

# ***Roath News***

A painting of a red tree with soldiers silhouetted against a pink sky.

WAR

Advent:

*Living* in

*Peace*

***REMEMBRANCE / ADVENT  
2019***

*Free but donations always welcome*

# THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

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<b>Parish Treasurer:</b>	Mr Jim Bendon Tel: 20482082
<b>PCC Minutes Secretary:</b>	Mrs Anita White Tel 02920 491340
<b>Roath Church House bookings</b>	RCH Booking Secretary Mrs Anna Mason Tel: 07720641653
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.roath.org.uk">www.roath.org.uk</a>

*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. 20487854).*

*Confessions and the Sacrament of Healing by arrangement.*

**Copy date for the next magazine (Christmas / Epiphany) is 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

## **From the Vicar of Roath, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk**

My dear Friends,

At the time of writing we are within the Remembrance season. I was privileged to attend the Wales Festival of Remembrance at St David's Hall. The Head of the Royal British Legion in Wales, Anthony Metcalfe reminded us that the R.B.L. theme at this time is not only remembering the Fallen but also looking forward with hope to the future. There is a desire to involve more young people in our events at Remembrance time. I am glad to say our uniformed groups always play a pivotal role in our united Parish Remembrance Service at St Edwards and in our choirs with more young people joining.

Those who came home from the First and Second World Wars did so with mixed feelings, a sense of relief that peace had come and they were reunited with their families but also a great sorrow and grief that they had lost so many of their comrades. As they returned to civilian life things were often tough as there was a depression in the 1920s and 1930s and much unemployment. In the post 1945 period there was great austerity and rationing continued for some years.

The parliamentary process however continued in both periods of history. In 1918 a Conservative government was elected with Liberal party support but by 1923 the first Labour minority government had replaced them. In 1945, Winston Churchill the wartime Prime Minister lost the election in a massive Labour landslide forming their first majority government. No doubt hope for the future was at the forefront of the minds of the electors those times.

Fortunately though we now face a general election it is not in a post conflict era. However it is undoubtedly at a crucial moment in our nation's recent history. We have enjoyed largely a period of peace since 1945. Nevertheless British armed forces

personnel have died in conflict somewhere in the world every year since the end of the Second World War, except in 1968. It is not appropriate for us in these pages to promote any of the individual parties. There are many vehicles for that around! However the freedom that was brought at such a great cost by the lives of so many should not be taken for granted. The privilege of using our votes is a duty that all who are eligible should exercise. We as Christians must care for our parish, community and nation and it is important that we use our franchise with thought and wisdom.

This is also a time when we should pray for our leaders as they all seek high office in Parliament. Many of them are calling for national unity and healing. Those of us who seek to follow the Lord Jesus can only agree with such sentiments. As we approach the Advent season, a solemn time in the Church Year, let us pray that the message of peace and hope that we believe the Messiah would bring may prevail in this and every other nation on earth.

With every good wish and blessing



# Llandaff Diocesan Conference 2019

This year I was the Parish representative at the conference. I was very eager to listen carefully and take some notes so that I could return and write an account of what happened at the annual conference.

The business side of the meeting had been dealt with in the summer at a meeting in the Cathedral. Nomination papers for the election of members to the Governing Body, Electoral College and Diocesan Board of Finance had also been distributed. Heather Doe had previously been a member of GB and Electoral College and again Heather has been accepted as a member of both reflecting her hard work and involvement in the work of these bodies.

The Conference was held in Aberdare, and I travelled up to Aberdare with Stewart and Caroline Downes ( who sends all of you in Roath her best wishes).

The conference opened with a Eucharist and then Bishop June spoke giving the Presidential Address. She called the Diocese to new adventures during the coming year of Pilgrimage, and shared with us a number of disturbing facts.

- 1) Churches in the Gwent valleys had lost 37% of membership and this loss was also reflected in our Diocese.
- 2) The UK census showed half the population were of no religion.
- 3) People had lost trust in the Church.

When visiting the parishes in the Diocese the Bishop had noted;

- 1) A lack of young people (-30) in our churches and the church did not seem to be connecting with these young people and children.
- 2) How churches were vital in many communities, combating austerity and supporting the needs of the homeless.

The Bishop invited us to be a Diocese with a joyful character, this joy being born of deep seated love of God. She encouraged us to be an ambitious Diocese, taking on outstanding challenges and targets.

As a Diocese;

- 1) We need people to change how they see the Church.
- 2) We need people to see what faith has to offer and how faith can matter to them.
- 3) We must connect with the needs of our parishes.
- 4) We must release the burden that buildings and worship can bring and refocus on what our neighbourhoods need.
- 5) We must see how our churches can be involved with the epidemic of loneliness, of self-harm and mental health disorders in young people,

and so impact positively on health and wellbeing. Can we as a Church make a difference?

The Bishop spoke about the impact of technology, the ethical debate about data harvesting, about social cohesion and how we live together, to love one another and asked us to think about what it means to live well together in this way.

Finally the Bishop spoke about the year of Pilgrimage 2020, stating that a Pilgrimage takes on many forms, so is available to all people. Pilgrimage is about journey, a journey with meaning and spiritual impact, we can draw in our neighbours, we can walk and talk, we can be together as companions.

The Bishop finished by asking us:-

“What does it mean for you to be a pilgrim in our year of Pilgrimage?”

Matthew Batten, Director of Communication and Engagement spoke to us about the importance of social media in today’s world. Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and smart phones should be our means of communication. He did not put aside a place for print for example Croeso but informed us that this would also be available now in digital form. It seems our front door is now a Facebook page because that is where the majority of people go to keep in touch. Some examples of good practice were shared eg. videos posted on YouTube by Mothers Union.

Technology is a great way we can share our joyful story. YouTube is a great tool it presents us with opportunities for seeing debate and provides excellent resources for education, 12 digital apostles, were mentioned.

As advocates for our Christian faith we have a responsibility for how we share our good news so that lots more people can engage and we need to be using technology to do this.

A new website would be launched in November for Llandaff Diocese.

This session finished with a discussion on the following.

How would we describe the character of the Diocese and how would we like others to see our Diocese?

Sarah Ricketts (The Vision 2020 Group lead) spoke to the Conference and brought together all the work that had been undertaken by the 4 Diocesan working groups;,

- 1) Outreach,
- 2) Ministry,
- 3) Education and Young People,
- 4) Support and Communications.



These groups formulated actions and ideas to feed into the new vision of the Diocese – Where Faith Matters-. The Vision 2020 Group had overseen these many ideas, and after much discussion priorities, together with actions, were drawn up to enable the Diocese to best deliver the vision.

The Diocese Vision calls us to - Tell a joyful story  
Grow the Kingdom of God  
Build our capacity for good

To deliver this Vision;

- \* We must shift our focus to outreach and the needs of our local communities.
- \* Embrace the opportunities in our Church schools and develop our links in LA schools.
- \* Work better to communicate and share the Christian message.
- \* Provide support with buildings, finance and personnel.
- \* Build and grow a faithful Church.
- \* Engage with -30 year olds and children.
- \* Increase the voice of laity.
- \* Increase vocation to ordination and lay ministry.

The Diocese had £3 million to support these developments and were in the process of bidding for a further £3 million from the Provincial Evangelism fund.

This money would be used to provide;

Engagement workers for schools etc.

Project Leaders and Mission enablers.

Outreach Co-ordinators.

Lay Training Officers.

Vocation Advocates.

Support for the well-being of leaders.

In addition the funds would be used to develop a Resource Church in the Diocese primarily for the <30 year olds and create a centre for mission, to continue outreach work. Provide School pastors and establish a Vocation Road Show.

Further resources for Mission would provide;

- 1) Church Development Officers to give support and help for eg quinquennial inspections,
- 2) Support in Communications, in this digital age.
- 3) Building development support,
- 4) Examples of best practice for financial and fundraising support .

The session gave us an idea of this massive Diocesan plan that would depend to some extent on the funding awarded.

The final session was given by the personnel who work in the Cathedral. The Dean Reverend Gerwyn Capon talked a little about the Governance history of the Cathedral and how this had now been changed so Governance was now 'fit for purpose'. Lay Canons had been appointed for the first time and the number of clergy had been strengthened. There was an intention to diversify the worship provision and the Cathedral staff wanted everyone to feel comfortable in the Cathedral.

Reverend Mark Preece had been appointed Resident Canon Precentor responsible for music, worship, litany, organists, choirs etc. The Cathedral was looking at ways to engage with the community with the upcoming year of Pilgrimage and the 900<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Cathedral to celebrate. The staff of the Cathedral were keen that the Cathedral gave people an encounter with God and provided worship that reflects life, and touches the life of the Diocese.

Canon Chancellor Dr Jan van der Lely had also been appointed, she has a Pastoral and Educational role, including visitor experience. New initiatives were being introduced eg. Diocesan Prayer Intentions, providing opportunities for much closer links to parishes, as incumbents were invited to send representatives from their parish, who may like to read for example at the services on these occasions, and it was hoped reciprocal prayers would be said in the Parish involved. Cathedral clergy were also available to take services for us in our parishes on Sundays .

Throughout 2020 the Cathedral would hold 3 celebration days, on 17<sup>th</sup> October Parish choirs were to be invited to join as a mass choir to sing evensong.

A digital children's trail was planned together with children's Pilgrimage visits.

We were informed that areas of the Cathedral not previously seen such as the Bell Tower and the vestments would be made available to visitors and the Cathedral website would be updated and improved.

The conference ended with the presentation of a Pilgrim Staff from St Asaph Diocese and a hugely enthusiastic presentation about Pilgrimage. 2020 is the Diocesan year of Pilgrimage and booklets to help us prepare and organise pilgrimages were made available for us to bring back to our parishes.

The Conference shared a huge amount of information as you can see. The Diocese has a big agenda over the next 5 years, let's pray for God's blessings and its fulfilment.

*Chris Webb*





## NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

Suddenly the leaves are falling and its autumn in our churchyard. How quickly the seasons come and go. I remember Snoopy the dog saying "November? What happened to July?" whilst falling of his kennel!

As usual autumn brings the Harvest Thanksgiving, celebrated this year in St Margaret's with beautiful Autumnal coloured flowers. Thank you, flower ladies, for the lovely display. Gifts of food brought to the church were taken by the Vicar to the Wallich Clifford Hostel.

The great event in September for St Margaret's was the wedding of Sally Atzei and Stephen Bailey. The flowers for this were also organised and arranged by the flowers ladies. Sally was beautiful, as only a bride can be, and Stephen was as traditionally, a little nervous. The Nuptial Mass went off very well, with family and friends of the happy couple and many of St Margaret's congregation taking part. We send them off with our good wishes for a long and happy life together.

The Heritage Weekend was as usual very successful. We were also blessed with good weather so the tower could be climbed on both days. Plenty of people came to look up family in the church registers, to learn about the church from Diane Walker and Jean Rose, to have tea and cakes and to buy something to take home. We also hope they take home something of the feeling of our Christian community. Lots of people work hard every year to make this a local happening. Thankyou to everyone.

The choir have recently welcomed three new members, a girl, Ashley and two boys Charlie and Dylan. We hope they enjoy the experience and

build up happy memories. The choir is also very pleased to see Allan Frampton back with them, after having been so poorly.

Several of our congregation have been unwell recently. We send our good wishes for their speedy recovery and hope soon to see them back amongst us.

Remember Gill's Bible which was mentioned last time, and inscribed with information by the long ago Emma Whatley? Further information supplied by Emma includes –

- the word “Lord” occurs 46227 times while
- the word “Reverend” occurs only once, in the Psalms
- the 21<sup>st</sup> verse of the seventh chapter of Ezra comprises all the letters of the alphabet except J
- there is no word of more than 6 syllables in the Holy Bible

We are grateful to Emma for imparting this to us in her beautiful handwriting.

Finally, Harvest Festivals were a Victorian celebration. For most of them, as with most of us, the reality of “we plough the fields and scatter the good seed in the land” was not in their experience. So it is remarkable and uplifting that we still sing “come ye thankful people come, raise the song of Harvest Home”.

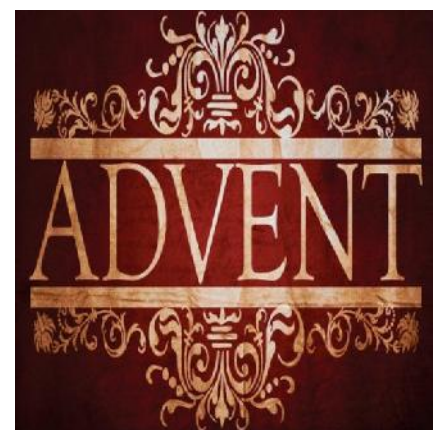
Sally reports that the vicar announced that the centenary songs of praise for the 19<sup>th</sup> Cardiff Scout Group was very well attended and it was a very special day.

Also Sally and Stephen would like to thank Gary and the choir and also the Vicar Stewart for making our wedding day on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019 so special and enjoyable by all who attended.

This is all for now.



Advent Blessings to each and  
every one of you  
Julia & Sally



## **ST EDWARDS NOTES REMEMBRANCE/ADVENT 2019**

**THE FESTIVAL** welcomed many people, and we enjoyed as always a wide variety of music, including Stewarts' favourites, Cardiff & Vale Symphonic Brass and this year they were joined by Gwent Symphonic Brass. The Art Exhibition featured sculpture by Jonathan Keigwin and paintings/ drawings by Poppy Keigwin. Thanks and well done to all who performed and those who supported.

**WELCOME** to Kelly, Madi and Archie who were baptised at our Service on 20<sup>th</sup> October. We shared a joyful service with friends and family.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who sponsored Sue and Ann, who completed the 6k Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society again this year. We achieved our best fund raising total yet, with more than £1500.00 including matched funding from Barclays Bank Plc.

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### **REMEMBRANCE**

November morning – bright and chill,  
Old soldiers gathered – remembering . . .  
Their comrades in foreign fields,  
White stone headstones, row on row.

The child remembered too –  
A voice, so long ago  
Each poppy, for a life,  
They fluttered down, as stricken birds,  
So much for her to bear.  
They wear their medals proudly now,  
So upright, strong and brave  
Was it so long ago  
When they marched off against the foe?

She stood there, straining eyes to see  
One face she knew, one of the few.  
He had gone off to war,  
Left her and Mam,  
Returned - a stranger,  
But she knew . . .

The bands march past, standards unfurled  
She waits alone – a woman now.  
The ‘boys’ pass by, she sheds a tear,  
The one she seeks – no longer here.

The years have flown so quickly by,  
So much has changed, not for the best.  
This morning though so bright and clear,  
The guns boom out – THE SILENCE – tears.

Never say – they died in vain,  
They gave the best they had  
So you could live in peace and wealth,  
Centrally heated, Sainsbury fed!

She walks away, the day is done.  
Old soldiers fade, not die.  
The question, never answered yet,  
‘Why, dear God, why?’

*Hazel Williams*



# Parish Discussion Group

We meet once a month or so to listen learn, reflect, discuss, and enjoy the company.... Someone (usually from the group, but sometimes not) introduces the topic and it goes from there. I certainly have learned a lot about my faith and what my beliefs mean for me. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to join in the discussion if you prefer to just listen. Here is the planned programme.

Sunday evenings, 7:45 – 9 in Roath Church House

November 17 2019	The Dead Sea Scrolls (Lee)
January 12 2020	Origins and Development of Ministry (Paul)
February 9	Prophecy (Marian)
March 1.	Lent course 1
March 8.	Lent course 2
March 15.	Lent course 3
March 22.	Lent course 4
March 29.	Lent course 5
May 10	Apocrypha – Maccabees (John)
June 14.	Oberammergau (Will)
July 12.	Review and Planning for 2020-2021

Come along, see you soon!

More info from *discussiongroup@roath.org.uk* or Mal 20633184

## Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman

*Here among long-discarded cassocks,  
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,  
Here where the vicar never looks  
I nibble through old service books.  
Lean and alone I spend my days  
Behind this Church of England baize.  
I share my dark forgotten room  
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.  
The cleaner never bothers me,  
So here I eat my frugal tea.  
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;  
My jam is polish for the floor.*

*Christmas and Easter may be feasts  
For congregations and for priests,  
And so may Whitsun. All the same,  
They do not fill my meagre frame.  
For me the only feast at all  
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,  
When I can satisfy my want  
With ears of corn around the font.  
I climb the eagle's brazen head  
To burrow through a loaf of bread.  
I scramble up the pulpit stair  
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.*

*It is enjoyable to taste  
These items ere they go to waste,  
But how annoying when one finds*

*That other mice with pagan minds  
Come into church my food to share  
Who have no proper business there.  
Two field mice who have no desire  
To be baptized, invade the choir.  
A large and most unfriendly rat  
Comes in to see what we are at.  
He says he thinks there is no God  
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.  
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat  
(It screened our special preacher's seat),  
And prosperous mice from fields away  
Come in to hear our organ play,  
And under cover of its notes  
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.  
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I  
Am too papistical, and High,  
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong  
To munch through Harvest Evensong,  
While I, who starve the whole year through,  
Must share my food with rodents who  
Except at this time of the year  
Not once inside the church appear.*

*Within the human world I know  
Such goings-on could not be so,  
For human beings only do  
What their religion tells them to.  
They read the Bible every day  
And always, night and morning, pray,*



*And just like me, the good church mouse,  
Worship each week in God's own house,  
But all the same it's strange to me  
How very full the church can be  
With people I don't see at all  
Except at Harvest Festival.*

[http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/john\\_betjeman/poems/786](http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/john_betjeman/poems/786)

Thanks to Sandra Secombe, who reminded us of this lovely & timely poem



## **SERVICES & EVENTS November & December Parish of Roath**

- 10 Nov. 6.30pm – Service of Remembrance. St Edward's
- 11 Nov. 7.30pm – Knitting & Crochet Group. Roath Church House
- 12 Nov. 7.15pm – Ladies Circle. Roath Church House
- 16 Nov. 11am – Coffee Concert: Fumi Otsuki & Sarah Kershaw. St Edward's
- 16 Nov. 10am-12.30pm – St Margaret's Christmas Fayre. Roath Church House
- 17 Nov. 4.45pm. – St Edward's Committee. St Edward's
- 17 Nov. 7.30pm. – St Anne's Orchestra present "Before Beethoven" music by C.P.E. Bach, Haydn & Mozart featuring soloist Alice Dunbabin. St Margaret's
- 17 Nov. 7.45pm – Parish Discussion Group. Roath Church House
- 20 Nov. – Paradise Run
- 24 Nov 2.45-5pm – Cardiff Friendly Strings St Edward's
- 1 Dec. 7pm – Advent Carol Service St Edward's
- 2 Dec 7.30pm – St Edward's Orchestra Concert. Haydn's Trumpet Concerto (soloist Edward Burfield); Dvorak's Romance for Violin and Orchestra (soloist Diana Painter); Beethoven's Symphony No.1
- 3 Dec. 7.30pm – Healing Service. St Edward's
- 6 Dec. 2pm – Acorns Nursery Carol Service. St Margaret's
- 6 Dec. 7.30pm. – Gentle Rain Ensemble (Jazz). St Edward's
- 8 Dec 2.45pm – Cardiff Friendly Strings St Edward's
- 8 Dec. 6.30pm – Choral Evensong (after procession from St Margaret's). Service followed by reception. St Edward's
9. Dec. 6pm – Scout's Carol Service. St Margaret's
- 9 Dec. 7.30pm – St Edward's Soloists Concert. St Edward's
- 11 Dec. 7.30pm – St Anne's Orchestra Family Concert. St Margaret's
- 13 Dec. 7.30pm – Christmas Concert: Pavane Early Music. St Edward's

14 Dec. 7.30pm – Students of Nicole Boardman. St Edward's  
15 Dec. 9.30am – in the Sung Eucharist, St Margaret's Sunday School  
Nativity  
15 Dec. 6pm – St Margaret's Christmas Carol Service  
16-23 Dec. – Daily Evensong with O Antiphons St Edward's (times in  
newsletter)  
17 Dec. 6pm – Hawardian Primary School Carol Service. St Margaret's  
18 Dec. 7.30pm – Clarinet Choir and "Treble C" Concert. St Edward's  
18 Dec. 7.30pm – Caritas Choir Christmas Concert. St Margaret's  
20 Dec. 7.30pm – Women in Harmony / Voice Male Christmas Concert.  
St Margaret's  
21 Dec. 10am – Carol Singing with Churches Together. Albany Road  
21 Dec. 11am – Coffee Concert Serenata Christmas Concert. St  
Edward's  
22 Dec. 3pm – Christmas Carols with Orchestra St Edward's

ADVANCE NOTICE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COFFEE CONCERT ST EDWARD'S  
15 FEB 2020 – GARY MULLINS

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## Carol Singing



**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**  
**(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**  
**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 (Christmas / Epiphany) is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>  
December**

Please send hard-copy (typed, hand-written or cut-out) to the Parish Office; email contributions to:

Sue Mansell, [smmansell@icloud.com](mailto:smmansell@icloud.com)

or Gwynn Ellis, [rgellis@ntlworld.com](mailto: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.**