

A Day in the Life . . . of a Churchwarden

At St Gwyddelan's, in the small village of Dolwyddelan, much of what happens each week goes unseen. Doors are unlocked, spaces prepared, candles lit, rotas organised — often without fanfare. For the past six years, Sue has been one of the Churchwardens helping to make sure all of this happens.

Sue stepped into the role when the previous Churchwarden was unable to continue. "I took over at the time, and I've just carried on ever since," she says, in a way that reflects her practical, understated approach to service.

For Sue, being a Churchwarden is very much a role you shape yourself. "It's what you make of it," she explains. "Because I'm short of time, my role is mostly about coordinating — making sure that anything that needs doing *does* get done, and that the people who help have the support they need."

That often means looking after the building: locking up, cleaning, setting up for worship, and organising service rotas. But it also means something less tangible. "Being a listening ear," Sue says. "That's part of it too."

People are sometimes surprised to hear that the role isn't as daunting as it sounds. "It isn't difficult," she says simply — particularly when it's shared.

The highlights of the year, for Sue, are the festivals. "Decorating the church with greenery — always eco-friendly — and seeing it all by candlelight," she says. "It looks so lovely. Magical, really."

There are, of course, responsibilities that don't always get noticed. Some are more challenging than others. "Understanding how the heating works," Sue laughs — proof that every ministry has its mysteries.

Certain moments stay with her more than most. "Weddings," she says without hesitation. "They're always magical."

Balancing the role with the rest of life comes down to organisation — and people. "I have an excellent and hugely helpful team who actually do most of the bits and pieces that need doing," she says. "Many hands really do make light work."

Support comes from many places: the congregation, the clergy, and

