



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. Mr. Paul Davies, 342 Whitchurch Road, Heath, Cardiff, CF14 3NG.

NEWSLETTER

February 2022

Dear Friend,

With covid still very much with us, the church is still having to work within the rules set by the authorities. Sunday morning worship continues, but there have been very few other activities within the building. Worshippers must still keep socially distanced and take precautions such as sanitising, masks, and no singing by the congregation. There has been some easing and a little progress back towards normality, and we are exploring other possibilities of moving back towards a more normal and active life.

One important step is that the church now has once again an active choir, able to enhance our service with a little music. It has to be limited to eight singers at a service, but there are others who are keen to take part on a rota basis. It is delightful to hear their voices in the morning services, and thanks are due to all of them, and particularly to Mr. Oliver Hearn who has taken on the job of directing them. 'Olly' is a young and fairly recent arrival to the St John's community, and has shown enthusiasm and commitment to the church. He takes up the mantle from Vanessa Hall who has led the choir for many years. Under her direction our choir has achieved a high standard of singing for our services, and many thanks are due to her.

The church has also started a series called "The Cardiff Conversation", in which prominent people are invited to speak on topical matters. Only one has been held so far, but it was a good success, attracting an audience up to our covid limit. For this reason it was necessary for people to book their places in advance. We are hoping to hold another Conversation in the spring.

The church was also able once again to host "Cards for Good Causes", a charitable organisation which sells Christmas cards on behalf of many other charities. Its stall in the north aisle opened in mid-October, until mid-December, and was able to raise a substantial amount of money for the Good Causes it supports. They have used our centrally situated church for many years, and we are glad they were able to continue this year.

The Tea Room has had to remain closed all year, because on account of its size it was not possible to achieve any arrangements for safe social distancing. The room has not been entirely unused, because around the middle of the year we received an approach from an organisation called Kaleidoscope who were looking for space to use as a base to carry out their work on the streets of Cardiff. They operate in several cities in the UK and they aim to help people in matters of drug misuse. Their objective is to engage with drug users and get them off drugs and bring them back to a normal way of life. We were pleased to be able to provide them with the space they need, for a one year trial period in Cardiff.

Our online worship continues. Now that the church is open on Sunday mornings, the Sunday worship live by internet takes place at 4.00pm, and is available as a recording by phone an hour later for those without internet access. On weekdays, Monday to Friday, there is a short service of evening prayer live at 5.00pm using Zoom. To find out how to join in these, either look at the church website, or contact the vicar for details.

FRIENDS ACTIVITIES.

Because of the pandemic restrictions, the Friends are still not able to arrange any events at the moment. We hope the situation will improve later in the year. The Annual General Meeting was held in the church on 24th October, but was brief and formal. The Report and Accounts were adopted, existing officers and committee members were re-elected, except for Mr Robert Stogdon, who wished to stand down for personal reasons. He was thanked for the service he had given to the Friends. The President, Capt. Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards was re-appointed.

ECO CHURCH.

St John's has joined an Eco-church scheme, which encourages churches in England and Wales to be more aware of the environment, and become more eco-friendly. The church has carried out an assessment of its premises and activities, to see in what way it can better care for God's world. An energy audit was done for the building, and a project has started to make the churchyard more nature-friendly. The scheme also includes "spreading the message" so that people will make changes in their own lives. The church can receive awards for achievements and has recently reached the level to apply for the Bronze award.

CHURCH FINANCES.

With the church at least partly open since Easter 2021, there has been some recovery of its income stream, though Tea Room is badly missed, both financially and for its community fellowship. During the year, two new modern ways of making donations to the church were introduced. The first is a 'donation station', by which people can make offerings by bank card as they enter or leave. The other is the use of text giving using a mobile phone. Simply text the word GLORIA to 70470 to donate £5. Other amounts can be given, up to £20, by adding the amount after the word, e.g. GLORIA10 will give £10.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those that subscribe annually, the subscription for 2022 is now due. A remittance form is enclosed for your use. The rates are the same as last year. In view of the present situation it would help us if you could make your payment direct into our bank account. Our bank details can be obtained by contacting the Hon. Secretary or the church. If you prefer to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to "The Friends of St John's Church, Cardiff", and send it to our Hon Treasurer (address above) with the remittance form. We remain grateful to members for their continued support, and of course for any contributions by way of additional donations.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)