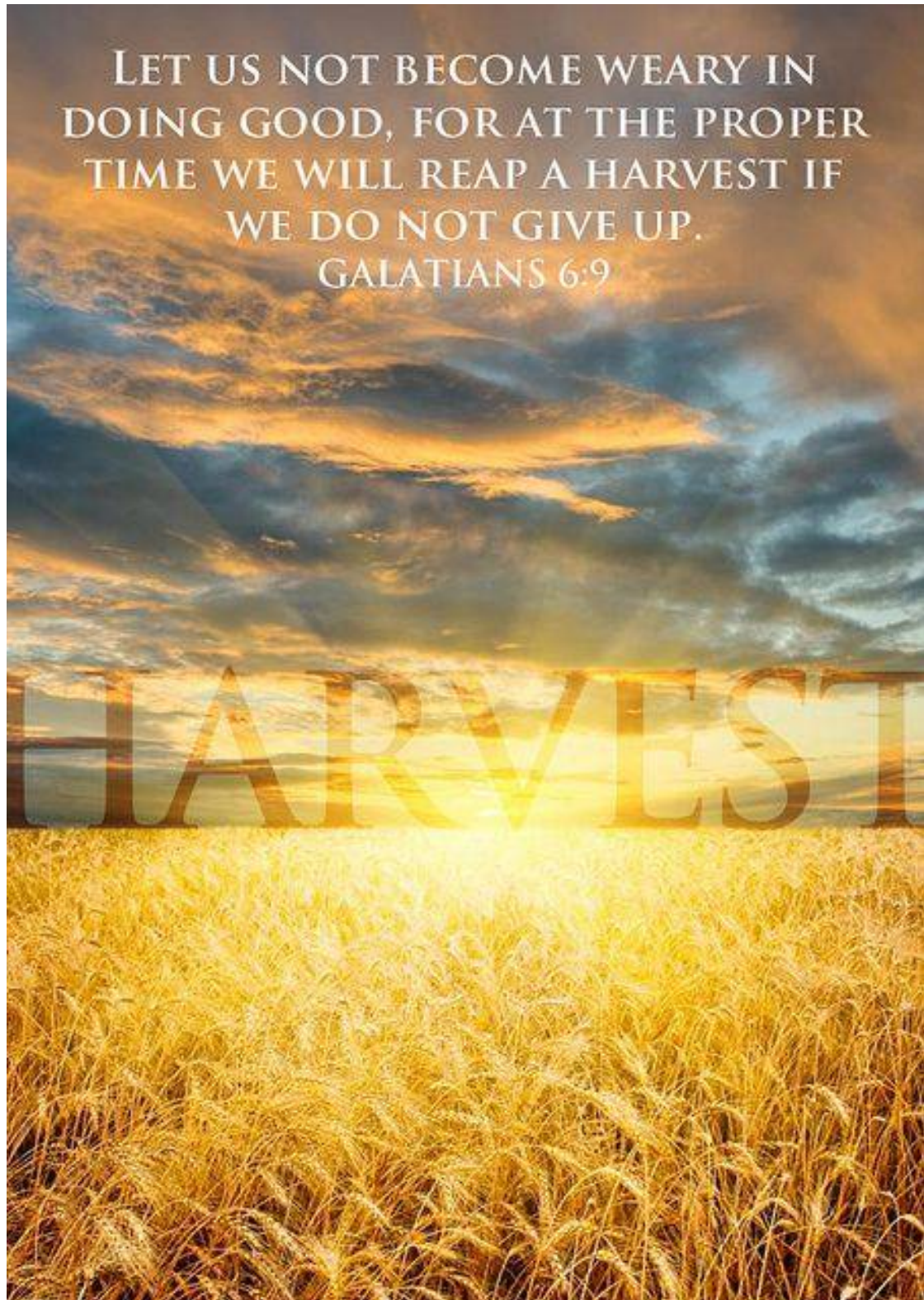


# ***Roath News***



## ***Michaelmas / Harvest 2020***

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 (Remembrance / Advent) is 19<sup>th</sup> October**

## **Letters sent by email from the Vicar of Roath, the Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk during the Coronavirus lockdown**

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**Sunday - July 19<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

During these Summer days I know that many will be thinking of weddings and marriage. I have had to talk to prospective brides and grooms a great deal over the last four months about the cancellation or postponement of their services. Others have been anxiously inquiring about the future possibilities of getting married in Church. Last week I took on a new role in this, as we are unable to call banns in Church I have been appointed a Surrogate to issue Licences for Marriage for Cardiff. I was required to swear an oath to the Queen, and agree to obey the Diocesan Chancellor, Judge Keyser in front of our Diocesan Registrar Mrs Harriet Morgan. All done on Zoom.

Many celebrate their anniversary of marriage at this time and have fond and happy memories of long years together. For others it is tinged with sadness as they remember a beloved spouse who is no longer with us, but I hope with thanksgiving for a life shared. My mind turns back 23 years this weekend when Karen and I were married at the Church of the Resurrection. It was a scorching July day and the Church was full with family, friends and Parishioners. We were privileged to have the then Bishop of Llandaff celebrate the Nuptial Mass. When it came to the Peace, Bishop Roy loudly pronounced "The Peace of the Lord be always with you" and then immediately proceeded to give Karen a big kiss. He was the first man to kiss Karen after our marriage!

Exchanging the Peace has in recent decades become a more obvious part of our Liturgy. Some I know find it difficult, one distinguished dignitary in this diocese, now deceased used to say of the action "I come to worship Almighty God not to socialise." However for many it is an opportunity to show a token of fellowship and Christian love to fellow worshippers. It is a sign that we are bound together as a family of the Church in our presence in the building with each other.

The act of shaking hands, leave alone embracing will I am sorry to say be one the things we will have to omit when we begin to use our churches for worship again. There have already been changes as we have in some places opened for private prayer. A huge thank you to those who have been involved in cleaning, stewarding, offering a warm welcome and

preparing the complex documents, risk assessments, necessary for every stage under Welsh Government regulations and Church in Wales guidance.

At the time of writing some of us are working hard to produce new documents and evidence to allow us permission to conduct worship. When our services in Church restart they will be shorter, quieter, no music or singing and we will have to follow strict social distancing and hygiene measures. We are still awaiting further advice on track and trace procedures which we will have to use at every service. There are also rules to be adhered to in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I hope we can all be patient and careful as we move forward knowing that as we do so we are acting to protect ourselves, and our loved ones.

Whatever the future brings however, we may all say to each other using whatever medium we can 'Peace be with you' as we continue to live in Christ's peace and love.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday - August 9<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

I am writing this to you on the Feast of the Transfiguration, 6th August. An important day in the Church calendar but one often neglected as it falls in the 'holiday' period. It is the day we recall Jesus taking three of his closest followers up onto the mountain where they witnessed an extraordinary sight. At first surrounded by cloud our Lord's appearance is dramatically changed, his face shines and his clothes are gleaming white. He is flanked by a vision of Moses representing the Law and Elijah, the Prophets. Peter, James and John are sleepy then afraid. They hear a voice from heaven saying "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke, Ch. 9). The disciples keep this sight and the experience to themselves. It marks however a turning point in Jesus' earthly ministry prior to his going to Jerusalem to face a joyous welcome but then arrest, trial and crucifixion. It also echoes Jesus' Baptism at the beginning of his public ministry when there is also a heavenly voice acknowledging his presence and purpose.

Going up to a mountain, to the wilderness, to a garden or a lonely place to pray and reflect is something that Jesus regularly does throughout the

Gospel record. It is often the precursor to some great events or acts that he is to perform. In this Sunday's Gospel we learn of what Jesus did after feeding the multitudes, "And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray." (Matthew Ch. 14, v.23). It almost seems that after performing such an extraordinary miracle he has to return to his prayers to refresh and reinvigorate himself.

Such spiritual renewal is important because it is not long before he is called upon again. His disciples are in the boat on the water, battered by the waves and in danger. Jesus comes to their rescue, walking on the water. The men are terrified at Jesus appearance thinking him a ghost and in fear of their lives. He calls Peter to him and stills the storm. Our Lord admonishes them for their lack of faith.

Many of us have had time and opportunity over the last five months to be solitary in prayer and reflection. Not in the open air but in the privacy and quietness of our homes. For some in overcrowded houses and flats there may have been a longing to go out to a secluded place. Some of us more recently have been able to offer our personal prayers in our reopening Churches. Now we come to a new stage and a turning point for us as we prepare to return to worship in Church. It will be different and strange but let us remember that as we take each step our Lord we be alongside us. We might feel anxious and uncertain or even afraid but remember that the disciples who Jesus called and who followed him faced many strange and troubling sights and experiences.

Whatever we encounter in the coming days let us remember Jesus' words, "Take heart, it is I do not be afraid." And follow his example of praying at home, in Church or wherever you may be and you will be given strength and courage to do his work.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday – August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

My dear Friends,

Two years ago we made a long anticipated family pilgrimage to Rome. I had been there before many years ago as a student but for the rest of the family it was their first visit. Our first whole day there was a Sunday and we went with thousands of others through the ancient streets to the Basilica of St Peter. We were unable to enter the Church but followed the

service outside on screens relaying the mass to the assembled congregation. Later in the day we did get inside at the time of Vespers. Although we have visited many Cathedrals and Abbeys, there is nothing that can compare in my experience with the sheer vast scale and magnificence of the building which houses the tomb of Simon Peter, the foremost of the apostles. It is a far cry from the simple, hard working life of those first men and women that Jesus met and called on the shores of the sea of Galilee.

According to the tradition of the early Church, Peter was in Rome at the time of the persecutions of the Emperor Nero. It is said that when fleeing from possible torture Peter had an encounter with Jesus on the road. He asked "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered "I am coming back to be crucified again". Peter turned back to the city to face his martyrdom.

In our Gospel reading for this week Jesus is discussing with his disciples who people might think he is. They speculate about whether he might be one of the great prophets of old in the guise of Elijah or Jeremiah. It is Peter who courageously states, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is perhaps difficult for us to realise what an extraordinary acknowledgment this is. The people of Israel had waited so long for the coming of the Messiah into the world and here he was with these ordinary folk in the midst of their mundane existence. At this juncture Jesus gives Simon his new name Peter, telling him that he will be the rock upon which the church will be built. ('Petra' being the Greek for rock). He also tells Simon Peter he has the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. This gave rise to the idea that St Peter would be at the 'pearly gates' and often we see his image in stained glass or statues holding great golden keys. Perhaps this explains partly the devotion of the first generations of Christians to Peter and the place he has in the history of the Faith.

In our own time we may feel very distant from the experience of the disciples and the challenges of the church as it struggled against the powerful pagan authorities and the oppression of those who opposed Christ's teachings. However we too are called by God to face the difficulties of this age. There are sadly Christians in some parts of the world today who suffer persecution and martyrdom. We might have to contend with apathy and indifference, or insult and ridicule which can hurt in different ways to physical injury. As we begin to worship together again in slow and cautious ways we need to rediscover our own strength and determination, maybe inspired by people like St Peter. We have had Christ revealed to us as Son of God over two thousand years, let us with



confidence turn again to the calling we all share as those who have been given the blessing of his message of love and salvation.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday – August 30<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

Perhaps you may remember the story of two shipwrecked sailors who found themselves adrift in an open boat on the high seas. The situation was looking very grave. Tom said to Jack "Do we think we should say a prayer?" Jack replied "I don't know any prayers." After a while Jack said to Tom "Shall we sing a hymn?" Tom replied "I don't know any hymns." Then Jack had a brainwave "I know we will take a collection!" At least they were able to do the only churchy thing they could remember, which is something that we have not been able to do in the last five months.

Among the many tragic and life changing consequences of the Covid 19 crisis has been the financial impact which we are told has introduced the worst recession in history for us. My thoughts and prayers are with those of you who have lost your jobs or livelihoods and are wondering how you will be able to meet the expenses of daily life. This situation will not change quickly it seems. Our churches and parishes are of course not immune to these circumstances. We have all taken a hit as income from collections has massively reduced, we have had no Church fees for weddings and funerals and free offerings from occasional visitors. We have been prevented from our usual busy round of fundraising events like fetes, bazaars and coffee mornings. A huge difference has come as we have lost income from hall and community room lettings as well as concerts and social events.

I am enormously grateful to everyone in the parishes who have however continued to give by standing order, direct debit or other remote means. This has ensured that we are still receiving some essential income. This is important as we have to pay our parish share, necessary maintenance and standing charges. As we cautiously reopen our churches we will have the costs of heat and light which will increase as the Autumn comes on. If you have not been able to give recently and would like to send your giving by cheque or other means do contact our Treasurers who so carefully manage our finances. If you able to Gift Aid as well this is of great benefit.

Some of you will remember well the words of the Prayer Book Holy Eucharist,

"All things come from thee, And of thine own do we give thee."

They remind us that everything we have is a gift from God and that it should be our natural response to contribute in a generous and sacrificial way to the needs of the Church here on earth as it seeks to do our Lord's work. Thank you very much to all who give and will continue to do so at this challenging time for us all

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

Many of you will remember me saying the old line "How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb?" The answer being, "Only one to change the bulb but 200 to say how much they liked the old one". The implication is that we are not known for our enthusiasm to embrace change. It is however an inevitable part of our lives, even more so now. Some will recall me speaking about the 19<sup>th</sup> century theologian John Henry Newman who began his life as a devout Evangelical Christian then moved to a position as a High Anglican before eventually converting to Roman Catholicism. He is today revered by many different wings of the Christian Faith. He famously said "To live is to change and to become perfect is to have changed often."

We have all known change in our Church and religious lives. Those of you reading this from Llanishen will be awaiting the arrival of your new parish priest, Canon Christopher Smith on Monday. We wish him and you all every blessing in this new stage of your parish life. In Grangetown the wait for a priest goes on a little longer, but I was enormously impressed with how you have embraced digital technology alongside your conventional worship as I celebrated with you last week. In Roath we were delighted last week to have the first celebration of the Holy Eucharist by our new priest colleague, the Reverend Ruth Coombs. In personnel and practices we are all encountering new ways of worshipping and working together.

In my three years as Area Dean of Cardiff I have been privileged to chair PCCs and Vestry meetings and conduct Archdeacon's inspections in all



our parishes. I have also been delighted to lead worship in most of our churches and to meet parishioners across the city. We are a diverse and energetic community of Christians who all in various ways are facing the task of proclaiming the Gospel in Word and Sacrament and in our daily lives. The challenges of the present crisis cannot be underestimated however I believe that as we have faced many difficulties in the past we will achieve great things for God in the future.

This year we have marked the centenary of the Church in Wales which recalls a time when we were separated from the Church of England. It should have been a time of special services and celebrations. Instead we have been called to work as hard as our grandparents did then to keep the Faith and reinvigorate our churches. We have also recalled the end of the Second World War, a time when literally some of our churches including our own Cathedral had to be rebuilt. As we look to the future I hope and pray that we can all work together to use the change and opportunities set before us to do our part, in our generation to bring forward the Kingdom of God here.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday - September 13<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

In our lives there is something that we all want to receive but we are often reluctant to give away. I am not talking about money or some other precious material object but rather something that is central to our Gospel message. In this week's reading from St Matthew, we again hear from St Peter who asks Jesus "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive, as many as seven times?" (Matthew Ch. 18 v21). We should understand that Peter would have been schooled in a religious tradition that was very much based on rules and regulations which the Rabbis and other rulers of the Synagogues would have spent a great deal of energy enforcing. One Jewish teaching said that a man could be forgiven three times but not four. Peter appears generous in allowing seven in this context. He has learned from Jesus in earlier encounters not to require vengeance, "Be reconciled to your brother or sister," and "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew Ch. 5). Nevertheless Peter wants an answer to his dilemma of how often he should forgive. Jesus' reply is amazing "Not seven times

but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." One translation of the scriptures says seventy times seven which would equal 490! The point however is clear, forgiveness should not be limited.

As is so often the case Jesus emphasises the message with the parable of a servant who begs forgiveness of his master, receives it yet fails to offer that same forgiveness to others who are indebted to him. This takes us back to my first sentence, can we think of instances when we have done wrong and are desperate to be forgiven by a loved one or friend? When they show mercy it is an enormous relief. There are probably occasions though when we have harboured a grudge against someone who has hurt us. It is not good because this eats us up inside and makes us less than what we can be. Certainly it is not what Jesus wants of us. If ever we need a reminder of this then the words of the prayer we offer at every service and no doubt say daily ourselves should help "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We ask for God's mercy but know that as we seek to be more like him we too should show that forgiveness in our actions and in our lives.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Heritage Weekend – September 20<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

Like many of us I am a slave to my diary and have to keep a clear eye on what is coming up. At the time of writing I look forward to the weekend 19/20 September. My diary informs me that it is the annual Heritage Weekend when we join with countless buildings throughout the nation in the Open Doors project. At St Margaret's this is usually a very busy and special time. I am always impressed by the hundreds of visitors who come over the two days. Some, especially the youngsters, cannot wait to climb the tower, others are researching their ancestry, many delight in the delicious afternoon teas and people from all over are fascinated by the informative and interesting historical guided tours. These are led by Jean Rose and Diane Walker. You will not be surprised to read that sadly none of this can take place this year.

I have enjoyed over the last 15 years listening to our experts and learning new things about the Church. One feature, shared with Llandaff and other great medieval cathedrals are two very particular carved heads over the

chancel. One is blindfolded and gagged the other, opposite a beautiful face looking outwards and up. They represent the Synagogue and the Church. The first, symbolic of the old Jewish faith, blind and deaf to the revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ, while the other symbolises the hope and joy of Christianity. (I am indebted to Diane Walker's guide book for this). Of course, such representations would not be made today and would be insulting and offensive to our Jewish friends. However today they have an unexpected resonance for us.

We are used to coming into our church buildings and recognising old friends and delighting in the prospect of new faces and welcoming others into the community of Faith. Now however in these times we are to wear face coverings for all our attendance at worship under the current guidance. We are not fortunately to be blind folded! Some I know will find this difficult and uncomfortable, others will have medical exemption. We can remove them briefly to receive communion in the one kind, the host, the consecrated body of Christ, if we so desire. This is part of the regulations we are all under.

Many have come to church in the early part of the Summer for private prayer, over the last month or so we have had public worship. If you wish to attend St Margaret's at 9.30am or St Edward's at 11am on Sundays for our communion services, please can you let me know in advance every time by phone 07794157604 or text or email. Also on every occasion please bring a piece of paper with your name and contact details to be kept for 21 days in case of the need to follow track and trace procedures. The hand sanitizer provided is to be used on entrance and exit to the churches, a one-way system is to be followed and two metre distancing must be observed in the building. We have had good attendances at our services with longstanding and new members coming, 47 in St Margaret's last Sunday. We have not yet had to turn anyone away!

All of this might seem too much and more like traditions of old which gag and blindfold people as in the carving. Nevertheless they are necessary precautions to keep us and our loved ones safe. One thing I have noticed in taking services in Roath, Llanishen and Grangetown over the last six weeks is that 'hope and joy of Christianity' is very much alive and well. We may not be able to celebrate our heritage weekend in the usual fashion or mark our Harvest Thanksgivings with the same exuberance as normal but we can recall the resilience of past generations who saw far worse suffering and privation and kept the flame of Faith alive and

handed it onto us. I know that we too will thank God for his generous love towards us and do whatever we can to share that with others.

Best wishes and prayers



The Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk,  
Vicar of Roath and Area Dean of Cardiff.

**I have spoken to many of you by telephone. If any of you want to chat please  
ring  
02920 487854 or 07794 157604  
It's good to talk!**



## It's Been a Journey...

The lovely hymn Brother, sister, let me serve you by Richard Gillard contains the line "We are pilgrims on a journey..." I have reflected on that hymn and on that particular line many times on my journey to the priesthood.

I was Licenced as a Reader on 11 December 2011, at an Evensong for the Third Sunday of Advent by Bishop David Wilbourne, at St. Thomas's Birchgrove. We sang Brother, sister, let me serve you, the first three verses before the licencing and the last three afterwards. I had chosen that hymn because the words speak to me of our lives in service to Christ and to each other.

I confess I did a lot of praying before being licenced both during the two years at theological college and in the run up to the licencing itself. I had to be sure this was what I thought God was calling me to do, or to be. The Bishop was really lovely and supportive and the service was amazing.

I loved my time as a Reader and I learnt a great deal from this ministry, from Scripture, prayer, books and importantly the team to which I belonged. My Reader colleague was very supportive and we worked together developing special Evensong services to mark occasions and I facilitated several Lent book groups, as well as taking Matins regularly and preaching at all age Eucharists.

But that sense of calling to ordained ministry kept getting stronger and stronger, particularly as other people started talking to me about it. Thankfully the PCC also thought I was called this way and recommended me for the discernment process to ordained local ministry.

So, in February 2017 I found myself at St. Non's Retreat House, St. Davids for the three day discernment. To my delight the priest chosen to be the chaplain was a former Curate in my sending parish, and one of the other candidates was an old friend from Reader training. It was a memorable few days and when I was recommended for training I was so excited.

Back to theological college and wonderful residentials at Llangasty with the "Snowdrops" as our group got dubbed. Sadly, we lost one of our Snowdrops shortly before she was due to be ordained Deacon. We were about two thirds through our year's training before ordination when those of us from Llandaff were invited to meet with the Bishop, who advised us that she and others had changed our pathway and that we would do another year of training before being considered for ordination and that





we would be considered for deployable ministry, not local. And so the journey continued with an additional year, making new and cementing old friendships and a long placement in Pentyrch, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Then on 29 June 2019 I was ordained Deacon at Llandaff Cathedral, with many hundreds of people there including some of you, which I treasure. A wonderful occasion with singing and laughing and the solemnity it deserved, and a garden full of friends and family. Then came my first year in the parish and what a warm welcome I received. You opened your hearts and it's a privilege to serve here.

I learnt a lot in my Deacon year with Stewart guiding me and I was looking forward to my priesting when of course lockdown happened and changed the way we do church. I am grateful for Zoom and Facebook and all the other platforms with which we have become familiar, that have helped people stay connected.

The Bishop and her team worked hard to get the necessary permissions for ordinations to happen, but sadly not all of us could be ordained at Petertide. Three of us were asked to wait a little longer. I was pleased that my friends who were ordained could be, but sad for my two colleagues. Then it happened, we got the phone call to say we could go ahead and we could have a couple of people there. So, on 6 August, the Feast of the Transfiguration I was ordained Priest with my Spiritual Director and my dad and sister present. It was a truly memorable and very spiritual and humbling occasion, so special, perhaps because it was so intimate with only twenty people there.

Celebrating my first Eucharist at St. Margaret's on 30 August was incredible, thank you to everyone who was there. I will never forget standing behind the altar blessing the bread and wine and then distributing the bread, just writing about it makes me a bit emotional.

Thank you for being fellow pilgrims on our journey.

May God bless us all.

Rev Ruth





## NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

I haven't seen the churchyard since the beginning of Lockdown but still hope that the squirrels are enjoying the summer, and the daisies enjoying the sun. Those of us lucky enough to have a garden have had a chance to enjoy it as never before. People have come to sit in ours over this period, and the dog has enjoyed a lot of cake!

The park, of course, has been a tremendous draw to all who seek to commune with nature. I went to see the tree that had been blown down in the Rec. A big old tree, obviously rotting from the inside as it broke its trunk in the gale and didn't uproot itself. It fell across the little stream and damaged the tree next to it. I went to see it, patted its trunk and assured it that it had been a good tree. (Hello! Is that a small white van arriving at our gate?) In the wild, of course, the tree would lie there and much of its wildlife would continue to live in its branches. But I doubt this will happen in urban Cardiff.

Although our regular churchgoing has been disrupted, many people have made great efforts to keep everyone in touch. We rejoice with Maureen and Patrick Dineen on their Diamond Wedding. We also acknowledge with love the first wedding anniversary of Sally and Stephen Bailey. We send our best wishes to Wendy Bartlett who is in Llandough Hospital, having had a stroke.

We think of the children going back to school in circumstances that no-one in our lifetime has had to experience. We ask God's blessing on them and all their teachers. Some of our young people will be going off to university. Of these are Lydia Lisk, the Vicar's elder daughter who is going to Bristol to read "Politics and International Relations", subjects which I myself studied in 1960's Aberystwyth. Also the granddaughters of Penny and Geoff Moore are off to university. Millie is going to Manchester to read Maths and Physics, and Seren is going to Plymouth

to study Paramedic Science. We wish them and anyone else going to universities, happiness in their new adventure.

We send our congratulations and kindest regards to Ruth Coombes, our Curate, who has now been ordained priest. We note that she and the Vicar have been working hard to restore some of our Church services. The Vicar would be pleased if people could let him know if they hope to attend church so that social distancing can be maintained.

You will remember that Fenella Clapham usually hosts a Macmillan coffee morning each year for that charity's support for people with cancer. This year there will not be a coffee morning but as the charity is advertising "cancer does not stop so neither do we", contributions would be gratefully received by Fenella.

Some people may have noticed that books have been offered, free, outside 4 Ninian Road. There is an old pudding basin for donations to "St Margaret's Church". So far, Julia and Teifion are pleased to say that £450 has been donated, mainly in small change. Some people donate, saying that they have happy memories of St Margaret's. If you haven't sampled the wares please come and have a look. As they say in the best adverts, "New stock arriving daily". We have been so pleased by this generous response and also for the honesty that has been displayed. We are also delighted that so many of our books have been taken. Just hope that the house doesn't fall down without them!

On a sad note we report that some of our most regular communicants will be leaving Cardiff to be nearer their children. Jill and Jo Armitage are relocating to Chesterfield to be near their daughter Stephanie. Barbara Hodgson, whose husband, Vernon, is still much missed as one of our clergymen, is moving to North Yorkshire to be near to her son, Malcolm. Both these families have had a long association with St Margaret's, and will be greatly missed. We send them on their way with our love and best wishes for the future.

Sally, who normally types these notes for me is away so Gwynn Ellis has kindly done this for me. Many thanks.

Love to all at St Margaret's,  
Julia



## **An Update on the Fabric of the Parish Church - August 2020**

What a strange summer it's been. We have all been variously locked-down, shielding, and coming to terms with a very strange way of living our lives, and socially interacting. And perhaps worst of all our church was forced to close its doors for many weeks. But that didn't mean that nothing was going on at church. Yes, the doors were closed for worship and entry by worshippers, but contractors were still allowed access to carry out repairs to the fabric. The more eagle eyed will have spotted some scaffold erected on the outside of the building, but what was actually going on?

Thanks to the award last year of a significant grant from the Marquis of Bute, by the time that summer arrived this year all the necessary preliminaries were in place to start physical works, viz., a Faculty (permission) from the Church in Wales, appointment of a supervising Architect (Michael Davies), drafting of designs, specifications, two negotiated contracts with specialists, a conservation builder and a conservator, and the signing of contract documents. The builder was Peter Bricknell, and the stone conservator was Cliveden Conservation.

The architect selected for repair the greatest priority items from those items he reported on during his last Quinquennial Inspection, and basically all the things that could be afforded within the amount of the grant, a most generous £64,000 from the John Bute Foundation!

Before any work started, and at quite short notice, our organ builder and tuner, Nick Adams covered up for their protection, all the various components of the organ (within the loft) with large polythene sheets, and it was as well that he did!

The biggest single item of fabric repair work was basically a renewal of the whole roof over the organ loft. All the slates were removed (and renewed as necessary), and some timber sarking boards were replaced, and all new timber battens were installed.

But it was in the lead lined gutters that the biggest changes were wrought. The secret gutter at the base of the chancel roof, (just immediately above the organ roof) was renewed, as was the lead tray forming the gutter at the bottom of the organ roof.

The concealed gutters running down the slopes at each end of the organ roof were widened from about an inch wide, to about six inches wide, to avoid them so easily becoming blocked in future.





Typical new lead gutter tray (organ loft roof)

But the main improvement was to get rid of the poorly designed drainage detail with which we have lived for 150 years, and which gave rise to rainwater getting in the organ most frequently in the past.

Instead of a drain pipe going straight down from the lead gutter, which was built originally inside the church wall itself, the drain outlet is now formed of a six inch wide slot cut through the parapet wall to form an overflow 'spout' to the lower downpipe. It doesn't sound much I know, but this arrangement is much less likely to get blocked by a single London Plane tree leaf landing in the wrong place, as sometimes happened with the old drain arrangement.





Organ loft new outlet spout arrangement

After prolonged heavy rainfall water often subsequently got into the spiral staircase, and the cause of this was diagnosed by our architect as being caused by erosion and splitting of the capstone above the stairs at the point where it joins the tower wall, and by eroded pointing to the south west corner of the main tower wall just above the stairs. This is the aspect of church that faces and takes a 'hit' from the prevailing wind direction in this part of the world. Interestingly he made these discoveries during his survey of the fabric using a very sophisticated aerial drone carrying a high definition camera!



His specified solution was to re-point locally worn areas of the tower with a proper lime mortar, and to specify a special lead cap on the capstone involving the dressed lead being welded in-situ.

These are the main reasons for the erection of the two areas of scaffolding you will have seen outside.



New welded lead capping of spiral staircase

Inside church the main focus of repair was to clean and conserve the wonderful vaulted ceiling of the Bute Mausoleum. This had suffered damage by water ingress some ten or so years ago. This work also involved a scaffold tower being erected carefully within the mausoleum above the Bute tombs. And the conservators also did some work to repair the wall shields or crests which had lost their colours through water erosion.

Another 'fabric event' that occurred during our summer closure was the return to church of the much loved gilded framed painting the 'Madonna of the Chair', which had been away to Cowbridge since last November to



be cleaned and restored by Ms. Sarah Bayliss. This of course happened entirely through the generous sponsorship of Mrs. Pam Hall and her daughter Julie, to whom we are all most grateful.



Restored picture now re-hung

More recently, after the main contract works were finished, Nick returned to 'unwrap' the organ. He was dismayed with the amount of dirt and dust, large lumps of grit, and water which had come down within the organ loft from all the hammering, and while the roof wasn't water-tight.

Although the sheeting largely did its job, inevitably some water got into the organ's bellows, which are sited very close to an outside wall.

Nick used a very innovative approach to access the damage within the bellows. The repairs would normally be done by completely dismantling the bellows in the reverse order of how they were first constructed, and



then rebuilding them again after the necessary inside repairs; a process estimated to take about 10 working days of his labour.



Organ bellows (difficult access)

Instead, Nick brought two hydraulic trolley jacks to church and jacked open the bellows from within via the access hatch on the lid, and strutted the bellows open. This enabled an internal inspection, a glued re-leathering repair from the inside (!), and all completed in about 2.5 days, at a much reduced cost to church!

Fortunately most of the reconstruction of the Prichard reredos was completed by Elliott Ryder Conservation just days before the pandemic lockdown began.

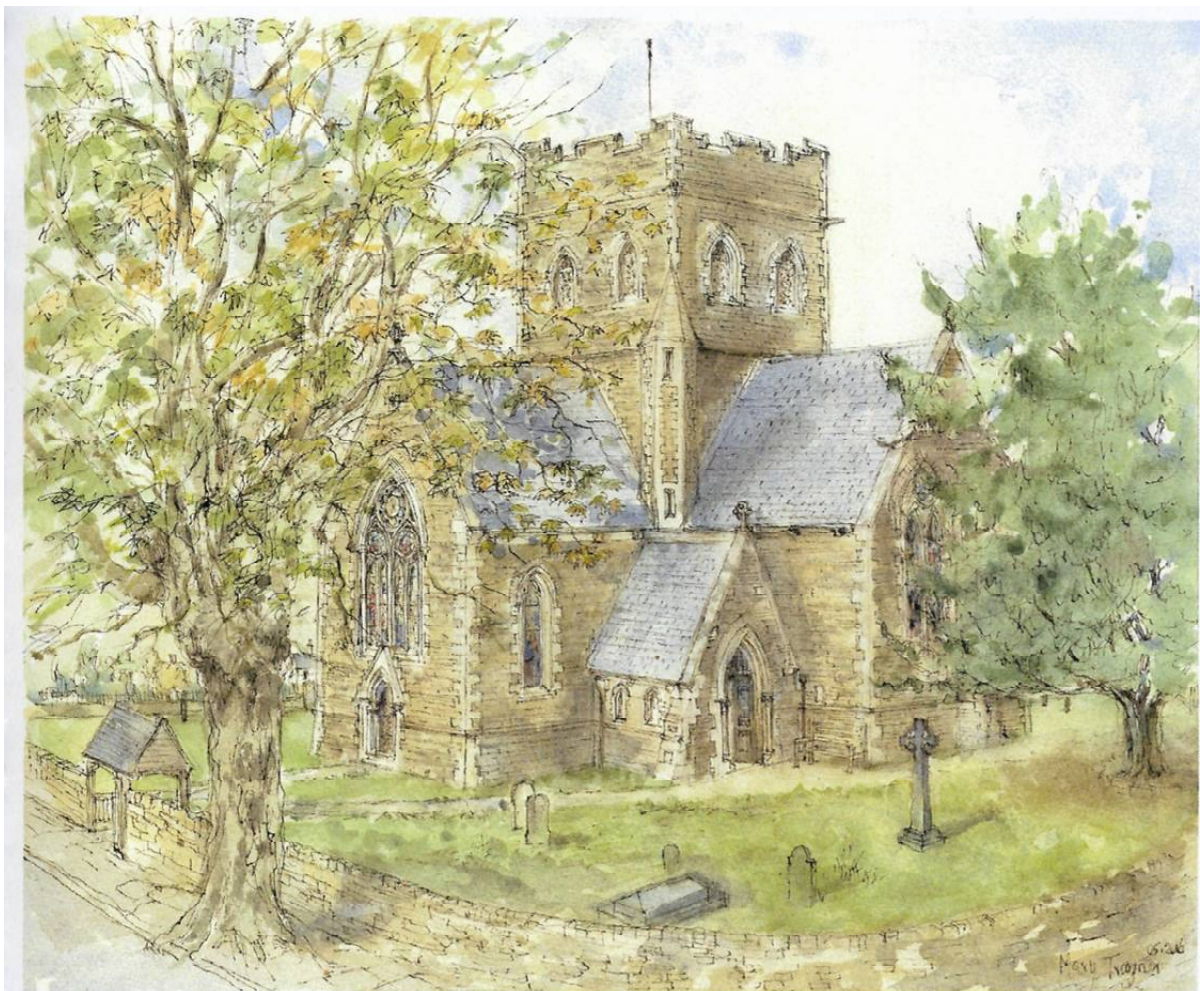
During lockdown our architect Michael has designed (gratis) a timber moulding to conceal the steel support shelf, and is currently in discussion with the DAC about its suitability and its finished colour. Soon it is hoped that Peter Bricknell will be contracted to install it.

So you can see a great deal has happened this summer when we were unable to attend church. But we can now see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel hopefully?

Firstly access into church was recently restored simply for private prayer only, and now there is a Said Communion service each Sunday morning with the numbers attending restricted by the need still for social distancing. The immediate future is still unclear, but hopefully we now have a building that is fit and ready for full regular worship when the time comes!

Bob Hyett (Churchwarden).

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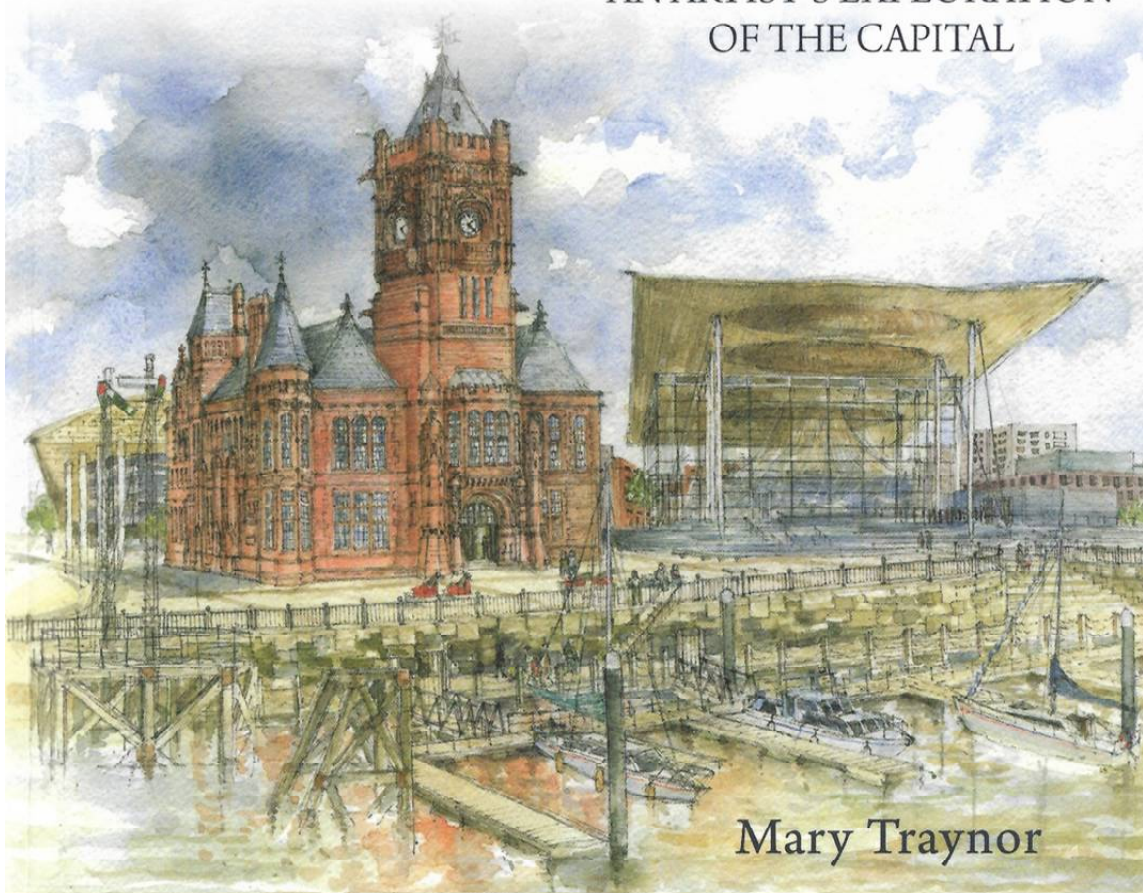
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St Margaret' Church drawn by Mary Traynor from her new book  
*Creating Cardiff An artist's exploration of the Capital*



# Creating Cardiff

AN ARTIST'S EXPLORATION  
OF THE CAPITAL



What a treat you have in store if you have not yet got a copy of this superb book by our own friend and Artist, Mary Taynor. Every page brings a new delight as Mary takes us on a tour of Wales' Capital City. The first few chapters give a brief history of Cardiff from the Celts and Romans to the domination of 'King Coal' in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – all beautifully illustrated by Mary's drawings, in both colour and black & white, with the occasional old photograph as well. We are then taken on a virtual journey from the heart of Cardiff (the Docks) travelling out to along Westgate Street to Cardiff Castle, visiting many interesting places on the way, including the Principality Stadium. Following a long stop at the Castle we pay a visit to The Hayes and neighbouring attractions before heading for the Civic Centre and its cluster of magnificent buildings, all, of course, beautifully illustrated. We then travel East and eventually reach our own Parish Church, St Margaret's of Antioch and end up in Roath Park. The final chapters take us from Cardiff Castle to Llandaff where we explore the Cathedral and Insole Court before finally heading north to the fairy-tale castle of Castell Coch

All-in-all it is a fascinating journey through Cardiff in both time and space and is a book which ought to appeal to all ages and can be read from cover to cover in a binge session or just dipped into as the mood takes you and every page is sure to hold something of interest.

# An online article – thanks to Jane Colley

<https://gratefulness.org/grateful-living/gratitude-works-in-the-er/> accessed 13.59 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Laura's Story

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The practice of gratitude isn't large enough if we're grateful only when things are going well. I've written before about appreciating our doubts, mistakes, even our crises. Trying to see difficulty as another blessing helps get us past the need to separate our lives into good and bad, putting us right into the seamless whole of a fully lived life. It's also not easy.

That concept became more evident to me when I ended up in the ER a few months ago. How I got there is a story for another time, since this tale takes place entirely in an MRI machine. Such machines are a nightmare for someone as claustrophobic as I am. Heck, I even avoid being the first person to slide in a six-person restaurant booth because two people between me and open space is too much. Unfortunately, patients experiencing any kind of neurological emergency\* can't receive medication to reduce MRI-related anxiety. The test was necessary to diagnose what was going wrong and it had to be done immediately.

A doctor, nurse, and several other people stayed in the room with me as I was loaded into the narrow tube. I willed myself to be calm. Electronic beeping and buzzing, whirling and whacking started. It sounded quite a bit like the machine was falling apart.

**Gratitude definitely isn't a switch to turn on only when things go well. It's a light that shines in darkness too.**

"You have to lie completely still," I was told. I thought I was lying still. I was cold. I was in pain. I felt trapped in that tight space, even more trapped because my head and neck were locked in a "cage" clamped to the bed. I didn't know what was wrong with me but I'd already been told I might be having brain surgery after the MRI.

I prayed silently, but my whole body trembled. I asked my beloved deceased parents to be with me, the trembling continued. I tried affirmations, which seemed to make the trembling even worse. I was cautioned that the test might have to be repeated if I couldn't stay entirely still. I couldn't imagine going through it again, nor how I could do any better.

Then I considered this might be my last day. What did I want from it? To appreciate every moment I had left. I began bringing to mind all I was grateful for, starting right there. I thought of the care I was getting and the wisdom of the people in that room. I realized how fortunate I was to be

getting this help. My body started to soften into the experience. I pictured the faces of my loved ones in turn. It seemed as if they were right there too. By the time I decided to picture autumn trees, blue skies, and singing birds the cage was being unlocked from my face.

Gratitude definitely isn't a switch to turn on only when things go well. It's a light that shines in darkness too.

\*I'm going to be okay.

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## ST EDWARD'S NOTES - Michaelmas 2020

**Resilience** – according to one of the many writers<sup>1</sup> on the subject of resilience there are four components contributing to our 'bounce-back-ability'. This is a topic I was working on with a group yesterday, via the 'new' medium of Microsoft Teams, and it reminded me of the many initiatives we have witnessed in our church life locally and world-wide whilst church buildings have been closed.

The four components include Social Support, evidenced in the many ways in which our church community has supported each other, through Zoom e.g. forget-me-not sessions, and Morning Prayer. **Purposefulness**, described as having clear values and a sense of direction, and our faith provides these with clarity and simplicity, "loving our neighbours as ourselves"<sup>2</sup>.

The other two of the four components are Adaptability and Confidence. Attending a Eucharist service for the first time since March last Sunday it was clear from the small and age-diverse congregation that these aspects of resilience are present too.

As our church-life continues to adapt, look out for examples of these four components, be encouraged by them and practice them where you can, as our community journey continues.

Visit our website <http://www.roath.org.uk/StEdward/services.html>

Sue Mansell

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.robertsoncooper.com/iresilience/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.biblehub.com/matthew/22-39.htm>

**Copy date for the next magazine (Remembrance / Advent) is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

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)

## **Church in Wales latest Covid Guidance**

**15/9/2020**

### **Do I have to wear a face covering when attending a religious service?**

Yes, places of worship are indoor public places and so the requirements will apply there as in other public place. We consider that those leading worship or a ceremony may have a reasonable excuse not to wear a face covering if they cannot effectively do so while wearing one, as long as they have taken other sufficient mitigations such as staying continually over 2 metres away from others and/or wearing a visor.

### **Are face coverings required in wedding and civil partnership ceremonies?**

Guests will need to wear coverings, but given the importance to couples of the ceremony and the level of risk involved, we consider it is reasonable for the couple to remove their coverings for a kiss, for taking vows and for a “first dance”, as long as other measures are in place to protect people attending the ceremony from the risk of contracting coronavirus, for example, guests staying 2m away from the couple at all times.

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

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