



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

(Registered Charity 1066605)

President. Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards.
Chairman. Mrs. Vanessa Hall.
Hon. Secretary. Mr. Richard Hall, 206 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff. CF23 6RS
Hon. Treasurer. (*Vacant*) c/o The Vicarage, 16 Queen Anne Square, Cardiff CF10 3ED

NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Dear Friend,

Autumn is well and truly with us, and already the shops are preparing for Christmas. The church remains busy, with special services and concerts taking place quite often, and with various carol services for outside organisations to be hosted during Advent, as well as our own regular worship.

RESIGNATION OF TREASURER.

It is with much regret that our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Grenville Samuel, had to unexpectedly tender his resignation in August. This was for reasons of his health, which meant that he became unable to continue his duties. Mr Samuel is a founder member of the Friends and has been treasurer since its beginnings. He has provided an invaluable service in keeping our financial affairs in order for over twenty years, and we are most grateful for this and other work he has done for us. We offer him our sincere thanks, and our best wishes that his present health problem can be alleviated or cured with modern treatment.

This puts us in need of a new person to take on this important post. Unfortunately, no-one had been found in time to be appointed at our Annual General Meeting last month, so as a temporary measure the Hon. Secretary is looking after the accounts. Currently, therefore, we are looking for a volunteer to take up this post. It is not particularly onerous to anyone who is good with figures. It is not necessary for the person to be a worshipper at St John's. So I would ask all members if they know of someone who might be interested to do this job, to contact the Hon. Secretary, Chairman or any member of the Executive Committee, with a view to discussing what it involves.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends took place in the church on Sunday 25th September. It was held after the morning service, which was the church's Harvest Festival, and was followed by a Harvest Luncheon in the church. This new arrangement was tried to help boost the numbers attending the meeting. Previously the Friends Festival and AGM has been held on a Saturday, but with increasing access difficulties to its city centre location on Saturdays the numbers attending had been declining. In consequence there was no guest speaker this year. At the AGM, the Annual Report and Accounts were presented, and retiring members of the committee were re-elected; but alas there were no proposals for new members to fill vacancies, particularly the treasurer as noted above. Our President, Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards was happy to continue in that post for the coming year. Thanks were given to all the officers and the work that they did.

PARISH OUTING

The outing took place on Saturday 16th July, visiting first the Brecon Mountain railway, then on to Llangasty retreat centre on the shores of Llangorse lake, for Evnsong in their chapel, and tea. The weather could have been better; the railway is at a high elevation and was nearly up in the clouds, so that the magnificent views were hardly seen. Altogether though, it was a good day out. Our thanks go to Pauline Grainger for organising it.

PEW CUSHIONS

In the last newsletter I mentioned that sponsors were wanted for additional pew cushions to complete the cushioning of the central block of pews. I can report that sufficient sponsors have been found, so the church now has cushions for the whole of the nave. This makes life more comfortable for our worshippers during services, and audiences during events. Thanks to everyone who supported us for this.

THE TEA ROOM

For a considerable number of years the choir vestry room has been in use on weekdays as a tea room for the public, being run by various volunteer groups and charities at different times. For the last few years, under the branding of the Tea sPOT, it has been run on Mondays to Fridays by local charity Innovate Trust, who give support to people with difficulties, and on Saturdays by our own volunteer teams. For various reasons Innovate Trust has now withdrawn from the partnership, phasing out their operation at the end of September. As a result, the Tea sPOT now only operates on Saturdays. The church is looking for ways to get it back to opening more than one day a week. With the limited number of regular church people available this is very difficult. There is therefore an appeal for extra help. The tea room is available to let for suitable groups or charities on any weekday, Monday to Friday, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in taking it on for a day or more per week, to raise money for their cause, please contact me or any of the church officers. Similarly, if you can spare just a few hours a week or a month on a regular basis to join a volunteer team, please let us know. The church places great value on its tea room, as a means of offering 'Holy Hospitality' to people that come into the church.

AUTUMN LUNCHEON

The Autumn Luncheon of the Friends will be on Sunday 20th November 2016 at the New House Hotel, Thornhill Cardiff, 12.30 for 1.00pm. If you would like to attend, please return the slip at the bottom of the enclosed menu, indicating your choices, or add your name to the list in the church. The cost will be £19 for 2 courses or £23 for 3 courses. Places are limited, so please reply promptly. If you would like a lift organised for you, please tick on the form.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)