



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

January 2017

Dear Friend,

Greetings for 2017. St John's Church continues to flourish under the leadership of our Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones. It has been a busy year for the small but dedicated band of people who keep it running week by week, so that it can remain open not just for the regular worshippers but for the casual visitors, whether to pray or just to look, and for all the people of Cardiff. For various reasons, a large number of people come into the church outside the times of formal worship, and it is something the church encourages. Ongoing efforts continue to grow its worshipping congregation, with modest success. Maintenance of the building in good condition is essential, and the continuing support of the Friends is much appreciated.

FRIENDS AUTUMN LUNCHEON.

The Late Autumn Luncheon took place on Sunday 20th November, at the New House Hotel, Thornhill. As last year, it was held on a Sunday, which has proved so popular that all available places were taken. An excellent meal in pleasant surroundings was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Our brains were tickled by a light-hearted quiz set by our chairman Vanessa. It was good to have our former vicar, Revd. Keith Kimber and his wife Clare joining us, as well as our President, Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards. The New House Hotel always provides excellent service, but in view of the popularity of the occasion, the committee is considering whether to look for a venue with larger capacity for the coming year.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY.

The church is very busy over the winter months, with extra services for ourselves and for outside organisations. Cards for Good Causes were again in the north aisle from mid-October. There was a Shoppers' Carol Service each Saturday, and our Lutheran friends held a series of German carol services. There were also the Advent Carols by Candlelight, the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, and Christmas services including "Midnight Mass". This particularly brings in guests from the nearby hotels who are enjoying a seasonal stay in Cardiff. All these extra people are warmly welcomed to our church.

FRIENDS WEBSITE

A new website for the Friends of St John's is now online. An old one has been maintained for many years, available by a link from the parish website, but has become very out-of-date in technical terms. It was time to create a new one in line with modern standards. The new site has more pages than the old, and can be viewed on normal and mobile screens. It can still be visited from the parish website, or directly at www.stjohnscardiffriends.uk. Copies of these newsletters will be made available on the website in due course.

HON. TREASURER

As reported, our Hon. Treasurer of many years, Mr Gren Samuel, had to resign suddenly during last year, and we thank him for all his service to the Friends. At the Annual General Meeting last September nobody came forward to take up the role, so the Hon. Secretary has had to step in as acting Treasurer. A volunteer to take on this role is needed. It is not difficult for anyone with a mind for figures, the accounts are quite simple and straightforward, and not a large amount of work. Nor does the treasurer have to be a regular at St Johns, in fact our past treasurer attended a different church. So if anyone can help in this way, it would be appreciated if they could get in touch. The Secretary can be contacted on 02920 753302, or by email: richardhall@compuserve.com

THE TEA ROOM

As reported in the last newsletter, local charity Innovate Trust has withdrawn from running our tea-room Mondays to Fridays to carry out a new venture in Splott. Since October the tea-room has only been open on a Saturday, the day run by our own volunteers. The church has been looking for volunteers to get it open on some weekdays, and is grateful that a number of volunteers have come forward. It is now scheduled to open each week on Wednesdays to Saturdays from the middle of February. This has been achieved by deciding to adopt a simpler menu than was done by Innovate, just drinks and bites, no hot meals. We will have to see how it goes in the first few months, but it will be seen as an important step to restoring our "Holy Hospitality" and keeping our building as an 'every day' church for all people, in line with our mission. Extra help is always needed, so more volunteers would be welcomed on these days, even if only for a couple of hours.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those that subscribe annually, the subscription for 2017 is now due. A remittance form is enclosed for your use. The rates are the same as last year. we remain grateful to members for their continued support.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)