



The Rev'd J Hugh A James, BA, MPhil Our New Rector

www.stmaryskidwelly.org.uk

Hugh has been Vicar of Kidwelly and Llandyfaelog in West Wales for 7 years. Before he can take up the position of Rector he needs a visa from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service. That application was filed at the end of September, and the process is expected to take 5 to 6 months. So, hopefully, Hugh will be with us by Easter 2012.

Hugh is 55 and married to Susan, a former solicitor (attorney) who now teaches piano. They have no children, but will be bringing Danny their Springer Spaniel to Norwich.



Hugh, Susan & Danny November 2011

Hugh is responsible for 3 churches: St Mary's Kidwelly, St Teilo's Mynyddygarreg, and St Maelog's Llandyfaelog, and works closely with a non-stipendiary colleague the Rev'd Roger Morley-Jones. He has introduced modern-language liturgies, acts of all-age worship and the 3-year Alternative Lectionary. He has overseen restoration programs in 2 of the

churches, including a £400,000 (\$650,000) restoration of St Mary's spire, tower and west

wall. St Mary's is a mainly 14th century, grade 1 listed, former priory church. You can see more details of this parish at: www.stmaryskidwelly.org.uk

Before moving to Kidwelly, Hugh was vicar of the Llanfihangel-ar-Arth group of churches, in the same Diocese, for 12 years. During the 20 years he has served in St Davids Diocese he has been an Area Dean on two occasions.

Hugh took a sabbatical in 2004, when he wrote "A Fitting End", a book on funerals. You can see a copy in the church library.



Roger & Hugh Civic Service Kidwelly May 2011



Readers being authorized for funerals June 2007

Hugh has lectured on funeral ministry at St Michael's Theological College, Llandaff and at clergy training events, and has trained lay readers to conduct funerals. He used to teach communication skills for Cardiff University's Diploma of Pastoral Studies, and has, more recently, been a personal tutor and lectured in Church History on the South Wales Ordination Course.

Hugh was Diocesan Spiritual Director for Cursillo in the St Davids Diocese for 7 years, and is a founder member of the Diocesan College of Spiritual Directors. He greatly enjoys leading quiet days and retreats, and promoting opportunities for adult discussion within churches.



During a Cursillo weekend June 2003



Diocesan Children's Festival September 2002

From 1984 to 1992 Hugh was the Church in Wales' Provincial Officer for Youth and Children's Work. He helped to develop resources for working with children and youth, introduced a nationwide training scheme for Sunday School Teachers, re-launched Cymry'r Groes (a national youth movement), and established a Young Adult Network. He was responsible for co-ordinating the hosting program for some

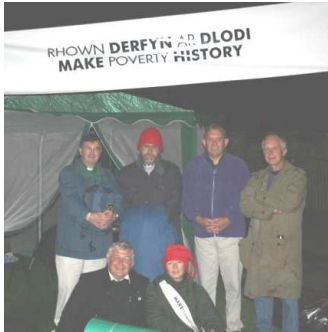
250 delegates (including 18 from the USA) to the first International Conference of Young Anglicans, held at Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1988. He led a delegation of Young Adults to South Africa in December 1989.

Hugh was ordained deacon at Llandaff Cathedral in June 1981 and priested in 1982. He was curate of Porthcawl, where he met Susan.

Hugh's first visit to the United States was as an exchange student with the English Speaking Union. He spent 6 months at the Loomis-Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut, during 1975, and travelled around the United States with a group of fellow exchange students. He has maintained some life-long friendships from that period.

Hugh returned to Britain to continue his studies at Durham University where he gained a General Arts Degree. He then trained for the ministry at St Michael's College. He was ordained at Llandaff, following in the footsteps of his father and 2 uncles. Hugh comes from a line of Welsh Anglican Clergy that he can trace back for several generations.

Since ordination he has continued his studies, gaining the University of Wales' Certificate in Welsh as a Second Language in 1990, and the degree of Master of Philosophy from the University of Wales, Bangor in 2002 for his thesis on funerals.



Hugh has felt particularly drawn to CEC because of its outreach programs, particularly the School of the Arts and Angel Food Ministry.

During the Make Poverty History campaign, he organized a sleep-out in the Town Square. He has encouraged the development of music in Kidwelly, with organ recitals and concerts held in the church, the re-introduction of a church choir, and hosting events for the Royal School of Church Music.

Hugh has raised the profile of the church in the wider community through the parish magazine, the church website, developing links with local schools, and being Mayor's chaplain.

His other interests include playing chess, walking Danny, and a little gardening.



Concert with Georgina Zellan Smith July 2009