



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

(Registered Charity 1066605)

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NEWSLETTER

August 2019

Dear Friend,

CLERGY CHANGES.

We are pleased to welcome to our church a new curate, Revd. Lorna Hanney. Lorna was ordained deacon at the Petertide ordinations in Llandaff Cathedral at the end of June. Lorna is already known to us, as she has been on placement with us during her training. It is good to have her back to serve her first curacy at St John's. She is settling in nicely as she gets her early experience of being in office. But it is sad to have lost the services of Revd. Rhian Linecar, who was a great asset to our ministry. She has never fully recovered from her serious illness about two years ago, and is unable to continue with her duties on a regular basis. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

FESTIVAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual Festival and Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 14th October. Beginning with Festal Eucharist at 10.00 am, the meeting will be at 11.45 am, after the morning service and time for refreshments. All members are welcome to attend. As in recent years, there will not be a guest speaker. The Annual Report with notice of the meeting is enclosed with this newsletter.

The other date to note is the Autumn Luncheon which is on Sunday 17th November, once again at the New House Hotel at Thornhill, just outside Cardiff. Full details with menu choices and booking form will be sent to you later.

CANON MALCOLM RAILTON ELLIS.

Shortly after the issue of the last newsletter, earlier this year, we were saddened to learn of the death of Canon Malcolm Ellis. 'Mac' as he was known was Vicar (later Rector) of our parish for 15 years, until his retirement in 2002. It was he who was largely responsible for the founding of the Friends of St John's Church. A fuller account of his life and ministry is included in the Annual Report. He is fondly remembered by the longer attending members of our congregation, and by fellow clergy.

NEW HEATING BOILER.

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, our heating boiler had come to end of its life. A temporary boiler was installed in the autumn, which tided us over the relatively mild winter. Once the cold weather was over, work has gone ahead to install a new permanent installation. This required some minor alteration to the design of the boiler house, which blends in well with the older building. This work is now complete, so we look forward to being nicely warm when the cold weather returns.

BUILDING PROBLEMS.

Anyone that has seen the church in the last month or so can't have failed to notice that the tower is covered in scaffolding. This has been erected so that specialist contractors can attend to the surface stonework. The stone from which the tower is built is of a soft nature, and particularly susceptible to attack by modern air pollution. Additionally, past repairs have sometimes not used the best materials, and require upgrading.

The current work involves quite a lot of repair and restoration. The problems came to light at the end of 2017 when a few small fragments of stone fell from the tower to the ground below. Inspections showed that urgent work was needed to prevent further failures. It is a surface problem, not a structural one, but even so, the skilled repairs required will be very expensive.

Both the new boiler installation and more particularly the work on the tower are very expensive. Any contributions towards the cost would be most welcome. If you can help, please contact the Hon. Secretary.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT.

The Vestry Block project has had to take second place to the more urgent work on the tower. It is still slowly progressing behind the scenes, in the planning stage. For it to continue, considerable fund raising will be needed, especially now that substantial money has had to be spent on the tower. We are still hopeful that it will come to fruition, but it is probably the funding that will determine the timescale, rather than the pace of the actual work. A fund-raising committee has been set up to look into that.

As always, the church is grateful for the support and interest of the members of the Friends, which is much appreciated.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)