

Roath News



SPRING / LENT 2017

Free but donations always welcome

THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

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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.***

The Parish Surgery is open on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) between 6.00.p.m. and 7.00.p.m. in Roath Church House to arrange ***Baptisms and Weddings.*** (Contact no. 20484808).

Confessions and the Sacrament of Healing by arrangement.

Copy date for the next magazine is March 20th

Vacancy in See

The Electoral College will meet in Llandaff Cathedral from February 21 to 23, 2017 to elect the next Bishop of Llandaff. Canon Mike Komor briefly explains the process.

What is the Electoral College?

Its function is to elect bishops to dioceses. When a new bishop needs to be elected six clerical and six lay members of the diocese which is hosting the election join with three clerical and three lay members of each of the other five dioceses, together with the remaining five diocesan bishops to form the Electoral College – making a total of 47 people from across Wales. These will assemble in Llandaff Cathedral, and literally be locked in, while the rest of the world is locked out.

The Electoral College also meets to elect an Archbishop of Wales from among the diocesan bishops, and will need to do so in 2017.

Who can be a bishop?

Technically, any priest of the Anglican Communion who is more than 30 years old can be elected bishop. Both men and women can be elected.

How does someone get elected bishop?

The process of election is carried out in strict confidence. Once the members of the Electoral College (EC) have sworn an oath of confidentiality and received an address from the senior bishop present (remember there will be no Archbishop at this time) the process of nominations can begin. Members will already have been appraised of the particular needs of the diocese. After nominations have been received the EC moves to a secret ballot. Every member can vote for just one name on the list, and a two thirds majority of the vote is required to secure the election. If no single person receives the critical number of votes, then the whole process begins again – fresh nominations are invited, which could include those previously nominated and also people whose names haven't yet been put forward and another vote is taken. If one person receives at least two thirds of the votes of those present and voting they are declared Bishop- Elect. The EC will usually close with an announcement being made from the main door of the Cathedral of who the new bishop is.

How long can it take?

The process of nomination and voting can be repeated multiple times over the course of up to three days. If the EC fails to give someone the required majority in

that time it is disbanded and the task of electing the new bishop defaults to the Bench of Bishops.

What happens next?

The Bishop-Elect has up to 28 days to accept the position. The election also needs to be confirmed by the Bishops meeting in Sacred Synod, with the Llandaff election due to be confirmed on April 22. If the Bishop-Elect is not already a bishop then he or she will be consecrated bishop after this, and then enthroned in his or her cathedral a week or two later.

Who will be running the diocese during the Vacancy in See?

During a vacancy the diocese becomes the responsibility of the Archbishop or, in the absence of an Archbishop, the senior Bishop. In the case of Llandaff in 2017 this will be the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon. However, in practice he will appoint one or more commissaries (senior clergy) to run the diocese on his behalf on a day-to-day basis, and details of the commissary or commissaries for Llandaff will be published in the diocese once the appointment has/have been made.

How do I become an Episcopal Elector?

With just a few exceptions any member of the Church in Wales, lay or cleric, can stand for election to be a diocesan representative on the Electoral College.

For full details please refer to the constitution at <https://goo.gl/GZs34j>

Reprinted from *CROESO Winter 2016 I 11*



NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

Well, the year has turned and here is the year of our Lord 2017. Winter is still with us but already we see signs of spring. There are five snow-drops in the churchyard and the daffodils are shooting up.

This has been a sad time for our congregation. We think particularly of Jean and Brian Hooper who lost their son Jonathan suddenly. Such a dreadful thing to happen. We all send our love and sympathy. Jean and Brian have sent us this note. "Jean and Brian Hooper would like to thank the clergy and congregation of St Margaret's for all their prayers, care and concern during this sad time of our son Jonathan's death. It is such a comfort to know how much people care and want to try to help."

We also record with sadness the passing of Barbara Moffat who was 88 years of age. She was a faithful member of St Margaret's, firstly with her husband Hugh, and then as his widow, over many years. People will miss her, as witnessed by the many members of St Margaret's who attended her funeral, including the choir. Her granddaughter spoke movingly of her and our Vicar Stewart reminded us, in his eulogy of what a nice person she had been.

Pat Hyett has kindly sent us this. "It is with sadness that we hear of the death of June Buckingham, Aunt of Pat Hyett, who was a frequent visitor to St Margaret's Church when she was staying in Cardiff. During her recent illness, she was delighted to receive cards and letters from friends she had made during her short stays and found them to be of great comfort."

May these three people rest in peace and rise in glory.

We had a flurry of birthdays in January but only one of significance and that person doesn't want it mentioned! The vicar's eldest daughter Lydia was 15 at the end of December. To be 15 is always significant, so lots of love to Lydia.

The Reverend Canon John Woodward who attends St Margaret's on Wednesdays and Sundays has announced his engagement to Patricia Brinble. She and John have known each other since their childhood. They will be married in Christchurch Newport one of John's former parishes on June 24th (St John the Baptist Day!) and make their home in Cardiff. We congratulate John and send our love to Patricia.

As always we greet those of our congregation who are unable to join us in church, through illness or disability. We miss them and keep them in our prayers. Please let us know of anyone whom we should mention.

Sally reports that the Ladies Circle are holding a Skittles Match at the Croft Pub in aid of their charities Motor Neuron Disease Association and The Amber Project, on 21 February and it is an 8pm start and you can bring a plate of food. So please come and have a "striking and fun bowled over evening". Also on Saturday 04th March there is a Mad March Fayre 10am-12pm and this is in aid of raising fund for the restoration and repair to our organ in St Margaret's. It is a very good opportunity to make new friends and refreshments are available.

A cheery Shropshire verse to end with

You may speak of the coming seasons
Whatever the seasons may bring,
But a pin stuck up in a cushion
Is a sign of an early spring."

God Bless and until next time. Julia & Sally

A Backward Glance to December 28th

December 28th you ask – what’s special about it? Well, today it gets lost in the hullabaloo of Christmas, but that date was once a major feast in the Christian church, the Feast of Holy Innocents, once known as Childermass.

The story, related in Matthew’s gospel, tells of Herod, king of Judea, visited by the Magi or Three Wise Men, who, having followed a star from the East, are trying to find the newborn king they believe it predicts. Herod asks them to report back when they have found the child, so he too can worship, but then orders his soldiers to round up all the boy babies in Bethlehem under the age of 2 and kill them. He wants no rival to his own kingship. This bloodthirsty tale is found in the second chapter of Matthew’s Gospel – and nowhere else. Is it historical? Josephus, the Jewish historian, who describes many of Herod’s violent deeds, makes no mention of this one. Estimates of the numbers of children killed have varied from 4k to 144k! But modern interpretations say that, if it did happen, the numbers could be no more than double figures, as Bethlehem was a very small town. Nevertheless, the subject matter was very popular with artists such as Rubens, Giotto and Brueghel.

In churches on December 28th the clergy would wear red vestments for the blood of the martyred children. In the later Middle Ages, the day became one of role reversal. One of the cathedral choristers – usually the most troublesome one – would be elected as the ‘Boy Bishop’, would wear the bishop’s robe and mitre and sit on his throne, all the adults having to do his bidding. This subversive ritual died out after the Reformation, when the Protestant view of children, stressing their being born in sin, meant that on this day children were beaten to drive out their intrinsic evil. A far cry from the indulgence of children which the Christmas season encourages today.

So, has the feast a message for us now? It falls just three days after Christmas, the birth of Christ, the love of God incarnated in the world. Born as an innocent baby, the worldly reaction is one of hatred, jealousy, the unjust abuse of power. Today we find this too

horrific to contemplate, especially at Christmas, a time when we want to draw a veil over pain and death. The glorification of children, the showering of them with gifts, sits uneasily with child cruelty – and yet, this Christmas was a time of pain and loss for many. Syrian children, dead or maimed, are sacrificed in the cause of adult greed and violence. If they survive they often become refugees, and this chimes again with the story of the infant Jesus, who, with his parents, flees into Egypt, where they seek asylum until the tyrant Herod is dead. As today, a refugee child leaves behind many other, murdered, children. The story reminds us that there is no happy ending for many, even at Christmas. Love is often reacted to by evil, then, now and in the future. We hope and pray that love may triumph in the end.

Based on 'The Slaughter of the Innocents', Tim Montgomerie, Radio 4, 28/12/16



ST EDWARD'S NOTES - LENT 2017

LOOKING BACK – a whole 12 months ago we welcomed members of St Anne's congregation, and we hope you are now beginning to feel at home! Our Sunday Eucharist services look pleasingly full most weeks and the regular Solemn Eucharist's and Healing Services are also well attended.

WELCOME – we're very glad to welcome 'occasional' visitors in the congregation as well as our regulars; people with family living nearby; those who live and work in more than one place; special occasion visitors, who come for a particular service. We aim to give a warm St Edward's welcome to all. If you would like to be part of the meet & greet team, either regularly (approximately every 2 months) or just from time to time, please speak to Sue Mansell.

HOUSEKEEPING - last year we had just had the tree work completed in the grounds and since then a number of people have done lots of work clearing and we have even planted a new tree, a Rowan kindly donated by Mary Taynor.

Our regular 5th Saturday in the month clean-up day will include a 4th Saturday in February this year, the 25th, as otherwise we would have had to wait until April! So February 25th, April 29th, July 29th, Sept 30th (but not December) this year.

We are enjoying the warmth of the newly installed boiler, our up-to-date sound system, renovated organ, new piano and lots of other improvements since last year. At the same time we have raised money for charities, made sandwiches for the Paradise Run every month, welcomed many visitors and supported others through the Foodbank. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

LOOKING AHEAD, and as well as our usual events:
EVENING CONCERT by Siân Cameron (Mezzo sop), Ryan Ross (Baritone) and their students, with Dan Perkin (piano) on Tue 28 Feb at 7.30pm at St Edward's. Tickets £5 on the door or 0771-3730847.

COME AND SING IOLANTHE by Gilbert and Sullivan at St Edward's on Sat 4 March, with soloists from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Cardiff University. Organised by Serenata Singing Group.

Registration opens 9.30am, rehearsal 10am. Informal concert performance 5.30pm. £10 participation / £8 concert entry.

AND FINALLY the FORGET ME NOT PROJECT.

We are planning to start a Dementia Day Club, based at St Edward's schoolroom, to provide a safe environment for people living with dementia and their carers to meet socially, and (if they wish) take part in activities. Our objective is to make life as enjoyable as possible for both the person living with dementia and their carer. If you are interested in this project, please talk to Kathie Mayer.



Notes from the North Number 24

Well in to the New year. You may remember when we had been here a few weeks, Maureen and I were finding it difficult to navigate. On Tuesday Kath and I went to a garden centre in Barton Grange. There were some road works on the way so we selected an alternative route back. I missed the first left turn, so the short cut was a bit longer!!. Can you imagine going from Cardiff to Cowbridge via Barry. Hm.

Moving away from Bells, The tower captain in Preston had brought a Bayeux tapestry (not a full length one), which needed a pole to suspend it from. I managed to finish it today, and I must say it does look great. The Oak finials make the difference.

The garden is starting to come alive. Not many snowdrops, I think the soil is a bit too wet. A couple of small Irises and a Viburnum (from Adrian and Lesley) have bloomed. There are a lot of buds on the Camellias, and the Buddelas, so when Spring arrives there should be lots of flowers.

The church hall is the centre of attention again. In the first place it was 'reported' that it was beyond economic repair, and all the activities would be held in the Church. This lead to 'plans' to develop the church, and increase the capacity of the building. All the building would take some time and during the absence

of any venue, the organisations would have to find alternatives. We wait for further plans!!

The expected bids for the church hall have not materialised, so a review of the hall, and subsequent examination of the structure have shown that the building was not in the terminal state first stated. What next then? We wait to see.

The hall is ideally sighted, but the will to do anything about it is sadly absent.

The Company of Voyces have started a new term and we are facing some new pieces. Faure's Requiem is included and so some additional singing in the offing.

I know that St.Margaret's organ is being 'operated ' on. We certainly missed ours early last year when it became ;poorly'. We purchased one which had been re-furbished. Will we have to do now is replace the funds we used to purchase it!! Unlike yourselves, it is difficult to persuade contributions from our flock – hope springs eternal!!!

That is it for now. Love to you all from David and Kath

Have you ever stopped and wondered

Why Hot Cross Buns at Easter?

Well the key is in the word “Cross.” Right at the centre of the original Easter story is a CROSS. And for Christians the Easter message although at first sight may seem one of sadness and death, it is actually one of joy and life. The key is not the cross itself, as sadly many suffered this under the Romans, but it was WHO was on the Cross, Jesus.

The Christian faith is built on a message of Hope. We believe that the Easter message is as important today as it was 2000 years ago. The cross tells us that **there is a God**. Many people these days would say we don’t need God but I think in our heart of hearts, many believe there must be more to life than just time and chance and that there must be “someone” out there. Easter tells us not only that there is a God who is “out there,” but that He has made himself known to us through Jesus - God become man.

The cross tells us that God loves us. Jesus’ death was no accident - it was an act of supreme love. It was God reaching out his hands as they stretched him out on the cross and saying, “This is how much I love you!”

One of Jesus’ closest friends said “This is real love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”* From the Bible - 1 John 4:10 (NLT)

This brings us to the fact that ...

The cross tell us there is a problem. The word Jesus’ friend uses is “sin” not a popular word but an important

one because it is the wrong stuff in our lives that separates us from God's love.

But the cross and resurrection tell us there is a solution. That was why Jesus needed to give his life at Easter for us. The great news is that it is not the end of the story. The cross is followed by the resurrection - Jesus coming back to life. The Bible tells us that the sacrifice Jesus made changed everything!

We hope you enjoy your Hot Cross Bun today. But even more than that we hope you discover the real meaning of Easter. If you want to know more, why not ask the person who gave you the Hot Cross Bun or visit a local church this Easter or visit

www.makingmoreofeaster.org.uk for more information.

The Sponsorship Calendar 2017 for floodlighting St. Margaret's Church is now on the Notice Board in the porch. Once again you are invited to remember the anniversaries of loved ones, or occasions you would like to celebrate or commemorate. The suggested amount is £3 per entry. (*N.B. More than one entry can be added in any one week*) The floodlighting of St. Margaret's Church has proved to be quite a landmark. Please help to keep this asset by sponsoring a week or two for only £3 per week. The collection box can be found by the font or donations can be given directly to Chris Webb, our Treasurer.

Last year at St Edward's we were privileged to welcome members of the Seager Family and host a memorial service in memory of Willie Seager. On the 101st Anniversary of his death the address given at that service is included here.

**WILLIE SEAGER MEMORIAL TRUST: CHURCH SERVICE
21 FEB 2016**

**Willie Seager Compiled by Jane Edmonds, read by Susan
Vicary**

On behalf of the Seager family, of whom there are 34 of us in the church this morning, I would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the Willie Seager Memorial Trust. To each one of the Trustees, my family has asked me to say: 'thank you for the wonderful work you do and for keeping alive the memory of Willie Seager – our uncle, our great uncle, and our great great uncle – who we remember today 100 years after his death'.

Willie Seager was born in Cardiff on 28th January 1893, the second son of William Henry Seager, a Cardiff shipowner, and Margaret Annie Seager nee Elliot. He had two brothers Elliot and Leighton and one sister Peggy. Educated at Queen's College Taunton, at the age of 21 he started in his father's shipping business, for which he had been specially prepared. He was an active worker at the Roath Road Wesleyan Chapel and was closely associated with the Sunday School work.

With the advent of the First World War, Willie was rejected three times as medically unfit to serve. However, on the fourth occasion he was accepted and went into training at Winchester where he led the first platoon when the Queen reviewed the

troops. He was appointed as second lieutenant in the 10th Service Battalion (1st Gwent) of the South Wales Borderers under Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood and left for France in December 1915. Willie was killed in action on 7th February 1916 at Neuve Chapelle at the tender age of 23.

The Chaplain of his platoon described Willie's death: "It was yesterday morning while supervising the mending of a breach in the parapet caused by enemy shell fire, that a German sniper, taking advantage of the open part, struck your son in the left part of the chest. The bullet evidently pierced his heart, as death followed in a few seconds." During Willie's funeral: "a large number of soldiers who were under his command came up from the trenches with the body and he was buried amid manifestations of great grief and sorrow." Willie's grave lies in the St Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Willie's commanding officer wrote to his father: "From the first day he joined he has worked under me. The only result of our working together has been that I have grown to love him as a brother. In training and in action he was radiant with manliness and reliability. In the smallest duties and in the most onerous duties, I have never known him to fail. By his unbounded generosity, joviality and capability he has endeared himself to every officer and man of the company. The men have lost a brilliant leader, and I – well, I have lost a brother who was my right-hand man."

In his own letter to his family entitled "Only to be opened in the event of my death", Willie himself wrote: "I have been looking forward to the day when we three (brothers) might have taken over the reins of office and relieved Dad of the responsibilities

and worries connected with the wonderful ‘business’ and heritage he has himself built up for us – but that day must wait! I go knowing full well what I go to and if perchance I die, I die gladly, willingly, cheerfully, knowing that I do so in a righteous cause and in defence of all I hold most dear. If it be so, even you dear Mother, in your sorrow, will never regret that you gave your son for your Country. Mingled with sadness, there will be pride! I can as willingly lay down my life as thousands of other brave fellows have done in this war.”

Willie’s mother and father, William Henry and Margaret Annie Seager, never recovered from the tragic death of their son. According to their passport, the Seager parents visited Willie’s grave in France in September 1920. They commissioned a portrait of Willie by the artist Reginald Henry Lewis, displayed here in the church. And they funded two stained glass windows in his memory at Roath Road Chapel and at Conway Road Methodist Church in Cardiff.

After Willie’s death, his two brothers Elliot and Leighton joined their father in the management of the family shipping company and also followed their father’s example of commitment to the public life of South Wales and service to the community.

In 1939 in memory of Willie, William Henry Seager built ten homes for retired seamen and their wives on Newport Road in Cardiff and so the Willie Seager Memorial Trust was born. Thus Willie’s memory is kept alive and his name lives on into the future, just as his parents had hoped, through those who live in the Willie Seager Cottages and through the Willie Seager Memorial Trust.

**SUNDAY AND WEEK-DAY WORSHIP
IN THE PARISH OF ROATH**

(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
(each Sunday except 1st)
6.00 pm Sung Evensong
1st Sunday in month – Evensong/Holy Eucharist

Wed: 9.30 am Holy Eucharist

ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH BLENHEIM ROAD

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

Conventional District of Tremorfa
ST PHILIP'S COMMUNITY CHURCH
TWEEDSMUIR ROAD

Sun: 9.30 am Family Communion
Tues: 3.15 pm 'Messy Church' (in term-time)

Copy date for the next magazine is Monday 20th March

Please send hard-copy (typed, hand-written or cut-out) to the Parish Office; email contributions to Jean Rose, jeanmargaretrose@yahoo.com or Sue Mansell, smmansell@icloud.com or Gwynn Ellis, rgellis@ntlworld.com, (preferably using Arial font 12)



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