



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
Asst. Treasurer. Mrs. Janet Williams., 79 Appledore Road, Cardiff, CF14 3LD

NEWSLETTER

July 2024

Dear Friend,

THE CHURCH.

Life at the church is pretty much back to normal after the effects of the covid closure. The Sunday service attendance has fully recovered, and is showing signs of further growth, thanks to the firm efforts of our vicar, Canon Sarah Jones, and the team she has established around her. This is a welcome contrast to many other churches, where decline in numbers is the more common scene. In addition, Sunday evening worship is firmly restarted, with a regular support, and the pattern of mid-week activities continues to develop. St John's continues to be committed to being a seven days a week church, not just a place for Sundays.

Worship in both services on Sundays is enhanced by the continued development of the choir, under its new young director, Olly Hearn. Both its repertoire and the standard of singing continue to expand, as a result of hard work by all its members, and the strong support of our experienced organist Philip. The way it enhances worship is much appreciated by the congregation. We are also grateful for the donation of funds to cover the costs of new robes for the choir and new service books for the whole congregation.

Besides the clergy and the choir, there are numerous other tasks and projects to be run, and the church is thankful for the church officers and many other people who cheerfully volunteer to keep it as a living community offering a welcome to all.

CUPS OF TEA.

As well as being a place of worship, St John's welcomes people who come to visit and take in its history and sacred atmosphere. It also has other ways of serving the people of Cardiff, much of which involves serving cups of tea and other light refreshments to people who come in through its doors. In particular, three projects are being developed.

The first is Grace Cafe, run in conjunction with Llandaff Cathedral, and has been mentioned in previous newsletters. Each Tuesday it offers tea and biscuits and companionship to anyone who comes in, on a pay as you can basis.

Second is Good Company, recently started, This is a similar idea, in association with Llandaff Centre of Mission, on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, and offers a space to be, to meet people, to chat about life or anything.. People can ask questions about the Christian faith in a relaxed way, while enjoying their cups of tea.

Third is the new facility in the North Aisle. The new small kitchen area in the North Porch is now fully operational serving tea, biscuits and cakes after Sunday morning service, so people can stay after formal worship is over. Plans are in hand to extend it to other days of the week, and volunteers have come forward to help. Previously, refreshments were carried down stairs from an upstairs kitchen, but this is much more convenient.

EVENTS.

Several significant events have taken place at St John's in the past few months.

St David's Day

The Annual National Mayoral Service of thanksgiving is held each year on 1st March in honour of the Patron Saint of Wales. St John's is the civic church of Cardiff, but the service is not always at our church, as the Lord Mayor has the choice of where to hold it. Mayors and dignitaries from all over Wales are invited to attend. This year it was held with us, with suitable civic splendour, and a reception at the City Hall afterwards.

Also for St David's Day a service was broadcast on Radio Wales, which was recorded in advance at St John's. The church choir was joined by the Ardwyn Singers and a congregation to provide a fitting act of worship for Wales national day.

Music Recitals

St John's makes a good venue for performance of music, and a few concerts have been held recently. As well as the regular organ concerts, the church hopes to host a series of chamber concerts given by the Eira Quintet of talented young players..The first of these took place on 25th May and was well attended. Also well attended was a concert on 27th April by the Côrddydd Choir, They are acknowledged as one of the best mixed voice choirs in Wales, having won several major prizes, and given international performances.

CLERGY NEWS.

Our assistant deacon Revd. Heather Temple-Williams was ordained as a priest at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday 29th June. She will now serve as curate in our parish for the next year or two, until she is ready to be go to a parish of her own. Although having a full-time job outside the church, she has really become part of our family and been a valued member of our team. May God be with her in her future ministry.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS.

Many members of the Friends are Life Members, and we are grateful for their past generosity and continued support. For those members who pay annually, if you have not paid for 2024 yet, it would be helpful to receive your subscription soon. Since covid, a few annual members have not paid for a couple of years. Maybe they have forgotten or maybe they do not wish to continue. A membership review will be taking place, with a view to removing those well in arrears from our circulation list. If you pay annually, but have not paid recently and wish to continue keeping in touch, please make sure you pay your annual subscription within the next few weeks, so we can keep you on our list of members.

Annual membership rates are the same as last year as shown on the reminder slip. 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", and send it to the Hon. Secretary (address above) with the remittance form. We remain grateful to members for their continued support. New members are welcome. Application forms can be obtained by contacting the Hon. Secretary.

Richard Hall, (Hon.Sec.)