



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

(Registered Charity 1066605)

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NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Dear Friend,

CANON SARAH BECOMES DEAN OF ST DAVID'S.

Our former Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones, was installed as Dean of St David's Cathedral on 5th May. A party enough to fill a motor-coach left from Cardiff to attend the ceremony in this ancient cathedral, tucked away in its beautiful valley in West Wales. The day was gloriously sunny, except for a sea mist which kept everyone cool. In a colourful service, Sarah took her oath of office and was led to the Dean's Stall. The cathedral was full, with clergy, her new flock and people from past congregations, including some from South Africa. This is a very prestigious post, and we offer Sarah all our best wishes in her new appointment.

It does mean that St John's is now without an incumbent and the process of appointing a new one has begun. It is known that a number of people have expressed an interest, but the process of selecting and appointing a successor can take some time. Meanwhile, the care of the parish comes under the Area Dean, Revd. Canon Stewart Lisk, Vicar of Roath. Canon Stewart knows St John's well, and has been diligent in setting up a rota of clergy and readers to take our services so that parish worship and life can continue unchanged. We are very grateful to him for that, as he has his own busy parish to run as well. We are hopeful that St John's, supported by the many volunteers of its community, will continue to serve the city and its people, and move forward into new pastures before too long.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Work continues on the project for upgrading the internal vestry block. Initial plans were put forward towards the end of last year, since when, following review, consultation and advice, some amendments have been made. The final design is not quite settled, but it is better to get it right at the start than to need changes later on. Meanwhile, preliminary work continues. This includes several surveys to look at issues such as structure, wiring and pipework, drainage, asbestos, ecology and wildlife. All this needs to be done whatever design is chosen. As indicated earlier, the project is likely to cost substantially more than the funds available from the sale of St James's church, so a vigorous fund-raising effort will be needed. The sub-committee is looking into this, but grants can't be applied for until permissions are obtained, which won't be until well into the autumn. Once it is clear that the project can go ahead, an appeal for the extra funds needed will be launched.

OTHER BUILDING MATTERS.

The most pressing matter for the fabric of the church is the installation of a new heating boiler. The old one needed expensive attention just to keep it going to the end of the cold weather in the spring. Action is being taken to get a new installation in place before the start of the heating season in the autumn. It is more than just a straight replacement. Modern boilers need different arrangements, and a small amount of structural work is required. But modern boilers are more efficient than old ones, so we should see savings on running costs. The other matter of concern is the tower. Although structurally sound, there is surface deterioration on the west face which needs to be remedied soon. Any working at height is bound to be costly, so we await quotations for the work, which will have to be done in the next year or so.

FRIENDS EVENTS.

The Annual Festival and Annual General Meeting of the Friends will take place in the church on Sunday 14th 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. With the absence of a parish priest the date of Harvest Festival has not yet been fixed, so it may or may not coincide.

The late autumn luncheon will take place on Sunday 25th November. After a disappointing attendance at the Cornerstone last year, it has been decided to return to the New House Hotel at Thornhill this year. It is a venue much liked by our members.

Having already had a visit to St David's Cathedral it is uncertain whether there will be a separate parish outing later in the year. With no parish priest it becomes more difficult to organise. Although the outing has sometimes been arranged by The Friends in the past, it is really a matter for the PCC, who have not yet considered about it.

DATA PROTECTION

Most people will be aware that new Data Protection regulations came into operation in May this year. These are intended to give people more control over data held about them, and how it is used. The Friends holds data about its members, but only for the purpose of maintaining its membership records and communicating with members. It takes steps to keep its records secure, and does not make the data available to any other organisation. If you want to know what data we hold about you, you may enquire by asking the Hon. Secretary.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)