



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

(Registered Charity 1066605)

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NEWSLETTER

January 2018

Dear Friend,

Greetings for 2018. The significant news for the church is that our Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones, has been appointed to take up the post of Dean of St David's Cathedral, in Pembrokeshire. This is a significant advancement for her. St David's is among the oldest cathedrals in the British Isles, having been founded centuries before Canterbury. We wish her all the best in her new ministry. The sad bit is that it means she is leaving us. During her four years with us she has been an excellent incumbent and has developed the ministry and profile of St John's substantially. We shall be faced with another period of Vacancy, which we hope will not be too long, before another incumbent is appointed. Sarah will take her last service with us just after Easter, on Sunday April 15th, and will be installed as Dean in St David's on Saturday May 5th. A party from St John's will be going to support her, but St David's is a small cathedral and allocated places are limited.

FRIENDS AUTUMN LUNCHEON.

The Late Autumn Luncheon took place on Sunday 19th November, at the Cornerstone, Charles Street, opposite St David's Roman Catholic cathedral. The change of place was made, as it had a bigger room than our previous venue, but regrettably fewer people attended than last year. For those that did attend it was a good occasion, with good food well served, but this year no brain-tickling quiz. The committee will consider why the attendance was less good than the last few years, before deciding on a venue for this year.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY.

St John's was once again very busy in the approach to Christmas. There were all the usual activities. Cards for Good Causes were again in church from mid-October until a week or so before Christmas. There were many carol services and carol concerts by outside organisations, and our own seasonal worship, with a Shoppers' Carol Service and Lutheran German Carols each Saturday. There were also the Advent Carols by Candlelight, the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, and Christmas services including "Midnight Mass". These services brings in visitors, and we believe the church had a record number for recent years of separate individuals through its doors for the Christmas services. All these extra people are warmly welcomed to our church.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS.

The painting of the railings around the churchyard has now been completed apart from remedying some defects. The work was in progress while the Christmas fair was happening around the church, which made access to certain sections difficult. Funding for this work was taken from the Tea Room Guild, proceeds from many thousands of cups of tea served by our faithful band of volunteers.

The Vestry Block project continues to make progress, and draft plans have been prepared for the replacement of the outdated and unsuitable existing block with a new structure in keeping with our current and likely future requirements. This will offer more space with meeting rooms for various activities as well as a refectory tea room for visitors, extra toilets and storage, disabled access, and conforming to modern regulations. A design has been drawn up by our architect Amanda Needham working to the brief prepared by the building sub-committee. It was presented to the congregation after Sunday service just before Christmas, and while generally liked has produced some comments which will be taken into account. The plans have been put on display in the church. A preliminary estimate of costs was made, showing the proposed design would be substantially more than the funds available from the sale of St James Church. Further thought has been given, and work done to find ways of reducing the cost, and looking at ways of raising extra money to fund it. This is still ongoing, but there is hope that the two things can be made to meet and the project undertaken. There is still some way to go yet before work can start because various approvals have to be obtained and promises of grants and other fund raising must be put in place.

Remedial repairs are being done to the exterior surface of the tower, which will make it safe and stable for the present. But the survey revealed that within a few years major work will be needed to the west face, which catches the worst of the weather.

HON. TREASURER

Mr Paul Davies has taken over full duties as Hon. Treasurer after his appointment at the last AGM. We are grateful to him for taking on this post. We are confident that he will be able to guide the financial affairs of the Friends, working with our Membership Secretary Mr. Robert Rennie.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those that subscribe annually, the subscription for 2018 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.)