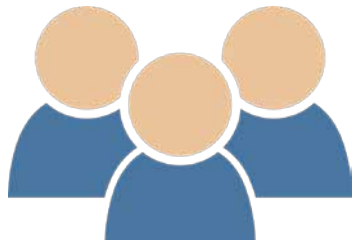


# Broken Rites

[www.brokenrites.org](http://www.brokenrites.org)





# ***Foreword***

## ***from The Honourable Mr Frank Field MP***

Once again it gives me great pleasure to write the foreword for the Broken Rites' Annual Report.

This has been a busy year for Broken Rites with important issues under consideration by the church as a whole, but many have also continued the important work of providing support for individual clergy spouses and partners both at times of crisis but also in the longer term, because the effects of a relationship breakdown are deep and long lasting.

We all await the results of consultations about clergy well-being across several denominations, the current focus on the Church of England Clergy Discipline Measure, and the C of E Living in Love and Faith project. It is to be hoped that these will lead to real appreciation of the issues that Broken Rites seeks to highlight, and that conversations will continue which will lead to real action.

The wheels of institutions grind exceedingly slow, and it is disappointing that we still have not seen the revised Bishops' Visitors' guidelines nor any progress on obtaining statistics about clergy marriage breakdown in the C of E. It is a real problem that there is no overview or overall policy on help available to clergy spouses or partners after a relationship breakdown.

One of the great values of Broken Rites is that it offers unconditional one-to-one support for those who are experiencing relationship breakdown or difficulty. Each member has something to contribute at some stage along the journey, and I encourage you all to continue. The existence of Broken Rites is so important for the individuals who come to you in times of crisis and beyond, and also for its wider work in applying these experiences in your endeavours to improve provision for all those who find themselves in these situation.

# Notice of Broken Rites

## 37th Annual General Meeting

*to be held at Victoria Hall Methodist Church (Methodist Central Hall)  
Sheffield S1 2JB on Saturday 25th April 2020 at 10.30 for 11 am*

### **Agenda**

**10.30 am – Registration**

**11.00 am – Welcome and Introductions**

**11.15 am – Business Meeting**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Opening remarks from the chair
- 3 Approval of minutes of 36th A.G.M. 2019
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Presentation of accounts
- 6 Appointment of Examiners for 2020
- 7 Annual Report
- 8 Appointment of Co Chair, Rite Lines Editor, and Interdenominational representative
- 9 Appointment of area reps and links
- 10 Amendment to Constitution:

**Proposal:** That in the first paragraph and in Membership paragraph 1 the words *“divorced and separated spouses/ partners of clergy, ministers and Church Army Officers”* be replaced by *“divorced and separated spouses/partners of clergy and ministers”*.

(The purpose of this change is to include those from all denominations who may be in ministerial positions not always defined by ordination)

- 11 Any other business
- 12 Date and venue of 38th A.G.M. (24<sup>th</sup> April 2021, London)

**1 – 2 pm – Lunch**

**2.15 pm – “Hanging on to the butterfly – a textile exploration into survival and transformation”** – presented by Viv Rowett who uses ‘making’ as a tool for exploring and surviving

**3.15 pm – Closing remarks**

**3.30 pm – Depart**

*Directions to Victoria Hall Methodist Church on back cover.*

# ***Co-chairs' Annual Report 2020***

It's been an exciting and exhausting year at Broken Rites, and we all owe a large debt to the executive committee for much hard graft, and for being so well organised.

The Awaytime at Scargill was a highlight, proving the value and joy of face-to-face connections. We enjoyed glorious scenery and good food as well as great company, so it felt like a good retreat, notwithstanding Maggie's excellent leadership which made it a productive time too, as reported in Rite Lines.

The main 'takeaway' for me (Kath) was the need to build communications across the great digital divide. We find ourselves with approximately half of us in reach of an instant connection with the Facebook group day or night; there are enough active members there that anyone with a query or needing to vent can expect to find half a dozen of us to interact within hours. We're aware that long-term members have so much to offer the 'newbies', in the 'real world'.

Many of our issues (church disciplinary procedures and cover-ups; coercive control, domestic/spiritual /institutional abuse; safeguarding; wellbeing; mental health; gender justice...etc) are currently receiving much attention in the world and (at last!) in the church. The speed at which stories and debates move on is very rapid, thanks to Twitter etc., and our quarterly Rite Lines can only provide the headlines. Be assured, the work of advocacy and campaigning continues on a daily basis, as well as the mutual care and support.

Those of us engaging in the discourse put a lot of energy into networking with other groups fighting similar battles. We rely on the grapevine to keep members posted. So please don't think we don't value the experience and wisdom of 'offline' members; we're very grateful for the good systems and structures you've collectively evolved over the years, for the respect and good reputation you've earned which gives us a platform to stand on, and for a sense of loving support. We must not lose sight of the real value of one to one communication and support, whether it is on- or off-line. Our context and circumstances may be very different in some ways, but similar in others; we carry the flame forward, for the sake of each other and generations to come!"

**When someone is broken,  
don't try to fix them.  
(You can't.)**

**When someone is hurting,  
don't attempt to take away their pain.  
(You can't.)**

**Instead, love them by  
walking beside them in the hurt.  
(You can.)**

**Because sometimes what people need  
is simply to know  
they aren't alone.**

*Words posted on Facebook  
by "Contemplative Monk",  
original attribution unknown*

**Katharine Harrison and Dilys Stone**  
*Co-chairs, Broken Rites.*

# ***Treasurer's Report***

Since the introduction of internet banking the process of reimbursements, payments and receipt of income is far easier and quicker for me as the Treasurer and, from the feedback I have received, members. Having access to view our income and expenditure online at any time and download the monthly bank statements, all helps to make things more convenient for me as the Treasurer. However some payments are still made and received via cheques and having both options appears to be working well for members.

This year there has been no Church Leaders appeal over the summer months, so things have been quiet, except for a small amount of work relating to the Scargill weekend.

There are still over thirty subscriptions outstanding for 2019 and several that have not been paid for several years. It is often difficult to establish whether members have just moved on from Broken Rites or we have just lost contact for a variety of reasons. The Committee does its utmost to establish contact in a variety of ways and are aware that some people's financial circumstances are difficult. The £2 minimum fee is always there and **should be used** when necessary, as then we know that that individual wishes to remain a member. If no contact can be made it is usually well over three years before any member's record is changed to 'inactive'. Anyone wishing to know whether their subscription is up to date, should contact Viv Rowett at [membership@brokenrites.org](mailto:membership@brokenrites.org) or telephone number is on the back cover of the annual report.

The examination of the accounts took place in mid January and I would like to thank Pauline and Elizabeth for their diligence and scrutiny of the accounts. Our financial situation is satisfactory and this has been helped by the £1,200 annual donation received from the Church in Wales. Our expenditure for the year has come in just under budget and the committee continues to be vigilant over our expenditure, while trying to ensure that all legitimate expenditure, made by any member on behalf of Broken Rites, is claimed and reimbursed.

Next year will be my third year as Treasurer and I shall be stepping down, so please consider taking on this role when it becomes vacant at the AGM in 2021. If you wish to contact me in the interim to discuss this and see what is involved please do.

**Susan Bamber**  
*Treasurer*

# Broken Rites Balance Sheet for 2019



	2019	2018
	£	£ (rounded)
Nat West Current Account at 31 December 2019	3,510.62	3557
Nat West Reserve Account at 31 December 2019	6,398.40	8382
	<u>9,909.02</u>	<u>11,939</u>
Less Creditors #5	-	
Debtors	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>
	-	0
Assets at 31 December	<u>9,909.02</u> *	<u>11,939</u>
Represented by:		
Nat West Current Account at start of year	3,557.73	1,750
Nat West Reserve Account at start of year	8,381.92	8,376
Total Bank Balances at 1 January 2018	<u>11,939.65</u>	<u>10,126</u>
Plus surplus/-deficit during year	- 2,029.61	1,807
Reserve Account Interest during year	17.91	6
Assets at 31 December 2019 (end of year)	<u>9,927.95</u>	<u>11,939</u>

Register of Assets:  
One Laptop and software

## Notes

Broken Rites is registered with HMRC: no Corporation Tax is due

Signed

Date

Treasurer

Approved by:

*Pauline Seare*  
*Eyadok Muham*

22 January 2020  
27 January 2020

Independent Examiners

For and on behalf of Broken Rites



# Broken Rites Income & Expenditure for 2019



	Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
<b>INCOME</b>	£		£ (rounded)
Subscriptions	1,499.34	1500	1689
AGM Lunches	162.50	200	214
Individuals' Donations	319.00	250	617
Church Leaders Appeal Donations	1,200.00	0	5130
Away Day/Event Income	1,833.75	0	220
Miscellaneous & Other Income	11.35	0	30
Bank Interest	17.00	2	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,042.94</b>	<b>1,952.00</b>	<b>7,900</b>
Debtors brought forward	-	0	260
Members, Reps & Links Local Travel	150.68	100	38
Committee, Travel & Meeting Exp	1,075.69	1000	1176
Members & Committee Exp (Subsistence)	-	250.00	0
AGM Travel and Subsistence	859.70	1500	1363
AGM Lunches & Miscell Exp	334.55	400	336
Newsletter and Annual Report	765.00	1000	838
Postage	248.48	330	303
General Administration	133.70	200	248
Website	79.81	160	142
Synod and Conferences (Expenses)	1,843.40	260	265
Audit, Examination and Archives	194.98	230	344
Members Support (Travel and Subs)	1,386.56	1500	0
Advertising and Publicity	-	360	262
Miscellaneous	-	160	517
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,072.55</b>	<b>7,450.00</b>	<b>6,092</b>
<b>Net Surplus/-Deficit for the year (Current a/c)</b>	<b>- 2,029.61</b>	<b>- 5,498.00</b>	<b>1,808</b>
Transfer to Business Reserve Account	-		
<i>Transfer from Business Reserve Account</i>	2,000.00		

**Income**

- Awayday Income -**  
*Income from members attending Scargill weekend*
- Appeal Donations -**  
*Donation made by Church in Wales*
- Miscell -** *reimbursement by member of duplicate payment*

**Expenditure**

- Synod & Conference -**  
*Scargill weekend outgoing of £1,782 leaving balance of £61 reimbursed to members attending external conferences/events*
- Members' Support -**  
*Expenditure paid to members in support of their travel to and from Scargill*

# ***Auditors Report for 2019***

Myself and Jenny Smith were elected at the 2019 AGM to examine the Accounts. As many of you know, Jenny decamped to Australia for what I understand is proving a wonderful holiday with family and we wish her well.

Liz Mulvaney was co-opted in her place and on 2 February 2020, Liz and Sue came to my home (a mid-way point) to examine your accounts.

We noted that the present spread sheet should be reviewed with a potential rationalisation to reflect the current 2019 – 2024 budget. Plans.

During the examination of the accounts a couple of minor discrepancies surfaced which proved difficult to identify due to the current layout of the excel spread sheet, ( especially when printed out). It was considered that perhaps a simplified system may prove easier to manage from the perspective of future treasurers and examiners and this ought to be investigated.

It was also noted that consent and compliance with general data protection legislation ought also to be reflected in data storage and hardcover. Present information has been managed in accordance with current data protection guidance.

We support the adoption of these accounts as an accurate record.

**Pauline Pearce and Liz Mulvaney**

# ***Enquiries Co-ordinator's Report 2019***

The total number of enquiries in 2019 was 37. These were spread throughout the year but with two particularly busy months, March when there were six and November when there were eleven. In December Kath, in her role as Social media co-ordinator and I were very happy to welcome Terri Elliott to the enquiries team.

Although about just over half of this year's enquirers found us online, others heard about us from friends or through personal contact with a member. As I do not have full details regarding many of the online enquirers these statistics are not complete. For those who did fill in the contact us form, only one person mentioned a Bishop's Visitor and another an archdeacon. All but three of our enquirers were married to Anglicans. As in previous years, the majority of enquiries came from clergy wives (27). This year these included a woman living in abroad with her missionary husband. There were three enquiries from men married to women in ministry. We had three enquiries from children of our older members, one to cancel the subscription, one regarding material for the archives and one to inform us of a death. We were also contacted by people doing research, and two people asking to advertise a course and a conference respectively.

I have suggested to the committee that we simplify the "Contact Us" form on the website. There are a number of reasons for this. The latest update of the website has made all the fields mandatory. Some enquirers do not feel comfortable giving out personal details, including their address before they know us. Those enquirers who are not clergy spouses should not need to fill in details of their spouse's religious affiliation. Finally, those who enquire through Facebook are not asked for details at the point of enquiry but when they fill in a membership form.

Those of us who receive the initial enquiries are dependent on other members of Broken Rites who provide on-going support. This includes, of course, the many supportive members of the Facebook group but also the Area Reps (covering a number of counties) and Link members (for those living nearby). One to one contact "in real life" is invaluable. Just ask anyone who was at the away-time at Scargill House in July. If you are interested in becoming an Area Rep (possibly alongside an existing rep) or a Link please contact me or any member of the committee.

**Margaret Wilkinson**  
*Enquiries Co-ordinator*

# *Website report*

As I write this report in late February 2020, the website is being moved from the current hosting platform to a new one. The address will remain the same, though the background work will be easier to do; plus, the new site will be easier to view on mobile devices.

At the end of my first year as web editor, I am grateful to retired editor Jon Tillin, who helped me get started.

I am always interested to hear from members about what would make the website more useful to them. What would you like to see that isn't there? What would have been useful to you when you first became a member? Contact me: [webeditor@brokenrites.org](mailto:webeditor@brokenrites.org)

**Haley Barnett**

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## *Membership Secretary's Report*

In February 2019 there were 143 full members, 23 associate members, and 237 former members (full and associate). 8 new full members joined in 2019, plus 4 so far in 2020. 3 new associates joined in 2019, & 1 so far in 2020. Of all members, in 2019, six were moved to the list of former members, and so far in 2020, eight; some of these are actual resignations, others are members who have not responded to several attempts to contact them about subs etc, and are assumed to be resigned, and three have died. Thus in February 2020 we have **140 full members, 23 associates, and 253 former members**. It is not possible to make these figures add up as neatly as wished, as information sometimes comes in of a resignation or death which occurred some years ago, or a member assumed to be resigned is re-instated.

Work continues as ever on trying to keep up with members whose contact details seem no longer correct, and trying to complete the columns of responses to the necessary GDPR questions, which specify by which means a member is willing to be contacted. If you think you may not have replied to an email or letter about these, please do so as soon as possible.

The percentage of Anglican members to non-Anglican has fallen from 85.7% to 82.85%, the increase in non-Anglicans being in the Baptist, Methodist, & Pentecostal churches.

<b>Regional totals of full members, &amp; names of area reps.</b>	<b>Links.</b>	<b>No. of members by counties.</b>
<b>East Midlands: 12. Viv Rowett.</b>		
Derbyshire	Vacant	5
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland	Vacant	1
Nottinghamshire	Vacant	2
Lincolnshire	Viv Rowett	4
<b>East of England: 12. Helen Taylor.</b>		
Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire	Teresa Nichols	3
Cambridgeshire	Vacant	2
Essex	Vacant	4
Norfolk	Vacant	2
Suffolk	Helen Taylor	1
<b>North East England &amp; Yorkshire: 11. Viv Neville.</b>		
County Durham & Teesside	Vacant	3
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear	Vacant	0
N Yorkshire	Cilla Diggle	5
S, W & E Yorkshire	Vacant	3
<b>North West England: 11. Sue Bamber.</b>		
Cheshire	Beth Gardner	4
Cumbria	Vacant	0
Greater Manchester	Vacant	2
Lancashire	Sue Bamber	2
Merseyside & Isle of Man	Gillian Haines	3
<b>South East England: 22. Veronica Bale.</b>		
Berkshire & Buckinghamshire	Terri Elliot	5
Oxfordshire	Alexandra Green	3
Hampshire, Isle of Wight & Channel Islands.	Vacant	5
E & W Sussex	Vacant	7
Surrey	Vacant	2
<b>Greater London &amp; South: 21. Ann Richards.</b>		
Greater London – North	Vacant	6
Greater London – South	Sarah Thorley	8
Kent	Christine Murchison	7
<b>South West England: 22. Jenny Smith.</b>		
Cornwall & Isles of Scilly	Vacant	1
Devon	Vacant	3
Dorset & Wiltshire	Jean Whatmough	6
Bristol	Vacant	4
Gloucestershire	Christine Donald	3
Somerset	Vacant	5

<b>West Midlands: 7. Rosemary Aveyard.</b>		
Herefordshire	Vacant	1
Staffordshire & Shropshire	Vacant	3
Warwickshire	Vacant	0
West Midlands	Vacant	2
Worcestershire	Rosemary Aveyard	1
<b>Scotland: 13. Rep tbc.</b>		
All of Scotland		13
<b>Wales: 8. Dilys Stone.</b>		
All of Wales	Ceri Thomas	8
<b>Northern Ireland &amp; Republic of Ireland: 3. Helen Oxley.</b>		
All		3
<b>Europe: (Whole of Europe, Morocco, Turkey &amp; the former Soviet Union): 0. Helen Oxley.</b>		
		0
<b>International: 1.</b>		
Carrie Pemberton-Ford.		1

#### Membership by denomination.

<b>Church of England: 107 (=76.4%)</b>	114
<b>Other Anglicans: 9 (=6.4%)</b>	
Church of Ireland	2
Church in Wales	6
Scottish Episcopal	1
<b>Non-Anglicans: 24 (=17.1%)</b>	
Assemblies of God Pentecostal	1
Baptist	2
Church of Scotland	10
Congregationalist	1
Ecumenical	1
Good News Church	1
Methodist	5
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	1
URC	2

# ***Report on the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Bishop's Visitors***

***Held on Thursday 28th November***

Veronica Bale, Ann Richards (am only) and I attended the 33rd Bishop's Visitors AGM in November. The co-chairs' report was circulated prior to the meeting. Although I do not have any actual figures my impression was that there were fewer Bishop's Visitors present than on previous occasions. However they made us very welcome.

The morning session was led by Jan Korris from St. Luke's Healthcare. She worked is a retired psychotherapist and is now a trustee of St. Luke's healthcare. She is also a member of General Synod. Her main focus of work is on clergy wellbeing and the prevention of clergy stress. She sat on the Clergy Covenant working party and advocated for the needs of clergy spouses/partners and families to be included.

At the meeting Jan spoke on Mental health and Clergy Stress: Triggers for marital breakdown. She began with a brief outline of the way the work St. Luke's healthcare is changing. While there is still some reparative health work eg cataract and hernia surgery, physiotherapy and psychiatric assessments, there is an increasing emphasis on well-being and the prevention of stress and burnout.

Trustees from St. Luke's meet with all newly appointed bishops and cathedral deans to consider their wellbeing, how to maintain it and how to present a healthy model for others. This includes recognising and acknowledging feelings and how to attend to them. St. Luke's is also actively promoting reflective practice for the clergy, either as groups or individuals. Sadly these cost money and it is thought that this will deter many dioceses from providing them out for their clergy.

Problems for clergy have been identified at all stages, from during training onwards. There are often problems following late ordination and also in clergy/clergy marriages. Problems may be identified during training but are unlikely to be addressed before ordination. In general it appears that the first 10 years are the hardest. Finance and unrealistic expectations are very real issues. It is therefore important that support is built in from the beginning.

She gave us the following quote "holding the tension between being

human, being a Christian and being a priest". Notions of sacrifice can be damaging if they are not sustained by mutual generosity and transcending grace. Making something sacred is different from making oneself burnt out. Autonomy is not necessarily helpful (this is what parish clergy allegedly have). Agency is the ability to do something or to make a change is helpful. Chronic stress is more of a problem than acute stress. Time is needed to recover, especially with one's family. People are now identifying secondary trauma in people who spend their lives listening to and ministering to those in need.

We then broke into small groups to discuss what we would do to support clergy spouses at the different stages of ministry. Ideas included providing clear signposts to support for them without having to go through the bishop or senior staff, ensuring that both partners could have a day off together, protecting family time, increasing the stipend and ensuring vicarages were fit for purpose as family homes.

After lunch Bishop Alastair updated us on the progress of the Bishop's Visitors guidelines. These were due to be presented to the House of Bishops's delegation committee the following week. If no problems were identified they would then be presented to the next meeting of the House of Bishops in January.

Finally we had presentations from the Clergy Support Trust and Edward Storey Foundation. The Clergy Support Trust is also increasingly wanting to support wellbeing. They have altered the way they give out grants so that it is no longer necessary to wait for the committee to meet to approve a grant. They have made better provision for emergency grants. Edward Storey is now able to support men and adult children. (I think that means dependant adult children but I have not specified it in my notes). I was not invited to speak to the co-chairs report and as I hadn't written it I did not want to insist on doing so.

**Maggie Wilkinson**

15 January 2020



# ***Area Reps Report***

## ***Greater London and Kent***

We continue the tradition of meeting for lunch occasionally either in London on a Sunday or near Canterbury on a weekday.

We also had another picnic which was in St James' Park. We enjoy these opportunities to share our news and to hear a bit about members who are not able to join us.

**Ann Richards**

## ***South East***

Greetings to all of you. Not much to report in the South East at the moment, which I hope is good news! Audrey Timmins, who some of you may know from the London group, has moved to a Care Home - Walton Heath Manor in Tadworth. Please email me if you'd like to visit her and I'll give you the details, pick you up from the station and if you'd like me to, I can come with you.

Otherwise, I have been meeting up with the London group for their Sunday lunches in February and October and I know the London Group is arranging an outing to Morden Hall Park on Sunday August 2nd, for a walk along the River Wandle. There is a tube station at Morden which is quite close to the grounds and the cafe where we'll meet. Details for that will be on our Facebook page nearer the time if you'd like to come, or you can email me. I also hope to arrange a visit to Osborne House on the Isle of Wight in early July - it might be a bit expensive, but well worth a visit. More details about that on Facebook, or from me nearer the time.

I shall be travelling up to Sheffield for the day on 25th April, so look forward to meeting any of you who can make it, at the AGM there.

Very best wishes to all of you in the South East.

**Veronica Bale**

## ***East Midlands Area***

In common with many north of Watford Gap, many of us wish that the cash allocated to HS2 could be spent improving public transport in the regions so that we might visit friends a few miles away and be able to return on the same day. Poor coverage by public transport is a perennial problem here, but hopefully we shall have another meeting in Lincoln in Spring. In 2019, sadly we lost a long-standing member Beth Skepper, who made it to 92. I hope soon to acquire

a new means of transport, a fold-up, bus-and-train friendly portable e-bike; it seems like just the thing to help in an area like ours where we have some bus coverage, but vast swathes with no railway. This newish-fangled device might be of interest to members of BR, many of whom are needing to save on travel cost – or indeed, to help save the planet, and to get about in a more sociable and not too energetic way. Former PM John Major's vision of quintessential England included 'spinsters cycling to communion', so let's add clergy divorcees to that (but you don't have to go to communion!)

**Viv Rowett**

## ***North West (Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Gt Manchester and Merseyside)***

For the first time for many years a group of members from around the North West met for lunch in the centre of Liverpool during the summer. It was a lovely warm day and we met in the courtyard of the Blue Coat Centre and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. New and long standing members met for the first time and we enjoyed some lively chatter and exchanges. Everyone agreed that meeting up face to face was invaluable and it was agreed to arrange another date early in 2020.

Our second lunch took place mid January, again, in the centre of Liverpool as the concentration of members in the North West appear to be in the Merseyside/Cheshire area at present. Again, another new member to Broken Rites joined us for a pleasant lunch. Whilst it is often difficult to find a date that is convenient to everyone, it was felt that we must continue to arrange a get together and hope to meet up again over the summer months.

**Beth Gardner & Sue Bamber**

## ***Scotland***

A meeting was scheduled for the Scottish Members of Broken Rites on Saturday 22nd February. Sadly Storm Dennis put paid to that. We have yet to reschedule which will be after Easter.

The main concern is finding volunteers to attend the General Assembly in May. The faithful volunteers are not as able to attend due to age. It's a challenge going as its a week and work commitments can impose. A venue that is suitable for all is proving challenging. We hope that one can be found. Suggestions are always welcome.

Many thanks.

**Janet**



## ***Broken Rites Officers 2019-20***

**President:** The Right Hon. Frank Field MP

**Co-Chairs:** Dilys Stone & Katherine Harrison

Dilys Stone

4 Carpenter Avenue, Llandudno, LL30 1YW

Email: [associatemembers@brokenrites.org](mailto:associatemembers@brokenrites.org) Tel: 01492 879997

Katherine Harrison

145 Belmont Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, HA3 7PL

Email: [brokenrites.kath@gmail.com](mailto:brokenrites.kath@gmail.com) Tel: 020 8427 6483

**Treasurer:** Sue Bamber

13 Manse Avenue, Wrightington WN6 9RP

Email: [treasurer@brokenrites.org](mailto:treasurer@brokenrites.org) Tel: 01257 423893

**Membership Secretary:** Vivienne Rowett

15, Seaview Cottages, Grimsby Road, Louth LN11 0ED

Email: [membership@brokenrites.org](mailto:membership@brokenrites.org) Tel: 07952 948038

**Secretary:** Valerie Hales

42 Don Ave, Wharnccliffe Side, Sheffield, S35 0DH

Email: [secretary@brokenrites.org](mailto:secretary@brokenrites.org) Tel: 01144 187256

**Website Editor:** Haley Barnett

93 Princes Gardens, Highfield Street, Liverpool, L3 6LH

Tel: 0151 236 1912 Mob: 07910 388718

**Rite Lines Editor:** Janet Forbes

Email: [editor@brokenrites.org](mailto:editor@brokenrites.org) Tel: 07876 806804

**Social Media Co-ordinator:** Katharine Harrison

Email: [brokenrites.kath@gmail.com](mailto:brokenrites.kath@gmail.com) Tel: 020 8427 6483

**Enquiries Co-ordinator:** Margaret Wilkinson

27 River Grove Park, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1HX

Email: [enquiries@brokenrites.org](mailto:enquiries@brokenrites.org) Tel: 020 8650 2312

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