

ROATH AND CATHAYS MINISTRY AREA
***News from St Edward's
& St Margaret's***



***Christmas 2023 and
Epiphany 2024***

Free but donations always welcome

Roath and Cathays Ministry Area (RCMA)

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Vicar	The Reverend Irving Hamer
Reader:	Mr Geoff Smith Tel: 20499498.
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Ministry Area Secretary	Mrs Angela Parry MBE
Roath Church House bookings	RCH Booking Secretary Mrs Anna Mason Tel: 07720641653
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The Clergy are always available to minister to the sick and dying. Please inform the clergy of sickness. Holy Communion may be received at home by those who are unable to come to church.

Confessions and the Sacrament of Healing by arrangement.

Copy date for the next Magazine (Lent) is January 29th

From the Ministry Area Leader the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk

My dear Friends,

‘Christmas is a time for children’ is a phrase that we often hear at this time of the year, and we all know how true that is, including in the lives of our churches . By the time you read this we will have had thousands of children present in the five churches in our ministry area in Advent and the days leading up to Christmas. One of the first major events was the festival of Christmas music for primary school children which was held in Saint Germans. This was arranged and led by Rachel Kilby, a chorister from Saint Margaret’s, but employed by Llandaff Cathedral as music animateur. She was supported by Stephen Moore and Aron Shilson, the cathedral organists. It was a wonderful celebration of our community and the skills and talents of so many, witnessed by school staff, parents and families.

Among the many other children’s groups we see in church at this time are very young children from Acorns Nursery. We also welcome Howardian Primary School for their carol service and children from Marlborough Primary School for a visit this Advent. Our own scouts, cubs and beavers have given a beautiful nativity with carols in front of parents and friends. A very special time happens when our own Sunday schools both at St Margaret’s and St Edward’s perform their lovely Christmas presentations. So many teachers, musicians, volunteers, parents and friends work really hard to bring together all these celebrations for our children. We are enormously grateful to them for reminding us through the children’s work of the happiness and joy of the Christmas story. We never tire of being told of the birth of our Lord, Jesus, and the part played by the characters of Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men.

However, sadly, even if we are warmed and cheered by this familiar and heartening yearly recollection, we cannot escape the reality of the present for many other children in the world.

Those of you who read 'Llandaff Matters' online may have recently seen a photograph of a church interior with every pew, full of boys and girls overseen by a young nun. This was not a joyful image as all the children present in Holy Family Church in Gaza were sheltering there because their homes had been destroyed. We have seen on our television screens the death and destruction that has followed the events of 7th October. We have also heard of children in Israel who have lost parents and grandparents in horrific massacres and brutal attacks. We may also remember that in Ukraine scores of young people have been forcibly taken from their homes and orphanages to be rehoused miles from their homeland in Russia, away from any of their familiar culture and connections. It is not just hundreds of miles away that children suffer but even in our own land in the city, there are youngsters who do not enjoy the love and the care they deserve owing to many difficult circumstances and tragedies.

We might ask ourselves as we celebrate the joy of Christmas here, where is God in all these tragic events, conflicts and wars? We need to remember that there was certainly joy at the birth of Jesus. Mary and Joseph, like every new family would have rejoiced at the arrival of their son, the circumstances, however, were not exactly conducive. They were a long way from home, having to find refuge in a stable, without the support of extended family. Although they were greeted happily by the shepherds and received hospitality from the innkeeper, it was not long before they had to flee as refugees to Egypt. King Herod was determined to murder any possible rivals to his power. God made himself vulnerable by bringing his own son into the world, not in a royal house or hall as a hymn recalls but in a stable dark, and dim. So from the beginning, Jesus' life saw insecurity and danger. The incarnation, the word made flesh in the person of Jesus, shows us that God fully identifies with suffering and the challenges of this world in the earthly experience of his son. This life not only began with those challenges, but also came to its conclusion with death on the cross. The horror of the crucifixion though is not the end. Just

as the joy of birth and new life can face tribulations there is always hope. The holy family lived through those early privations. The crucified Jesus came back to life at the resurrection. He gave new hope to his followers that through what seemed defeat, victory was possible.

The joy of Christmas is not unalloyed but in the person of the infant Jesus who shared our human life we can always take comfort and hope. Perhaps the words of a traditional children's carol can summarise it:

For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he
knew;

And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
May the blessings of the Christ Child and the joy of the Holy
Family be with you all.



Address given on Safeguarding Sunday

Today [November 19] has been designated Safeguarding Sunday by the wider Church and we are particularly encouraged to think, pray and reflect upon this theme in our services. You may have seen on our newsletter and in Llandaff Matters, the Diocesan weekly news, references to Safeguarding and related training and information. You might feel that it is important but is something for others, for the clergy, the Sunday School teachers or church wardens to deal with but really it is a subject which is important for all. We used to talk about child protection but the term safeguarding includes our work with vulnerable adults and the whole nature and culture of our church environment and atmosphere.

Safeguarding is absolutely integral to our faith. It is part of our calling and should be central to our discipleship, ministry and mission. As Christians, each of us have an important part to

play in promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Paying attention to our personal boundaries and power imbalances, is not an inconvenience, but essential to a compassion filled faith.

Our Scriptures, in the Old and New Testament, give us a clear motivation and mandate to ensure that those who are vulnerable are heard, defended and treated effectively, appropriately and with compassion. The theological foundation for safeguarding stems from the fact that we are created in the image of God. We believe that God has been revealed to us in the Holy Trinity, a loving relationship of three in one Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That relationship is loving, affirming, welcoming, caring and protecting. We often use the word “salvation” in scripture and our church services which can be translated, not only as healing and made whole, but also as keeping safe. So much of the gospel record speaks of our Lord Jesus, caring for the lowly, the lost, and the least important in our communities. As we seek to imitate him and follow his example, we should stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves and protect the rights of all who are helpless and defenceless.

Our faith has, at its centre, the idea of suffering, the cross is at the very core. By acknowledging the horror and pain of the cross and God’s presence in Jesus’ cries of agony, we are compelled to recognise and challenge all forms of manipulation, violence and suffering. One theologian has said that the cross is “an eternal statement that humans should not be abused”

We know, of course, that the cross is not the end. The agony of the crucifixion leads to the joy of the resurrection, which reminds us of our commitment to renewal, and in fostering safety for those who are vulnerable, bringing transformation, new life and hope for individuals and communities. We do not ignore the suffering, but we can, like Thomas, see the scars, but also seek forgiveness and new beginnings for those who have been hurt and failed in the past.

Undoubtedly, our churches should be places that embody the dignity and worth of all, especially the vulnerable, the weak and

the young. They should be places where we can see children and vulnerable people flourish and be welcomed into a safe place, which they desire and deserve. We all should agree with these principles and this standpoint but it is not sufficient to give lip service to safeguarding. The Church in Wales offers an introduction to our policies and practices in an online course described as module A. It is followed by an in-person training session module B. These are compulsory for anyone who holds an office or responsibility within our churches, taking children's and young people's activities and in the care of vulnerable adults. Module C is also offered for those in leadership roles, both clergy and laity. I would urge you all to take this seriously and to enquire of your clergy or safeguarding officer of your part in this work. It is also required that these individuals must have disclosure and barring service checks known as DBS. There is a great deal of work involved but it is, I can assure you, as one who has undergone these training sessions, rewarding, challenging and necessary.

Safeguarding is not only at the heart of God's being and will, but should be at the heart of our own identity as Christians underpinning everything we do, we stand for and we are. In championing the centrality of care and safety in our churches, we can truly build welcoming and safe communities of love and God's grace.

With prayers and best wishes



New Vicar in the Ministry Area

The Bishop of Llandaff has appointed the Reverend Canon Jarel Robinson Brown as Vicar in Roath and Cathays Ministry Area. Canon Jarel is currently a priest in the Diocese of London at St Botolph's Without Aldgate. He was formerly a Methodist Minister in Cardiff and Associate Chaplain of King's College, London. He is an Honorary Canon of Bangor Cathedral. We are

very much looking forward to Canon Jarel joining our team. A licensing service will be held on Sat 23 March, 2024. Please keep him and our Area in your prayers as we prepare for this new chapter.



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
- Should the central verse not have an important message? *"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."* Psalm 118:8.

— copied



NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

Not very much to report this edition but the most important news is that we will be welcoming a new priest to our Ministry Area – Reverend Canon Jarel Robinson-Brown. I'm sure we will be looking forward to meeting him next year.

By the time this is published, most of our Christmas celebrations will have taken place.

Our recent Christmas Fayre was once again a resoundingly successful event. It was so lovely seeing Roath Church House 'packed to the rafters'!! At the time of writing, the amount raised was £2560. Thanks to all who helped and those who supported by coming to spend!

The November **100 Club Draw** was drawn at the Fayre and was a 'double prize payout' - results are:

November	Prize	Number	Winner
1	£50	84	Janice Foxley
2	£30	58	Dawn Jones
3	£20	103	Sharon Jones

If you would like to join entry is £12.00 per number, per year. Please see Anita White or contact her – anita@anitawhite.co.uk

Now Sally reports that I know that this is late but the day after the last magazine was published on the 27 September the day after 28th September my husband Stephen from St Margaret's

received a Lifetime Achievement Award from all the directors of where he works in ACT for 30 years of service. Here is a photo of his trophy,



This is a fabulous achievement and I am thoroughly proud of my husband, Well done &

Congratulations

Blessings to you this holiday season
Sally and Pam



I want to once again make an Urgent appeal for more helpers to do the coffee Rota on Sunday Mornings after the 09:30 service:



ST MARGARET'S COFFEE ROTA URGENT REQUEST FOR MORE HELPERS

All are welcome to stay for tea, coffee, squash and a chat after the service.

If anyone is interested in joining our team of helpers as we urgently require more support please speak to Stephen and Sally Bailey in church or contact us on either 02920 236468 or 07707558251(Sally) or 07715239893(Stephen).



KINDNESS

From Penny

I am sitting hunched over on the park bench by the lake – this holds no interest for me as I tearfully mull over and over the morning's trouble.

'Excuse me, do you mind if I sit here?' an elderly gentleman breaks into my self-absorption.

'No. No, of course not' I mumble.

He sits down carefully, setting aside his stick,

'I like to sit here and watch the ducks and moorhens,' then adds, 'I saw a coot once'. Then he looks at me more carefully, 'You are upset, I think, can I help?'

And somehow it all pours out. How I arrived at work this morning and Mandy tells me to go in to the Boss, Don't wait to take your coat off, she tells me. So I knock and go in and he's standing there with an envelope in his hand.

'You're redundant' he says handing me an envelope, 'just go, now straight away, don't speak to anybody'.

And numb with shock I do and now I'm here on the park bench trying to control my tears.

'Dear! Dear!' he says 'had you been there long?'

'Since I left school four years ago,' I croak.

'Did you love the job?'

'Not really but I had no choice.'

'Ah you've hit the nail on the head, now you do, have a choice I mean, what would you really have liked to do?'

'Well it sounds weird but I'd have liked to go into the Probationary Service.'

'A worthy ambition, so why don't you? Go and find out what you have to do.'

'Thank you I will, I feel better already. O you are so kind.'

I jump up, dry my tears and head off to the library to find out what I can. It is all good, there is an apprenticeship scheme and when I get to the offices I am welcomed with open arms and set out on my future career with a joyful heart.

But the odd thing is that however often I go back to that bench I never see that dear gentleman again. I think he was my guardian angel in disguise!

ROATH & CATHAYS MINISTRY AREA: Christmas Services

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 8.00am. St Margaret's Church. Holy Eucharist.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 9.30am. St Margaret's Church. Holy Eucharist.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 10.00am. St Michael and All Angels, Cathays.
Holy Eucharist.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 10.30am. St Martin's Church. Mass.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 11.00am. St Edward's Church. Holy Eucharist.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 11.00am. St German's Church. Mass.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 4.00pm. St Edward's Church. Carols Around the
Tree.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 5.00pm. St Margaret's. Family Crib Service.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 5.00pm. St Michael and All Angels, Cathays.
Zoom Service.

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 11.00pm. St Germans Church. Midnight Mass

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 11.30pm. St Margaret's. Midnight Mass

Sun 24 Dec 2023. 11.45pm. St Edward's Church. Midnight Mass

Mon 25 Dec 2023. 8.00am. St Margaret's Holy Eucharist

Mon 25 Dec 2023. 9.30am. St Margaret's Sung Eucharist

Mon 25 Dec 2023. 11.00am. St Edward's Christmas Morning
Eucharist.

What's on next year

Mon 8 Jan 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 9 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 9 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices
rehearsal.

Wed 10 Jan 2024. 7.30pm. St Edward's Church. [Roath Local
History Society](#).

*John Prior-Morris will speak on The Story of Insole Court and the
Family who made it.*

Thu 11 Jan 2024. 6.00pm. St Edward's Community Room. Cardiff
Baroque rehearsal.

Mon 15 Jan 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 16 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 16 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices
rehearsal.

Wed 17 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. U3A Recorders.

Wed 17 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Community Room. WI
Penylan Social Group.

Wed 17 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. South Wales Clarinet Choir.

Sat 20 Jan 2024. 11.00am. St Edward's Church. Coffee Concert: Adam Parrish (solo piano).

Sun 21 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Cardiff Friendly Strings](#).

Mon 22 Jan 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 23 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 23 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices rehearsal.

Wed 24 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Community Room. WI Penylan Craft Group.

Wed 24 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. South Wales Clarinet Choir.

Mon 29 Jan 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 30 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 30 Jan 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices rehearsal.

Wed 31 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Community Room. WI Penylan Craft Group.

Wed 31 Jan 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. U3A Recorders.

Sun 4 Feb 2024. 1.30pm. St Edward's Church. Wind Ensemble De Cymru.

Mon 5 Feb 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 6 Feb 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 6 Feb 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices rehearsal.

Wed 7 Feb 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Community Room. WI Penylan Craft Group.

Wed 7 Feb 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. South Wales Clarinet Choir.

Wed 7 Feb 2024. 7.25pm. St Edward's Community Room. [Cardiff Recorded Music Society](#).

Mon 12 Feb 2024. 7.30pm. Zoom. [Chatty Crafters](#).

Tue 13 Feb 2024. 2.00pm. St Edward's Church. [Forget Me Not Cafe](#).

Tue 13 Feb 2024. 7.00pm. St Edward's Church. The Inner Voices rehearsal.

SUNDAY AND WEEK-DAY WORSHIP

St Edward's and St Margaret's

(For Holy Day Celebrations see Weekly
Newsletter)

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH WATERLOO ROAD

Sun: 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist
9.30 am Sunday School R.C. House
(every Sunday during school terms)
Wed: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH BLENHEIM ROAD

Sun: 11.00 am Sung Eucharist & Sunday
School
6.30 pm Choral Evensong
Wed: 10.15 am Holy Eucharist

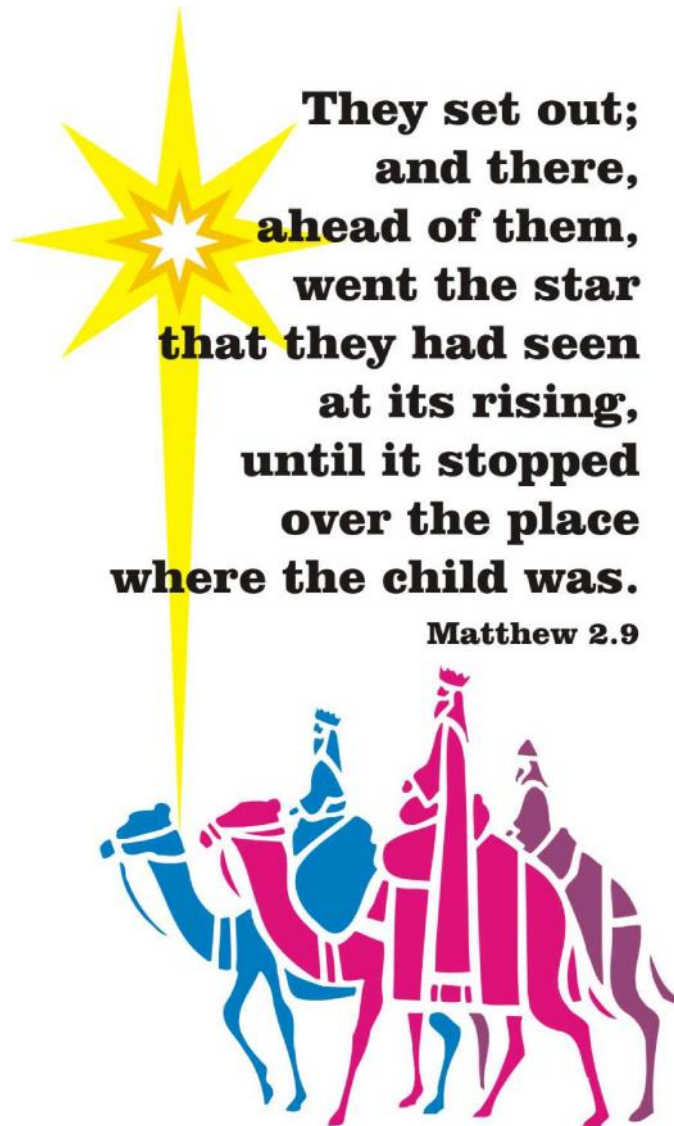
**Check the websites/newsletter for up-to-date
information on services**

Copy date for the next magazine (Lent) is January 29th

Please send email contributions to:

Sue Mansell, smmansell@icloud.com

or Gwynn Ellis, rgellis@ntlworld.com, (preferably using Arial font 12)



**They set out;
and there,
ahead of them,
went the star
that they had seen
at its rising,
until it stopped
over the place
where the child was.**

Matthew 2.9

For the latest information on Covid Guidance and Church services please visit our Website <http://www.roath.org.uk/>

Articles in this magazine reflect the views of their authors, and not necessarily the official teachings of the Church.