

Roath News



EASTER 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 May 1st

From the Vicar of Roath, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk

My dear Friends

At the time of writing we have all been shocked and saddened by the tragic events in London, with the horrific injuries on Westminster Bridge and the cruel murders perpetrated by a lone terrorist. Sadly these events have occurred in many places throughout the world, some close to home and others in far distant countries. The scale and impact of these atrocities varies from place to place. Some have greater coverage in the news media than others. Nevertheless wherever someone is killed or injured their lives and those of their loved ones will be irreparably changed.

This most recent attack in our capital has perhaps made such an impression on everyone because of where it took place in the heart of our seat of Government, at the foot of the Elizabeth tower. A location familiar to us from visits to London and to all the world as the picture that epitomises the city's skyline. It is not surprising as a result that the many casualties were from several different nations and cultures. It is hard to understand what the attacker hopes to achieve by this dreadful act. People have rallied round and praised the emergency services for their bravery and members of the public for their courage and selflessness in helping the injured and dying. Life in London goes on defiantly with a vigil on the following day resolving that our communities work together in harmony and peace.

As we approach the Easter season we know that God has entered this world in his son Jesus and fully engaged with the sufferings of this earth. As we go through the events of Holy Week we recognise that human beings can do horrific things in betrayal and hate. As we recall the pain and suffering of the crucifixion we know that God has through Jesus entered the experience of all who know the pain of the world in whatever way. Our services and readings in Holy Week, especially on Good Friday remind us of this.

The joy of being a Christian of course is that we know that subsequent to his death on the Cross, Jesus rose again. In a miraculous and unprecedented manner, the man dead on a cross and laid in a tomb comes back, not just as a spectacular trick but as a way

of God showing us that through pain and suffering joy and new life can be achieved. Each and every one of us can share in this as we go about our lives, we all experience calvaries of varying impact yet need to look through these moments to gain glimpses of glory. The comfort we receive from each other at times of grief, the support we offer and receive when we or our dear ones are sick, the encouragement and praise we give and accept are all signs of the positive life that Christ gives us as his disciples. Sometimes it may be faint or remote, yet the abiding and returning message of Death and Resurrection, Holy Week and Easter, surely is

“No cross no crown”

May the Lord bless us all as we celebrate new life in Him.

With every good wish and prayers



The prayer:

Father, Thank You for each and every day You have blessed us here
on earth.

Thank You for Your tender mercies.

Thank You for giving us friends and family to share joys and
sorrows with.

I ask You to bless my friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ
and those I care deeply for who are reading this right now.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy.

Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence.

Where there is need, fulfil their needs.

Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their
comings.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Thanks to Jane Colley St Edwards

Christian Aid Week 14th–20th May 2017

It may be only March, but it's never too early to be thinking ahead to Christian Aid Week in May. At the moment, under the auspices of the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee), Christian Aid along with other major charities are working to combat the terrible famine in East Africa and the Yemen. All churches, I know, will be supporting that. But on one week in May, the house-to-house collection takes place, when churches all over Britain send out volunteers to knock on doors and raise money for this vital charity, working in many countries to help the world's poorest. Last year, £10 million was raised in Britain, £466,000 of it in Wales. Roath parish raised almost £2k, so we aim to do as well or better this year.

We need as many collectors as we can get, to collect from a small number of houses, say 20-30, so no-one has too onerous a task. And it can be done early evening, so is compatible with working. If you can't help in this way, perhaps you could collect at your place of work, or in your block of flats, or in groups you belong to? Think of it – 2/3 hours, once a year, to transform 1000 lives! If you can help **IN ANY WAY**, please speak to **Sue Mansell in St Edward's, or to Lindsay Bowles in St Margaret's**. It is surely a vital part of our Christian witness.

Look out too for the following events, also raising money for Christian Aid:

Christian Aid Concerts in St Edward's: Sat 29 April, 3pm,; Frid 2 June 7.30pm (more details in St Edward's Notes)

Christian Aid Afternoon Tea in Roath Church House Sat 13 May 3-5pm

ST EDWARD'S NOTES - EASTER 2017

LOTS of WORK completed recently on the windows, both in the nave and the chancel area; work to be scheduled on the steps in the Sanctuary and the clearing and tidying project in the upstairs vestry. Our next **CLEAN-UP DAY** is Saturday 29th

April. Thank you to everyone who helped at the end of February.

ACTIVITIES in CHURCH, as well as the many musical events. The latest addition to church life is a Beginners' Yoga Class, held in the schoolroom at 9.30 on Monday mornings, run by Lucy, a member of our congregation.

STARTING on MAY 2nd, the FORGET ME NOT PROJECT

Our Day Club, for people with memory problems and their carers, will be every Tuesday, 2pm-4pm, in the schoolroom.

There will be two "talk through" sessions to prepare for the launch on Tue 21 and 28 March, both at 1pm. If you are interested in this project, please talk to Kathie Mayer.

ONE HUNDRED CLUB. The draw on Sun 2 Apr, was the final one of the 2016-7 100 Club (with a top prize of £100). Letters for the 2017-8 100 Club are available; membership is £12 for the year. This raises much needed funds. Cheques payable to St Edward's Church please.

DATES for your DIARY:

Sat 22 April. 7.30pm Spring Concert: Oriole Ensemble: Rolette de Montet (Violin), Gareth Davies (Viola), Nic Bilham (Cello), Rustom Battiwalla (Double Bass), Elizabeth Williams (Piano). £3.

Sat 29 Apr. 3pm. CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT. Francesca Rigaud is organizing a concert for musicians, poets etc who have little or no experience of performing in front of an audience. An opportunity to try things out in a friendly environment. Anyone interested in taking part contact Francesca 20-496907 or frigaud@hotmail.com. Free entry, retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Sat 6 May. 7.30pm. Concert by Opera in Situ.

**Sat 13 May. 3-5pm. ROATH CHURCH HOUSE
CHRISTIAN AID AFTERNOON TEA**

Sat 27 May. 7.30pm. Spring Concert: Seren Singers. £3.

Fri 2 June. 7.30pm. CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT. 20 year old French concert pianist, Alexandre Prévert will give a concert entitled “Prévert, Piano And Poetry”, an invitation to go on a musical and poetic voyage through time, focusing on great composers, Bach, Mozart, Schubert et al, combining major works for classical piano with poetry, staged in a simple fashion that is accessible to all. The tour consists of 14 concerts in France, Switzerland and Britain. Entry free but must be reserved on: *piano.prevert@gmail.com* (retiring collection for Christian Aid).

Sun 4 June. 3pm. St Margaret’s grounds. Pentecost Service.

SHETLAND

-Pam & Andy Muir moved there from Cardiff at the end of 2016.

Why wouldn't you come to Shetland in December?

You might be deterred by the strong winds or the shortness of the days. You might be put off by the long journey and worry about a sense of isolation when you get here. But you would be wrong. Shetland in winter is a delight known only to a few. The light is unique and sunsets spectacular. We get four seasons in one day. We've seen seals by the dozen, orcas and otters, geese in their hundreds and curlews everywhere. Most of these have been spotted from the best hide in Shetland - our own dining room window.

Shetland is in the sea, a hundred miles up from Scotland and a wee bit to the right. It's the topmost part of the UK weather map. UK weather forecasts seem to bear no relationship to what actually happens in Shetland. It's nearly always windy and there are showers rather than persistent rain. When the sun shines the wildness and beauty of land surrounded by water comes alive.

There is a peace about this place that defies description. The winds may be wild but there is a real sense of community here. We're all in this together. No one passes without at least some conversation. We struggle with the Shetland dialect at times, and we might be incomers to this beautiful and remote part of the island, but we could not have been made more welcome. We've met lovely

people, shared meals with new friends and are doing our best to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way.

Already we have adopted an island mentality: throw nothing away because you never know when it might come in useful. Our garage is rapidly filling with cardboard boxes, newspapers, retrieved and broken garden tools plus useful items found on the shore at low tide. The weekly supermarket trip to Lerwick (a seventy four mile round trip) is a chance to see what's new in the harbour (boats and wildlife) and to enjoy a good coffee in our favourite shop.

We have so much to which we are looking forward. Our spring will arrive later than yours but the lengthening days compensate for that. There are no trees where we can see buds break and leaves unfurl but we are surrounded by sheep whose lambs will arrive in May. There is always the ever-changing light and the restless sea to provide endless entertainment. Best of all we look forward to visits from family and friends. Our good wishes go to all our friends at St Edward's - we miss the peace and serenity of Choral Evensong. Shetland can't match that!

Lent springs into Easter

I was at a quiz the other night. It was Shrove Tuesday, the night before Lent starts. Pancakes, nibbles, chocolate and yes ... a bar. Over sixty people present, all enjoying themselves, especially when the quiz master attempted a French accent, and then, dismayed at our laughter, tried even harder another time (big mistake).

I love quizzes that make you part of a team. Combined efforts are much better than individuals – and you can hide your own ignorance by saying 'ooh! Now let me think ... ummm' until someone comes up with the right answer and you then say 'Oh yes! Of course!' Occasionally I do know the answer. But more often than not, I don't know, but know that I should know it (if you're still with me). That's what happened in this quiz. 'What is the origin of the word Lent?' was one question. 'Ooh! Now let me think Umm' I said for the fifty-second time that night. In fact I did know the answer – but couldn't remember it.

'Lent' sounds Latin doesn't it? Is it supposed to mean 'slow' as we journey through the stages of Jesus' Passion, testing ourselves

and focussing on how inadequate our faith is? That journey on Good Friday that Jesus made with his cross must have felt like an age in such agony. As we wait for the resurrection in our lives it can seem very, very slow. The journey towards peace in the Middle East is so slow we begin to despair of a resurrection. The three years of Jesus' ministry before his Passion may paradoxically have felt quick, given that he was always journeying towards his death – towards the cross of our salvation.

Or does it mean 'fast'? We are supposed to **fast, pray**, and give **alms** during Lent. Give up what is important to us (or actually shouldn't be eating, drinking or doing anyway) as a demonstration of how strong our faith is. We fast from some pleasure before the feast of Easter when we rejoice and go back to our bad habits. Jesus fasted for his 40 day 'Lent'. His fast was severe and he stuck it out, despite the relief offered by Satan, because of his oneness with his Father who sustained him through the test of his humanity. He emerged ready, changed, and determined.

Or does it mean 'preparation'? Our faith is based on two concepts: That God revealed himself in a human being who was love, and he died for us yet was resurrected as eternal love. It takes more than a second to take that on board. It takes 40 days in fact – at least. No wonder we need a yearly time to prepare ourselves for the forgiveness God continually shows those people who continually forget what 'Lent' means.

No. it doesn't come from any of those origins. It comes from the Saxon word 'Spring'. 'Duh! Of course it does!' Whatever date Easter is, Lent is always in Springtime. As we are fasting, praying and giving alms, the natural world is emerging from its winter slumber and starting to spring into life. Months of dark days, with less day than night, give way to the life-giving light that is spring. Life seems to burst out of nothing. It is as though joy returns to the world. The resurrected Jesus springs forth into our lives at Easter. Eternal life, love and light triumph over darkness. The time of Lent finishes in the spray of life that we associate with Springtime – but it is the risen Christ who has flowered.

How could I have forgotten that? I won't in future!
Have a blessed Easter with a 'spring' in your step.

Fr Rhys

Obituary – Peter Leech

Peter Leech, particularly during his earlier years, played an important role in the life of this parish and of the wider diocese. The following piece is a shortened version of the eulogy written for his funeral by his wife Barbara.

Peter was a Roath boy, growing up in St Martin's parish, where his family were members and he was a 'boat boy', carrying the incense in church. All his formal education took place within easy walking or cycling distance of his church. Roath Park Primary School, near which he and his pals played cowboys and Indians in the park; Cardiff High School for Boys, in Newport Road, from which he gained a City Scholarship to the University, to study English, History and Archaeology. On entry to university, he joined the college RAF squadron, and in 1943 joined the RAF to train as a pilot. It seems he was good at getting a plane up and keeping it there, not so good at bringing it down, to the RAF's exacting standards. He had, he said, a 'good war': loved his training; in London near Lords Cricket Ground; in Stratford for Shakespeare; in Manchester for the Halle orchestra, and in South Africa for the climate. The end of the war saw him return to Cardiff to complete his degree, and it was there that we met, in the English Society and the Church Society. Our first date was to see Othello at the old Prince of Wales Theatre (Not an ideal romantic choice!).

Peter fell into teaching by accident, but after a brief stint in a Valleys school, he was hooked, and loved it from the first. After marriage we spent two happy years in Carmarthenshire before Peter moved to the small Boys' Grammar School in Penarth, now the mighty Stanwell School. As well as enthusing (and sometimes confusing) his pupils, he wrote and produced plays for them, always comedies, always in costume and always historical. Highly artistic, he designed the scenery, but could never actually make it (changing a light bulb was a challenge for him), and it had to be made in pieces to be carried down to the Paget Rooms as the school had no theatre. He even designed a harpsichord to be dismantled IKEA style. On his retirement, he asked for an Edwardian garden tea party – and got it!

Retirement was full of activity. He was Chairman for some years of the Committee for Care of Churches. He participated in designing exhibitions [*including the exhibition for the 1970 Centenary celebrations, for which Peter produced a wonderful series of paintings, of the life and history of the parish Edit.*]. He wrote a Pageant for the St. John's Ambulance attended by the Duchess of Kent, and was a member of many *ad hoc* groups, including one which published current activities in Cardiff. "View Round Cardiff" [*of which some copies turned up recently*] was written and illustrated by him. When a parish in the Vale discovered a genuine 14th century mosaic from the Cathedral of Torcello near Venice, that started his, and my, love of that city, and our connection with its Church of St George where we worshipped regularly every year subsequently. (Incidentally, we found the churchwarden there to be an old boy of Cowbridge School!) His most recent project was with a small committee who aimed to make a full inventory of church sculpture and other artistic work by the Cardiff sculptor Frank Roper, who has works in Llandaff and in other churches and cathedrals throughout the UK. Roper always claimed that the first religious work he did was the carving of St Martin which Peter commissioned for the church in Albany Road, in memory of his parents. Peter was never without a pen or pencil and sketchbook in his pocket. Art and art history were his passions, along with literature, Welsh place names, maps, topography, theology – our library bears witness, alas!

Peter was, I really believe, a very happy man: positive, optimistic, full of faith, interested in everything and everybody. His book collection was legendary, his untidiness notorious. He would wander round what I call the 'rubbish shops' because, he said, 'Shapes are interesting'. One of Jeremy's school friends once said, 'Your Dad's an eccentric, isn't he?' Yes, he was. But we need our eccentrics; life would be dull without them. A loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he leaves a chasm in our family life. But, as someone once wrote or said, 'Grief is the price we pay for love.' We all know how true that is.

Barbara Leech

I'm sure that Barbara's piece will bring back many memories of Peter, to those in the parish who knew him, as a kind and always interesting man, a real pleasure to talk and listen to. May he rest in peace.



NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

A young man, Tim Stanley writing in The Telegraph on St David's Day mentioned that Mrs May is famously giving up her favourite salt and vinegar crisps for Lent. She has said also that people should be able to speak about their faith and that absolutely includes "their faith in Christ". His article said how refreshing this was, but that also people will hold her to account because of it. He ended with, "For too long admitting you're a Christian has been treated like a declaration of lunacy. Time to stop. Time for Christians to come out of the closet". Allelujah.

As we travel through Lent we are cheered by the lovely flowers coming up in the churchyard, daffodils and crocuses. (yes, I know we are supposed to say "croci"). I wonder who planted them. Does anyone know? As we come into church there are, of course, no flowers for Lent. As the ladies who arrange, water, rearrange and clear away the church flowers are having a little holiday it is maybe timely to thank them for the pleasure given by the flowers throughout the year, well done Ladies.

We are pleased to congratulate our Vicar Stewart on becoming Area Dean. We hope that it will not be too much extra work.

It is with sadness we write the passing of Peter Leech, he was a long standing and faithful member of St Margaret's. We send our good wishes and also thanks to his family who have generously given the gifts from Peter's funeral to St Margaret's. Peter would have loved that.

We have a Diamond Wedding to celebrate. Gill Day writes "Janet and Brian Christopherson celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They were married on 26th March 1957 in St Teilo's Church, Woodville Road, Cathays Cardiff. We sent them our love and congratulations."

Also Cynthia McKinty who sings in the choir celebrated with her husband Alec, their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were married in St John's in town on March 1st 1967. The Vicar and wardens presented Cynthia with gifts to mark the occasion.

Also in the choir Lindsay Bowles has achieved the grand age of 60 although we can hardly believe it!

We have recently been pleased to welcome back Dee Coles and John Katchi after their operations and convalescence, also Joan Brooks.

We continue to hold in our hearts and prayers Pat and Robert Hyett's baby grandchild Dylan who is still not well.

It is also time to send our love to all those not well enough to attend church. We send them "the peace of the Lord."

Late news as we go to press, there is news of the choir. After seventeen years Robert Hyett is retiring as choirmaster. We will miss his cheerful, faithful and prayerful service and also the hymns and anthems he has brought us. We are fortunate that Gary Mullins one of our regular organists, is willing to take on this role. Take it away Gary!

Sally reports that the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Afternoon Tea with music on Saturday 18th March 2017 raised in total £170. Well done to all those who organised and support this event.

If you were not able to attend the above event, then look no further as there are the following events which you can come and support:

1. Tuesday 16th May Skittles Match at the Crofts Pub, £5 ticket, Bring a plate and its 7:30-8pm start.

**2.Saturday 1st July Quiz Night at Roath Church House,
£5 ticket, Bring your own drinks and Nibbles and its
7:30-8pm start.**

**3.Saturday 23rd September Afternoon Tea with music at
Roath Church House £3 ticket, and its 2:00-4pm.**

**4.Tuesday 24th October Skittles Match at the Crofts
Pub, £5 ticket, Bring a plate and its 7:30-8pm start.**

Also the ladies circle have got an event coming up in the foreseeable future and this on Tuesday 21st November Skittles Match at the Crofts Pub, £5 ticket, Bring a plate and it's 7:30-8pm start. Proceeds of which go towards the two charities that the ladies circle are support and these are Motor Neuron Disease Association and The Amber Project.

That is all from Sally for now.

We are glad to give Easter Greetings to all of St Margaret's congregations. We are an Easter People. Allelujah!

Happy Easter
God Bless and until next time.
Julia & Sally



**Canon John Woodward writes . . . the purpose and relevance of
which may not become clear until you reach the end!!**

In 1983 I was approached by the then Archbishop Derek Childs (also Bishop of Monmouth) asking if I was prepared to become Rector of the Rectorial Benefice of Cyncoed. This benefice was within the city of Cardiff but part of the Diocese of Monmouth. Eventually, despite many doubts, mainly because of my valleys background, I agreed to accept the invitation. At that time I had already been ordained for 28 years, and was in my tenth year as Vicar of Christchurch, Newport.

Cyncoed was one of the largest parishes in Wales with an affluent core centred on the village of Cyncoed, but with two huge housing estates at Llanedeyrn and Pentwyn; later to be further extended by the addition of Pontprennau. Its population then was estimated at 35000+. It also had two Church primary schools, All Saints Llanedeyrn and St David's Pentwyn, both of which expected the Rector to be Chairman of Governors. The Benefice was, in the words of Archdeacon Clifford Wright, "A big animal and not for the faint hearted".

The Archbishop's reason for asking me, specifically, to be the Rector was the fact the he and the leaders of mainstream churches in Wales (Methodists, URC, Presbyterians and some individual Baptist churches) were keen to set up a LOCAL EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT within the benefice, centred upon St David's Church in Wales Primary School Pentwyn. The school hall would be used for regular Sunday worship and week day activity, and the Free Churches would take it in turn to provide a Minister for the length of the experiment. That Minister would be a full member of an Anglican clergy team led by myself, and an Anglican priest would work along side that Minister at St. David's with shared pastoral and sacramental care of worshippers in the Pentwyn area. That Minister would also be involved in Anglican worship within the other benefice worship centres. (When I retired there were five such worship centres.) This prospect of leading an Ecumenical team (the first of this nature in Wales) greatly appealed to me because of my long experience in Ecumenical matters.

That interest had begun in 1963 during my second curacy in Chepstow. It was stimulated by the ANGLICAN/ METHODIST SCHEME FOR UNITY initiated during that period and encouraged by similar schemes for unity in the Churches of South and North India. Anglican parishes were encouraged to discuss with local Methodist churches the possibility of becoming one United Church with shared ministry and worship at all levels of church life. Incidentally I voted for the scheme to take place, even though my then vicar voted against.

Sadly that unity was not achieved, mainly because of the "thorny issue" of EPISCOPAL ORDINATION. The intention was that all Methodist

Ministers would receive the laying on of hands by a Bishop, and all Anglican priests a similar laying on of hands by Methodist leaders. It was not meant to be seen as a re-ordination, simply an extension of both churches' ministries. However many on both sides did view it as re-ordination and the scheme was rejected. Discussion is still ongoing 55 years later.

All was not lost however, because that scheme, despite its non acceptance by the two major bodies concerned, stimulated interest in unity within and between denominations. There was thus, throughout Britain, a challenge to explore ways of bringing churches together, and hopefully moving forward to a visible unity in the not too distant future. In Wales THE COMMISSION OF COVENANTING CHURCHES was formed to lead and direct this process in the Principality. Churches were asked to discuss various documents produced by that Commission and to report back by a given date. Because of my interest and involvement I was appointed by the Church in Wales to be a member of that Commission almost from its inception and I continued to serve for many years.

This process was named COVENANTING FOR UNION IN WALES, and many churches signed local covenants between Anglicans, Methodists, United Reformed Churches (URC), Presbyterians and some Baptists. They did this in good faith as their national church bodies discussed and debated the same issues at the highest level. At this time there was a reasonable optimism for success and we in Cyncoed Benefice, especially at St David's, were constantly canvassing for progress. Our experience as an LEP was vital in the Commission's decisions and planning for the whole of Wales. We were allowed a "special status" to experiment, to try out new situations not yet possible within wider church life.

I mention too at this point Roman Catholics who, while not fully involved in the Covenanting process, nevertheless sent observers to the Commission's meetings. Also they were involved in scholarly and deep theological discussion with Anglicans through the ANGLICAN ROMAN CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION (ARCIC). They were also engaged with Methodists in similar discussions. The Anglican Methodist scheme for unity had seemingly "failed," but it had triggered off major interest and debate of ecumenical issues at a level not witnessed before.

It was against this background that we in Cyncoed Benefice were able to sustain and develop our enthusiasm for working together with Christians of other traditions, especially Cyncoed Methodist Church and Christchurch Llanedeyrn United Free Church (a Baptist foundation but welcoming all Free Church traditions.)

Meanwhile, one thing we had quickly learned at St. David's was that holding alternative Anglican and Methodist Eucharists was not the way forward. Anglicans tended to give greater support to Anglican worship and

Methodists to Methodist worship. We were using the same building, sharing ministry as far as we were able, but lacking a catalyst, a single form of Eucharistic worship which could be shared or officiated at by either Anglican or Free Church Minister alone. i.e Not simply always having to say the words of consecration together.

The Commission took this on board and allowed us to use the Rite of the United Church of South India as an interim Rite whilst it prepared a rite for acceptance by the Courts of the Covenanting Churches in Wales.

This rite called the “Covenant Rite” in modern English was eventually accepted by the Church courts and we were allowed to use it every week at St David's, and regularly when as churches within our local Covenant we came together for joint Eucharistic Worship. This service was far less wordy than the Rite of South India and readily accepted by worshippers. Also it meant that, for the first time, the Free Church or Anglican Celebrant could celebrate the Eucharist for joint worship alone, freeing up “the spare minister” that week to help in another church in the benefice or beyond.

Encouraged by this success the Commission went on to look at other areas of worship and also to produce a form of service and card for Baptism, which we used widely within the benefice. At this stage everything was encouraging and the three largest church congregations in the benefice continued to work very closely together, not least in setting up a very well-used café, drop in centre and second hand clothes shop in the Maelfa shopping precinct in Llanedeyrn. A loving feeling of good will pervaded the whole area. We also extended Confirmation services within the benefice to include all candidates at one service of Confirmation each year. The difference was that both the Bishop and Free Church Minister laid hands on all candidates, thus extending their membership.

Meanwhile my own ecumenical experience was developing and extending. I was Chairman of the Diocesan Unity Committee, served on the Provincial Unity Committee, represented the Covenanted Churches at the International Conference for United and Uniting churches held in Potsdam, East Germany, and again represented them at a conference of the “European Council of Churches.” In addition I represented Wales at National Ecumenical conferences in the British Isles. I gave a blessing to Cardinal Hume at a joint Anglican /Roman Catholic conference at Swanwick. and administered Communion to Archbishop Runcie at the same conference. I met many leading Ecumenists, not least Hugh Cross, a Baptist, who was the first Ecumenical Moderator at Milton Keynes. In addition, in 1995 I took a 3 month sabbatical after 37 years in ministry. With the financial support of Bishop Rowan Williams, I visited “Ecumenical Projects in England”, spending days at Swindon, Milton Keynes, Bristol, Marlborough and Telford. Then I wrote a thesis to present to the Bishop on my experiences, as I spent a month in residence at St. Michael's College,

Llandaff, having the opportunity to preach and address the students as well as set up some Ecumenical days.

My Ministry over 42 years (full time) has provided me with an incredible number of experiences, not least in matters ecumenical, with St. David's Pentwyn a shining light, particularly during the 80s and 90s.

When I retired as Rector of Cyncoed in October 2000 there was to come an even greater ecumenical challenge. I was invited to become secretary of a group initiated by the late Gethin Abraham Williams, a true giant of Ecumenism. He had floated a suggestion, already tried in Swindon and Milton Keynes (with partial success), to appoint an Ecumenical Bishop for East Cardiff serving in the parish of St Mellons, which also now had an LEP base at the Church of the Resurrection, and in Cyncoed where the Anglican and main Free Churches had achieved much together.

The intension was to prepare the way for the churches within the Covenant to appoint a person from any of the participating churches who would be ordained/consecrated as a Bishop within that area and also have responsibility for other Ecumenical areas in Wales. The Rev'd Marian Dowsett and myself travelled far and wide throughout Wales addressing Diocesan and Free Church conferences, only for the recommendation to fall at the last hurdle. The Free Churches within the Covenant accepted it, but the Church in Wales, an Episcopal Church, with so much to share from its experience of episcopacy, rejected it. For me this was to be the beginning of a real decline in interest in unity. The Church in Wales must take a huge share of the blame. The Churches are now much weaker numerically, both locally and nationally. Local churches are struggling simply to survive and there is little enthusiasm for much beyond their own survival. .

Sadly too Ministers are leaving Theological Colleges for ordination knowing nothing about the "Covenant for Union", let alone the Anglican Methodist scheme or ARCIC. The Covenant Rite is, to my knowledge, hardly ever used. Seemingly as Churches we have lost our way ecumenically and are so often seeking "to reinvent the wheel" when so much is already in place to move forward. So much that is except the will and the courage. So you may wonder why I have chosen to write this article at this stage of my life, aged 81 and having been retired 16 plus years.

Well, recently I holidayed in Malta, still a clearly religious country with numerous well-attended churches. Patricia, whom I am to marry in June, and I went to a local church in Sleima where we were staying. It was a RC church with an English service at 11 am. The church was full; the service with an excellent sermon and relevant prayers was well ordered, and it was a joy to be there. It was a situation I had been in many times before when abroad on holiday – but then we came to the point of receiving Communion. I have always refrained previously, because as yet Anglicans

are not welcome to receive in the RC Church. It has never bothered me before. I have accepted it as the continuing pain of disunity, so Pat and I stayed in our seat. There had been no invitation to come up for a blessing either.

For the first time in my life I really felt desperately hurt, almost angry. I had worked so hard over 50+ years for the cause of Christian Unity and yet, having fully participated in a loving act of worship, I could not receive Communion. There I was, 81 years old, still waiting for the fulfilment of a life dedicated to bringing Christians together in worship and sacrament, unable to receive Communion (without duplicity) at the hands of a fellow priest – something which was not his fault.

We are fortunate here in Roath. Our Vicar Stewart always invites all baptised Christians to receive if they wish, or to receive a blessing. Many Anglican churches are not as warm or inviting. There is as yet no official agreement between Anglicans and other Christian churches for this to happen. It still depends upon the good will or otherwise of the celebrant. I am sure however all Anglicans would be very welcome to receive Communion within a Free Church.

I never thought I would become frustrated or indeed angry in such a situation. I am a very placid, patient person by nature but as I see the Churches, not least the Church in Wales, with only a third of the regular communicant members it had when I was ordained in 1958, and still not in a uniting or united relationship with most fellow Christians, can you blame me !!

John Woodward.

Notes from the North Number 25

I was sitting in the car at the traffic lights, which were on red. A car horn sounded, and I realised that the lady in the car beside me was trying to attract my attention. I lowered the window and heard her say “Are you Mr. So-and-so? (I missed the name), but denied knowledge of the said person. “You look just like him!!!” - My reply was “No, I am actually Father Christmas”, and we parted ways. What would you have done?

When I told Kath, she was slightly puzzled and remarked. “A strange way for a chat up” Heigh-ho, I still get surprised here in the North.

The play went well. It was a comedy and we received very good feed back. I have been ordered NOT TO DO PROPS in September (the next play). I may help out with 'front of house'. I know my place!! I might actually get to see a play.

We went to the Lakes for 3 days and the weather was sunshine from dawn 'til dusk. We had an adventurous day on the Tuesday. I headed us towards Caldbeck, of John Peel fame. It was quite a day of incidents. There were three ROAD CLOSED, signs (not on the same road) and A FLOOD on another. Kath was becoming a little tense and when we eventually found a road with a WHITE LINE in the middle of the road, her sigh of relief was almost tangible. "Please can we NOT do that again!" was her plea. Quite reasonable I suppose, in view of my report in the last 'notes'. I did find the correct route last week!!

The daffodils are blooming. They were out before St. David's Day. Not sure whether that is good or not.

I joined an organisation called Probus, a couple of years ago, and at our monthly meetings, we have a lunch and then a speaker gives a talk or a video show. The organiser asked me if I could find a speaker for a future meeting. Being a relative stranger I do not have any contacts for this. I asked if it would be in order to give a story of my own 'life'. He said yes. Hm! I dropped myself in there. So at our May meeting I shall be describing a 'gullible's travels'. When I mentioned it to Kath, her eyes lit up. She is the Chairman of the local Townswomen's Guild, and was looking for future speakers. I have now two talks to present!! Why do I not learn?

A day later, I am writing this battling with tissues. I think I have a cold in my dnose. It is glowing like a Belisha beacon. But then I am a man, and we do get worse ones, don't we!!!!

Wales did well against Ireland; I wonder what the final weekend will bring.

The local Footie team has quite a lot of local support. Not my centre of enthusiasm.

Easter is close and we get into the longer days again. We hope we might be able to get down later on.

That's it for now,

David and Kath.

Words of Welcome

The following statement was printed on the newsletter of Coventry Cathedral, welcoming people to the Cathedral Eucharist. It was given to us by Revd John Woodward, who describes it as 'the most inclusive statement I have come across'.

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion'.

(We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters . . and you!

That Very Special Charity

Here's the Christian Aid lady,
Knocking at the door,
Collecting the red envelopes
With money to help the poor.
They're going to build a well, she said,
So folk can have fresh water,
And fishing nets and boats and things.
We should support her there!

They do so many helpful things
With money which we give –
Seeds and tools and farming aids
Which help poor people live.
They help the sick ones too, she said,
They are the ones who care.
But we must fill the envelopes,
We must learn to share.

We have so much, more than we need.
We throw so much away.
The food we waste could save a life.
We must care - today!
So, dig deep into your pockets,
It's only once a year.
Give thankfully and gladly,
THANK GOD that we live here.

Hazel Williams

**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

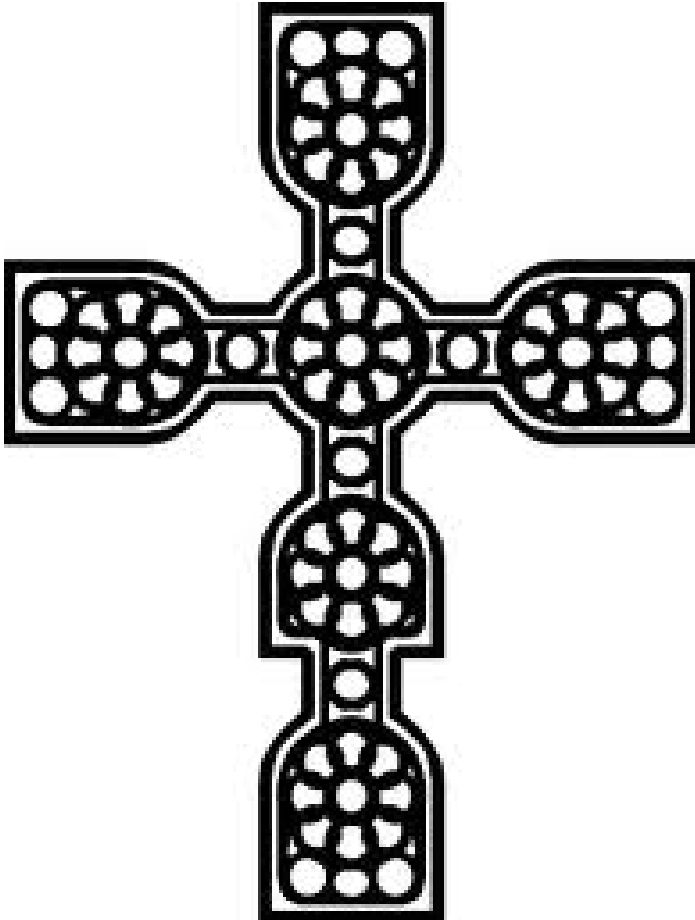
Sun: 11.00 am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School
7.00 pm Choral Evensong
Wed: 10.15 am Holy Eucharist

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 1st May

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)



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