



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

July 2023

Dear Friend,

THE CHURCH.

The church continues to recover from the changes brought about by coronavirus. There are now no restrictions, but not quite all has been restored. There is still no evening worship on Sundays, and weekday opening is not quite back to its full hours. This is in part due to a shortage of volunteers to be available. Ideas to resolve this are being explored. The congregation on a Sunday morning is nearly back to former levels. The choir continues to develop, and is starting to explore a more ambitious repertoire in the way of anthems, which adds greatly to the services. The church has not yet got back to all its former provisions of services and activities for outside organisations, which has had an affect on its finances. It is hoped these can grow in future.

Work is under way to repair the damage to the West Door. A temporary arrangement has been made so that the door can be opened and people come in and out. It is hoped to be fully repaired soon, but this specialist work takes its time.

TEA ROOM AND GRACE CAFE.

The Tea Room has not reopened in its previous form, nor is this likely, because of the loss of most of its team of volunteers during the closure during the pandemic. The upstairs vestry, where it was located, is now being used by the Kaleidoscope organisation who support people with drug problems. It acts as a base for their work on the streets of the city centre, and for their latest project called "Voices, Action, Change."

The Grace Cafe continues to operate in the South Aisle. This venture, to help the homeless and deprived, operates one a week, when a volunteer team provides free cups of tea and companionship for anyone who comes in. This is being done in conjunction with people from Llandaff Cathedral.

Plans to provide a new refreshment facility in the North Aisle are now under way. Work has started on adapting a small space on the north side as a simple kitchen to provide hot drinks and light bites. Because of the limited space, there will be no cooking facility. Space in the aisle will have a few tables and chairs. Initially it will provide refreshments after service on Sundays, but it will be developed to operate on weekdays, to provide refreshments to visitors.

LOSS OF MEMBERS.

It is sad to report the deaths of two more members of the Friends, in addition to the four remembered in the last newsletter. We offer our condolences to their families.

Dorothy Evans MBE.

Dorothy Evans was born in Newport and led a very active life. She liked to travel, but never lost her South Wales roots. After living in Carmarthen for some years, she came to Cardiff and became an active member of our church. She was a very caring person and did much voluntary work, particularly with the WRVS. She held a particular affection for our church and its people. She was a regular worshipper at St John's, especially at the mid-week services.

Gerald Hamer.

Gerald Hamer was a gentleman who lived life to the full. In a busy lifetime he moved to many parts of both Britain and the world, as his work took him. Finally settling in Cardiff, not far from our church, he and his wife Susan became regulars at our services and members of the Friends. Always outgoing and generous, he was able to turn his hand to almost anything. We shall miss his presence.

CLERGY NEWS.

We welcome to the St John's team Revd. Heather Temple-Williams, who was ordained deacon at Llandaff Cathedral on 24th June. She will serve the first part of her curacy with us. We already know her, as she was at St John's for part of her training, so she should fit in well. She will join with our other assistant clergy to help in our services. All of these are unpaid part time, each of them having a full-time occupation outside the church.

With our team now strengthened, our vicar, Canon Sarah Jones, will be taking a much needed period of leave during August, returning to her duties in September.

FRIENDS NEWS.

Friends activities came to a stop with the pandemic, but the committee are starting to look at how to get things going again. Many of the committee are also active within other areas of the church, so are pressed with commitments as church life recovers. It is hoped something can be done soon.

So far, a replacement for the post of Hon. Treasurer has not been found, following the death of Mr. Paul Davies. The treasurer's duties are being carried by the Hon. Secretary. It is best that these two important posts are not held by the same person, so a volunteer would be appreciated.

The church remains grateful for the support it gets from its worshippers and its Friends.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)