



THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

(Registered Charity 1066605)

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NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Dear Friend,

We have again reached the start of a new year. Our new Priest-in-Charge, Revd. Sarah Jones, has now completed a year in the parish. During this time she has come to know the church and its people, as we have come to know her. Having settled in well, she is now anxious to expand the ministry of St John's both within and without, drawing more worshippers into its doors, and moving its mission to areas outside. One particular thing we see around the church is the people on the street, those in unfortunate circumstances who struggle with their lives. They are as deserving of the love of God as any of us, and we look to see how we can help. This is a particular concern of our curate, Revd. Lorna Hanney, and we are pleased to learn that she will be continuing with St John's for another year. We also welcome to the clergy team a trainee, Emma Ackland, who is preparing for her vocation in the ministry. During the past year it has been necessary to spend a great amount of money on our ancient building, on both the heating and the tower, and this has left the church funds depleted. The building is now in good condition but the church finances are in need of repair if it is to continue with a strong ministry to the city into the future.

FRIENDS AUTUMN LUNCHEON.

The Late Autumn Luncheon last year returned again to the New House Hotel at Thornhill. It was well attended and the occasion was much enjoyed by those there. We had the usual light hearted quiz prepared by our chairman Vanessa, and it was a good opportunity to meet and talk with the wider group of people that love and support St John's. There are no arrangements yet for this year's lunch, but no doubt the committee will be organising something in due course.

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY.

Our church was busy once again with activities in the approach to Christmas. Cards for Good Causes were again in church from mid-October until a week or so before Christmas. The Crib scene went on display outside at the base of the tower as soon as the scaffolding had been removed. Our church was used for carol services and carol concerts by outside organisations. We welcomed the Lutherans for their Saturday carols, and there were our special seasonal services, Advent Carols by Candlelight, the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, and Christmas services including "Midnight Mass". There were many visitors to these services, which we warmly welcome.

NEW HEATING BOILER.

Over the summer a new heating boiler was fitted in the church to replace the old one that had failed. In the last newsletter I said that we could look forward to being nicely warm when the cold weather returned. That didn't quite happen. When came to switch it on at the beginning of October it didn't start, and we found the boiler house flooded, due to having sprung a leak near where the old pipework for the radiators connected to the new pipework for the boiler. It took a long time and much crawling in awkward places to locate the leak, and a difficult repair to replace a run of pipe in an underground duct. At one point it was thought that we would have to dig up the floor, but in the end it wasn't necessary. As a result, the heating didn't come on until near the end of November, and it was fortunate the weather remained reasonably mild. This extra work proved a very expensive unexpected cost.

REPAIR OF THE TOWER

Our tower was covered with scaffolding from the beginning of July until the end of November while work was done to stabilise the surface of the stone, following a few fragments falling off. The work also included repair to some of the ornamental elements which were deteriorating, and additional minor problems that were discovered while the scaffolding was up and close inspection was possible. This work is now completed and the tower now looks splendid, and we hope will remain in good condition for many years

BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS.

The Vestry Block project had to be put on hold while the tower work was being done, but is now being resumed. With the expense of the tower and the heating depleting our funds, a review is now necessary of the financing for the project. A consultant will be looking what is possible and we shall await a report before deciding on the future of this project.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those that subscribe annually, the subscription for 2020 is now due. A remittance form is enclosed for your use. The rates are the same as last year. Please make cheques payable to "The Friends of St John's Church, Cardiff". Alternatively, you may prefer to make your payment direct into our bank account by bank transfer or other means. Our bank details are: Lloyds Bank plc, Sort Code 31-91-63 a/c No. 00 52 63 90. "The Friends of St John's Church, Cardiff". We remain grateful to members for their continued support, and of course for any contributions by way of additional donations.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)