

Daisy Fisher Recalls (2011)

The Vestry Hall she remembers was opposite the church entrance where we now park our cars. Quite a lot of events took place there including lantern slides and whist drives. Miss Violet Howells was a good pianist and put on show nights with dances. Alan and Louise Pinniger attended the dances and apparently were good dancers. Boxing classes took place in the Hall. Frank and Gordon Davies, Trevor Clement, Leslie and Brynley Arnold participated. Boxing matches took place at the Harvest Fair, in a boxing booth out side the King Arthur Hotel. Locals flexed their muscles against the fair ground travellers.

The Vestry was added to the main Church building in 1906. The masons working on the Vestry were Francis Davies and P.Tucker. Francis Davies, apart from being a stonemason, was a small-holder, keeping sheep and ponies at Hills Green. As a skilled stonemason and banker – hand, he worked on the construction of Knelston School, Parkmill School and, alongside the Vestry, he built the West Window and the archway over the pulpit in the Church. (Colin Davies, the current Reynoldston undertaker and pony breeder is a descendant).



The Church Vestry



Mary and Francis Davies

The Demise of the Vestry Hall

"The Gower Church Magazine" of October 1922 details the demise of the Vestry Hall: *At an enthusiastic and well attended meeting under the presidency of Mr. Price of Stouthall, it was unanimously decided to give up the idea of enlarging the present iron room and to set out instead to build a new Church Hall to take its place. A most suitable site, in close proximity to the church, has been most generously given to us and is being conveyed to the Diocesan Trustees in trust for the parish. The Vestry Hall has been for the past 36 years a valuable asset but, besides being too small, it is by no means "a thing of beauty" and its disappearance in this regard will not be regretted. It is hoped to erect a Hall worthy of its beautiful surroundings and capable of meeting not only our own parochial needs but those of Reynoldston as the natural centre of the peninsula. After the Building Committee has decided on plans an appeal will be made for subscriptions which we venture to hope will meet with a generous response from outside as well as within the parish.*

