mission, ministry and outreach. All decisions will need to be signed off, so to speak, by myself in collaboration with the church wardens.

The future for this Benefice is like a blank sheet of paper, it is our responsibility to put in place the foundation stones, so that a new and vibrant Christian presence can be built centred on our Lord Jesus Christ who preached peace, forgiveness and love.

The communication of our decisions and plans is of paramount importance, and I pray that we will all focus on working together, unified, so that we can proclaim the Good News into every corner of our new benefice.