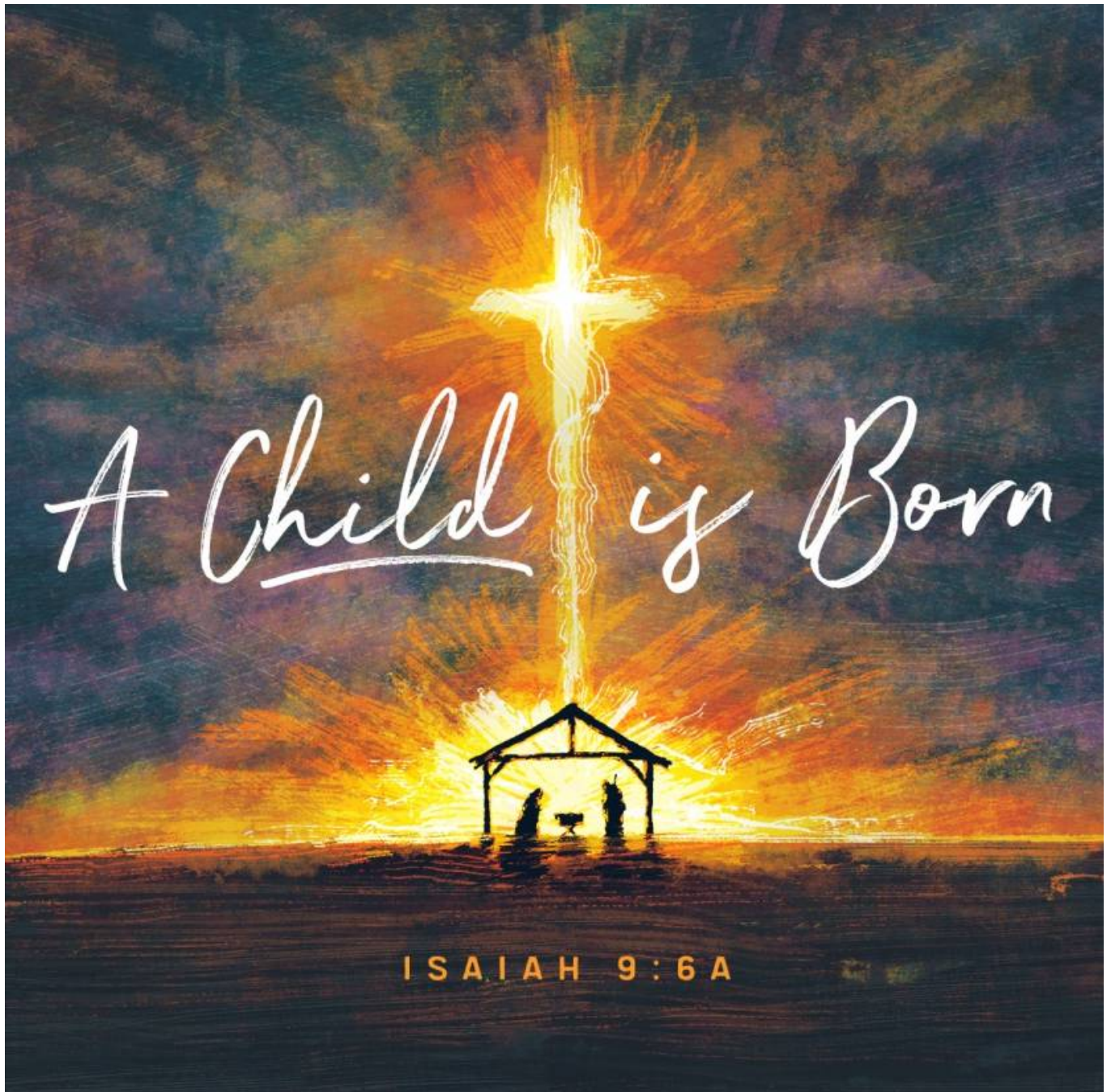


# ***Roath News***



***CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY  
2019-2020***

# THE PARISH OF ROATH, CARDIFF

<b>The Vicar:</b>	Canon Stewart Lisk Tel: 20487854; 07794157604 email: <a href="mailto:stewartlisk@live.co.uk">stewartlisk@live.co.uk</a>
<b>NSM Assistant Curate</b>	The Reverend Ruth Coombs
<b>Reader:</b>	Mr Geoff Smith Tel: 20499498.
<b>Parish Wardens:</b>	Parish Vicar's Warden Mr Robert Hyett Tel: 20471247 Parish People's Warden Mrs Gill Day
<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 (Lent) is 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February**

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

My dear Friends,

In our Sunday morning worship on the Second Sunday in Advent we had an excellent sermon from our Reader, Mr Geoff Smith. Geoff began by referring to Christmas Songs that have such a resonance for us all at this time of the year. Probably one of the most heard is George Michael's "Last Christmas", a film of the same name has recently been released. This prompted us as a family to make our annual visit to the Cinema. It was an entertaining, thought provoking and moving film. It contrasted the commercialism of Christmas with the experience of homeless people in contemporary London. Issues of prejudice and racism were also raised and there was a definite romantic theme running through the movie. I cannot tell you too much more as that would be a definite spoiler. However the song's first line "Last Christmas I gave you my heart, the very next day you gave it away" has an unexpectedly major part in the story.

I wonder whether George Michael had in his mind the hymn by Christina Rossetti "In the Bleak Midwinter" when he wrote his song, which concludes "What can I give him poor as I am

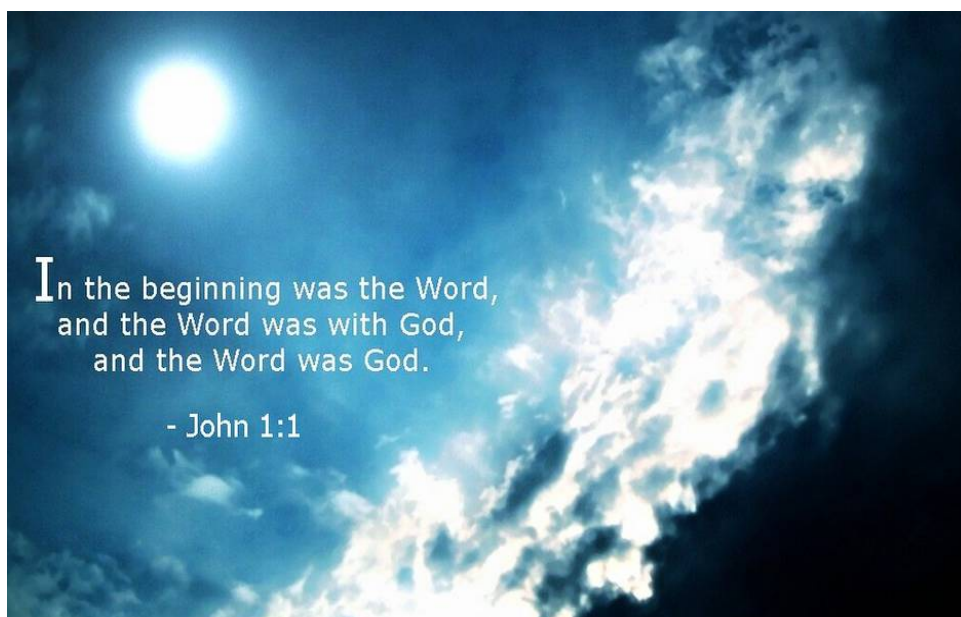
If I were a shepherd I would bring him a lamb,  
If I were a wise man I would do my part,  
Yet what can I give him  
Give my heart"

George Michael's Song is about romantic love and showing that affection by "giving his heart", Christina Rossetti's hymn is about our adoration of the Infant saviour yet also she describes the appropriate response of us all that we can "give my heart". In both cases the phrases are metaphorical, we do not *literally* give our hearts but the image is one that shows deep feeling and commitment. The organ that sustains us, gives us life and keeps us alive is the one that is used to show our ultimate loving reaction to God's love for us. Love is an emotion that we cannot see in itself but we can see how it is played out in our human relationships and in our worship *and* praise of our God.

The wonderful thing about the miracle of Christmas is that God puts that love into a completely physical representation in the birth of Jesus as a baby. God gives his Son to the world in human form, we call it the Incarnation, the Word made Flesh. Anyone who has had the privilege of welcoming an infant into the world will know something of the wonder of a child's life. The arrival of Jesus, God's son is even more amazing. Jesus becomes human not so that he is like us but rather so we can become more like him. We are told and believe that we are made in the image of God and by seeing Him in human form shows us how we can fulfil that image and be more like Him in all that we do and say. The love, power and wisdom of God are now revealed. Such abstract words about God begin to make sense when we look into the face of Jesus who reveals to us in his humanity and divinity more clearly than we yet know or can express ourselves, that God is with us.

The Christmas message is enduring and eternal in spite of what may be going on in the world at any moment in history. To know and be known by love's Word and love's companion, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, through our lives is what we are given in this Holy Birth, the gift that God our Father has made us. God's word – God with us, today and always.

With every blessing to you and your loved ones this Christmastide and in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart', is centered on the page.





## NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

They say that Christmas is now a season in itself. Certainly while Christians strive to make Advent a time of preparations for the coming of the Lord Jesus many people are going "wild in the aisles" in full festive preparation. Christmas trees appear now at the end of November, when they used to be put up and decorated on Christmas Eve. Indeed you would be lucky to find a Christmas tree to buy on Christmas Eve! On Christmas Day, the first day of celebration often appear the first adverts for holidays in the summer. I do remember my mother on the evening of Christmas Day. She used to remark, whisky in hand that Christmas was as far away as ever. We would laugh dutifully but I have been guilty of saying the same to my family! So the conclusion to this must be that we are glad that so many people still celebrate "the season of Christmas".

Firstly a mention of a Christening on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. A delightful little boy of 7 months was baptized, and named as Percival David Leopold, the first baby of his parents Annabelle and Hugo. Their happiness spilled out to all of us in the church that morning.

Birthday Greetings go to Wendy Bartlett who has had her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We also celebrated Sheila Rowe's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had made a special hat for her appearance in church and everyone sang her "Happy Birthday". She joins Helena Hyett and Jeanne Hyett who also share this prestigious age.

The Sunday School will by now have aired their Christmas Presentation with us. Everything they bring to show us is such a joy. We also thank them for the beautiful Christmas Card which we all share in church. Thank you to all the teachers for their commitment to this important part of church life.

Has everyone had a chance to see the quiet area arranged in the chapel of the Bute tombs? It is an unexpected meditative corner with a seat, prayers to say and candles to light. I would have thought that St Margaret's as a church could not be improved, but this is definitely an extra place for contemplation and maybe solace. We thank the Vicar and the people who arranged this.

As usual we remember people who are too ill or infirm to be in church. The prayer list for the sick is sadly longer at this time of year. In particular we mention Alec McKinty the husband of Cynthia who sings in the choir. He has been very poorly and is in the Heath Hospital. We wish him well. We also mention Pat Woodward who has been in hospital and is still not very well. We send love and good wishes to everyone who would like to be in St Margaret's at Christmas, and are unable to be there.

A Christmas hymn written by Charles Wesley,

" HARK how all the Welkin rings  
" Glory to the King of Kings,  
" Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,  
" GOD and Sinners reconcil'd ! Joyful all ye Nations rise,  
Join the Triumph of the Skies;  
Universal Nature say,  
" CHRIST the Lord is born to Day!

I am sure you don't need to add the tune of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" to recognise it. The other two verses are similar, some words known to us and others not. I copied this from a book of Christmas songs of 1926. But someone earlier had added the words we know, so that it was included in "Hymns Ancient and Modern." What would we do without "Hark the Herald Angels Sing?

For St Margaret's the first event of Christmas is really the Church Fayre in November. How many of us buy our first presents here? Someone who came with us said that she loved the feeling of community that she experienced. For most it was just another busy morning! The amount raised £1,170 was worth all the effort. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make it a success and all who came.

Sally reports that her husband Stephen celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> December and he also shares this day with Chris Webb our parish treasurer.



Christmas Greetings and a Prosperous and Joyous  
New Year to each and everyone of you  
Julia & Sally



## **ST EDWARDS NOTES – CHRISTMAS 2019**

The **SUNDAY SCHOOL** are already rehearsing for their production on Christmas morning, one of the highlights of the festive season. During the year they meet in the schoolroom in the first half of the morning service and **THANKS** to Jane, and all the Sunday School Team who are there to guide our youngest members.

**ANNIVERSARY** It's now three years since the Church in Wales has welcomed anyone who is already baptised to receive communion. Since then many new communicants have been welcomed at the altar. Confirmation too remains an important sacrament in our Christian life.

**OUR GRATITUDE** to Canon Stewart, Deacon Ruth, and timely guest preachers including Canon Doxey and Bishop Fenwick for ministering to us throughout the year; to our 'meeters and greeters' who add a very special welcome on Sundays and special occasions; also to our choir/organist/ deputies, servers, committee and church officers, who give their free time to help church life run smoothly.

**THANKS** to all the musicians who have contributed to the many musical events that give us a distinctive place in Roath community life. Alison, who conducts the orchestra and Jayne who curates the monthly coffee concerts, amongst many, many others.

**PRAYER WALK AND CHORAL EVENSONG.** A very successful launch to our Year of Pilgrimage a week or so ago, with over 50 walkers of all ages from St Margaret's to St Edward's. Then numbers swelled to over 70 for Choral Evensong, followed by refreshments (thanks to all our organisers) and people received prayer cards, pilgrim passports and brooches. A good number stayed for Compline at the end. The next event is at Llandaff Cathedral on Sun 12 Jan at 3.30pm: Cathedral worship service with pilgrim cloak, staff and teddy.

**WELCOME** to all visitors at this very special time of the year.

**A BLESSED and HAPPY 2020**

## FROM the NEWS

### CARDIFF NIGHT SHELTER

Cardiff Night Shelter opens on December 18th for its 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

- It will operate 7 night a week
- 9 churches are involved
- There are 150-160 volunteers
- It will be open from December 18th through to March 31<sup>st</sup>
- They can accommodate up to 12-14 people

Last year Cardiff Night Shelter provided around 1,000 bed spaces and 1,000 meals.

For further information, contact Dave Pritchard on

*david-pritchard@hotmail.co.uk.*

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### 60 SECOND SERMON SENSATION

Reverend Chris Lee has become an internet sensation as a result of his 60-second sermons on Twitter and Instagram.

The vicar, likened to the 'Hot Priest' from the BBC comedy Fleabag, posts videos to try and bring the Gospel to younger people.

The sermons have led to an expansion of his White City congregation in west London and have earned him more social followers than the Archbishop of Canterbury.

*Video journalist: David Faye*

- *<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-50617540/hot-priest-london-vicar-s-60-second-sermons-an-instagram-hit>*



**The following have all appeared in church magazines so let us  
thank God for church ladies with typewriters.**

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Next weekend's Fasting & Prayer Conference in Whitby includes all  
meals.

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Sunday morning sermon: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'

Sunday evening sermon: 'Searching for Jesus.'

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Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those  
things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love.

Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

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Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

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Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving  
obvious pleasure to the congregation .

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For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a  
nursery downstairs.

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Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help  
they can get.

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Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

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At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'  
Come early and listen to our choir practice

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Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

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Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

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The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

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Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

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The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

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This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

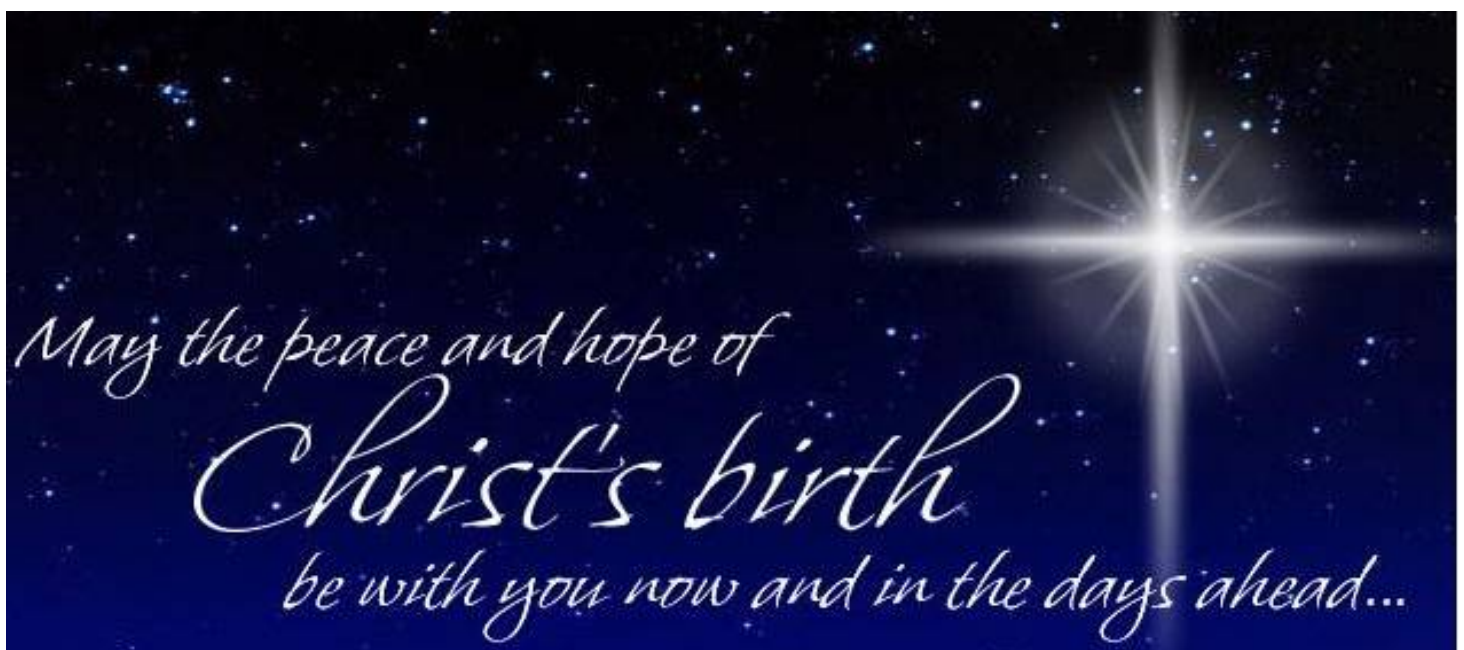
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Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use  
the back door.  
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The school drama group will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the  
Church hall on Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend  
this tragedy.  
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Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church.  
Please use large double door at the side entrance.  
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The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last  
Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!'

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## **SERVICES and EVENTS Dec 2019 and Jan 2020 Parish of Roath**

**More information <http://StEdward.roath.org.uk>**

**16-23 Dec.** Daily Evensong with O Antiphons St Edward's (times in newsletter)

**18 Dec. 7.30pm.** Clarinet Choir and "Treble C" Concert. St Edward's

**21 Dec. 11.00** Coffee Concert Serenata Christmas Concert St Edward's

**22 Dec. 3pm** Christmas Carols with Orchestra St Edward's

**11 Jan. 10am-3.30pm.** Eglwys Dewi Sant. Come and Sing Haydn's Creation with Cantemus Chamber Choir (registration from 9.30am). Tickets from ticketsource £12 (u-18/unwaged £6) inc. score hire and refreshments. Please bring your own lunch.

**12 Jan. 3pm** Piano recital by Alison Dite St Edward's

**12 Jan. 3.30pm.** Llandaff Cathedral. Llandaff Diocese launches its Year of Pilgrimage with a special service.

**18 Jan. 11.00** Coffee concert by Esther Walker clarinet, Nic Bilham cello Elizabeth Williams piano - music by Brahms: Sonata for clarinet/piano in E flat major opus 120 no.2; Trio for piano, clarinet and cello opus 114. St Edward's

**18 Jan. 7.30pm.** Llandaff Cathedral. Cardiff Bach Choir present "Amahl and the Night Visitors" with soloists from WNO. Tickets £18 (advance) £20 at the door (students £10 u18 free).

**26 Jan. 2.45pm** Cardiff Friendly Strings St Edward's £3 entrance; donations welcome supporting Forget Me Not Café at St Edward's.

**26 Jan. 4.30** St Edward's Committee St Edward's Vestry

**29 Jan. 1.05pm.** Beulah URC, Rhiwbina. Lunchtime Recital. Opera students from RWCMD. £5 on the door.

**15 Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coffee Concert GARY MULLINS** (who gave the first coffee concert) St Edward's

## Roath Parish Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is an important part of our faith journey. For many of us, undertaking the act, helps create the spiritual journey that moves us closer to God. In 2020 the Llandaff Diocese is celebrating a year of pilgrimage and each Llandaff parish has been asked to organise events. In response, Roath parish has created a pilgrim committee. Our aim is to balance pilgrimages for everyone, not matter your age, physical ability or available time, we hope to be able to offer an opportunity for you to get involved and work towards your own spiritual growth.

The first of our four pilgrimages took place on December 8<sup>th</sup> from St Margaret's to St Edward's churches. Along this journey we said prayers for our church, and the organisations that make up our community. We celebrated with choral evensong hosted by St Edward's and refreshments provided by the Paradise Run group. We concluded our pilgrimage with sung compline by candlelight.

The response to our first pilgrimage was fantastic with over 70 people in attendance. Each pilgrim received a Pilgrim Passport, which will be stamped for every pilgrimage you undertake.



The first Pilgrimage leaving St Margaret's church 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019



The choral evensong which takes place at St Edward's every week and will be moved from 7pm to 6.30pm from January onwards is one of the last choral evensongs in the Llandaff diocese. Different music is presented by the choir each week for the anthem, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, and ranges from Elizabethan chants to music composed by our very own Norman Dow. This creates an opportunity, not only to hear a glorious range of music, but to explore the worship experience of Christians over several hundred years.

Moreover, our celebration of God in our community - in this pilgrimage - is a fantastic opportunity for us to reflect upon how we engage with our community, both as a church and individuals. Many people are looking to fill the God shaped hole in their lives and very often are so unfamiliar with church that they do not consider it an option. Many people, particularly young families, are so time constrained that regular attendance at Sunday morning Eucharist is unrealistic. Choral Evensong provides a fantastic opportunity for people as an introduction to church. Typically, only 40 minutes, it is a window into the beauty of celebrating our faith and may provide the first steps for people to welcome Jesus into their lives.

Helping to bring people to faith in God is an important aspect of Christianity. As regular church attendees we are able to guide people, reassure them in unfamiliar settings and nurture seeds of faith. As pilgrims on our own spiritual journey we should all look to help bring people to faith. Christmas time is a time when our faith is reborn and many people are often looking for deeper meaning to Christmas. I therefore finally ask: are you able to invite and bring, a friend, a neighbour, family member, work colleague or even someone you have just met to a service of choral evensong?

Merry Christmas  
Lee Gonzalez

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February**

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.**