



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

July 2017

Dear Friend,

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Progress is being made on plans for upgrading the internal vestry block. This was added to the church in the 1960's to meet the requirements of the time, but its design leaves much to be desired, and does not meet our present needs. Funds available from the sale of St James's church will enable us to undertake a major redevelopment of this rather unelegant structure to meet the foreseeable needs of the 21st century. Our sub-committee has been busy for some months in developing a vision of what is required. We are pleased to include our newly appointed church architect, Amanda Needham, who is working on turning our ideas into a realistic design. Amanda has taken over the post from Martin Killick, our previous architect, who has retired after many years of caring for our building. We thank Martin for his hard work over the years.

The main room of the vestry block is where we operate our tea room, which both brings in income and offers "Holy Hospitality" as part of our mission in the city centre. Whenever the tea room is open, it means that people are in the building to offer welcome to visitors, and the church can be seen to be alive. The room, though, was not designed for this purpose, has to double for other uses, and the kitchen is too small. Neither are there any small rooms for private meetings, discussions or counselling. The aim of the redesign is to rectify these failings, and provide other facilities to a modern standard. A fuller report on the project was given in the last Parish Magazine, City Parish Journal – Pentecost 2017.

Although a substantial sum of money is available from St James's Church, the full cost of the project is not yet known, and it is probable that additional funding will need to be found. This may be in the form of grants or loans, or an appeal may be needed to fully cover the cost. This will be announced later, when requirements are known. The concept is to keep St John's as a building that is inviting to visitors, as well as being a sacred space for peace and worship.

OTHER BUILDING MATTERS.

Besides the development project, there are always other building matters needing attention. A roof leak in the sacristy and crumbling mortar on the tower require prompt attention. The heating boiler is nearing the end of its life and needs replacement. And the railings around the churchyard need repainting. This last item is likely to be particularly expensive because, being historic and listed railings, special paints must be used.

PARISH OUTING.

The Parish Outing will take place on Saturday 2nd September. It will be a local affair, not travelling too far, and travel will be by car. In the morning we will visit St Fagan's National Museum of History, and hope to be able to gather in St Teilo's church there at 11.30 for a hymn and a prayer. People will then be able to wander around the site as they like. We shall have lunch there, either together or individually, leaving for the short drive to the church at St George's for Evensong at 3.00pm. After that we shall proceed to the nearby home of our curate, Revd. Rhian Linecar, who has kindly invited us to have tea in her garden.

If you would like to take part then please contact our Chairman Mrs. Vanessa Hall on 02920 400160 or put your name on the list in the church. Please do this no later than Friday 18th August. We want to arrange for as few cars as possible by organising people into car groups. We also need to know numbers for catering. Admission to the museum is free, but there will be a charge of £10 per person to cover tea and expenses for the day.

FRIENDS EVENTS.

The Annual Festival and Annual General Meeting of the Friends will take place in the church on Sunday 15th October. Starting with Festal Eucharist at the usual time for morning service at 10am, the General Meeting will take place after the service, at about 11.45. There will be time for socialising afterwards. There will be no guest speaker, neither will there be a formal harvest lunch like last year. For various reasons the festival can not be joined with harvest celebrations this year, which will be on the previous Sunday.

There will be a late autumn luncheon on a Sunday towards the end of November, but as yet, arrangements have not been finalised and the date and venue are not fixed. More information will be given in due course.

THE TEA ROOM

The tea room in the church is now open four days a week, Wednesdays to Fridays 11am-2pm and Saturdays 10am-3pm. As previously reported, Innovate Trust withdrew from running Mondays to Fridays, and since then we have been looking for volunteers to run it on weekdays. We are grateful that a number of volunteers have come forward, enabling us open each week on Wednesdays to Saturdays since the middle of February. On weekdays there is a simpler menu enabling it to be run by fewer people. After a quiet start, it has built up into a steady trade which makes it worthwhile. More volunteers are always welcome, particularly at this holiday time when regular helpers are away.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)