

God moves in mysterious ways

One of the saddest moments in a church's life is when it has to close. Paul Boyle knows, having been the Priest in Charge of a church in such a situation, but he relates how some much-loved items from Marros Church have now found a new home

What the people find hard is that, when all the legalities have been completed, you stand in the empty church you once loved and see items still in the church that nobody wanted.

Recently, I was contacted by Alun Andrews, of the Church in Wales Representative Body, whose role is to look after redundant churches. Marros Church had been made redundant some time ago and he asked if the church wardens would be willing for the wardens' wands, which were still in the church building, to go to a church in Cardiff whose wands had been stolen a number of years ago. The wardens were delighted and Alun said he would arrange for them to be collected.

A number of weeks later Alun contacted me to say he was coming to collect them. He said that the church wardens of St Thomas' in Birchgrove, Cardiff, would be delighted to receive them. I couldn't believe my ears, my brother had been warden of this church for many years. I told Alun this, and said I would deliver them for him, which as you can see from the photograph, has been done. One church's loss has been another's gain.



L-R in St Thomas' Church: Recently-retired Warden, Eddie Boyle; David Gill, People's Warden; the author; Catherine Barr, Rector's Warden; Elaine Hickman, Verger.