



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.

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Dear Friend,

Somewhat belated new year wishes to you. Due to events, it wasn't possible to start writing this newsletter any earlier. It has been a sad start to the year, as four long-standing members of the Friends have died in quick succession. They are remembered on the next page. Covid restrictions have been lifted, so the church is on its way back to normal life, but not quite there yet. Sunday evensong has not restarted, nor some of the weekday worship. Their online replacements on Sunday afternoons and weekdays continue.

The church was again able to host Cards for Good Causes in the run-up to Christmas. This brings people into the church at the same time as the craft stalls and Christmas market are busy outside, all around it. The choir continues to develop under the direction of Olly Hearn, and is starting to tackle some more ambitious music. Its contribution to worship is much appreciated by the congregation. The new series of "The Cardiff Conversation" continues with occasional events, at which prominent people are able to express their views to an audience.

The Tea Room has not been able to re-open, as the break during Covid meant that the volunteer teams that ran it became dispersed, and it has not been able to get them back together again. Besides, some of the people were on the elderly side, and no longer have the energy to maintain a commitment. The multi-purpose room where it was run is now being used as a base by the Kaleidoscope organisation, which continues to provide support to drug users to help get them off their addictions.

To provide refreshments, plans are being explored to provide a facility in the north aisle. This will be much more limited than what could formerly be done, but easier to run, and is in line with our mission to offer hospitality to all who enter our doors. And mentioning doors, sadly one of the beautiful glass doors at our west entrance has met with an accident and shattered. We are presently trying to get a matching replacement, and have had to temporarily close off that access.

The church has installed security lights in a dark spot outside the vestry. In the last couple of years, there were break-ins in this area, and it is hoped the new lights will deter intruders. A programme of minor repairs is scheduled to start soon. This mainly concerns the roof. In the heavy storms recently, there was some water penetration.

At the Friends Annual General Meeting last October, there were no changes to the committee or the officers, and the president Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards was reappointed.

LOSS OF MEMBERS.

It is sad to report the deaths of four long-standing members of the Friends. We offer our condolences to their families.

Paul Davies.

Paul Davies was the incumbent Hon. Treasurer of the Friends. He passed away unexpectedly at the very end of last year. Born in Cardiff, he worked in London and other places, but returned to Cardiff in later life. He soon became involved with St John's and joined the Friends, later becoming treasurer. He was also involved in our work for making the church more eco- friendly. A new treasurer will be appointed in due course.

Lyn Frampton.

Lyn Frampton had worshipped at our church since her marriage to Allan many years ago. Allan had been a regular since coming to Cardiff as a young man, and met Lyn through the church. Allan died about a year ago, and Lyn unexpectedly passed away just a few weeks ago. May they be reunited in Heaven.

Oswald and Marion Barnes.

Oswald and Marion Barnes had worshipped in St John's for a great many years. Oswald had held just about every lay post in in the church at some time or other. He was full of energy and his contribution to the life of St John's was immense. Always at his side was his wife Marion, also a strong supporter of the church. Both in their nineties, age finally caught up with them. Oswald passed away at the end of January, and Marion just three weeks later.

GRACE CAFE.

The church has started a new initiative in conjunction with Llandaff Cathedral, called Grace Cafe, to provide food and hot drinks to the homeless and deprived on the streets of central Cardiff. Once a week these are made available for free in the south aisle. Anyone is welcome to come in during the opening time to refresh themselves, and also find someone to talk to, and at this time of year to warm up. Companionship is often as important to them as food. It is currently on trial, and will be assessed as to whether it will continue permanently.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

For those that subscribe annually, the subscription for 2023 is now due. A remittance form is enclosed for your use. The rates are the same as last year. If you wish to 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". Please send it to the Hon Secretary (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.)