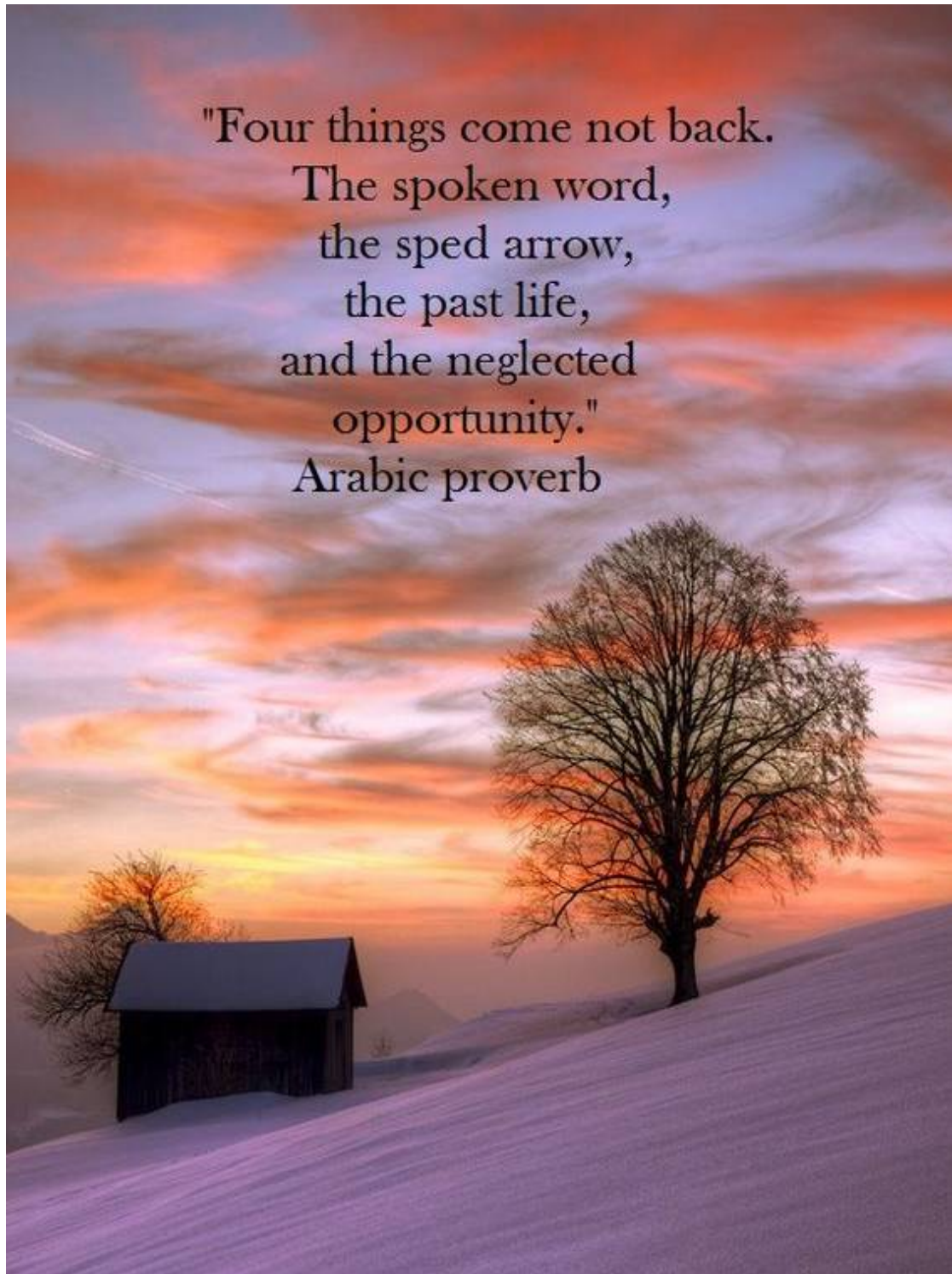


# ***Roath News***



***Remembrance / Advent 2020***

*Free but donations always welcome*

# 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 (Christmas / Epiphany)  
is 10<sup>th</sup> December**

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

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### **Sunday – September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Last Sunday and through this past week many of you asked me 'what's happening about Church on Sunday?' Well I suppose you have all now heard that from Friday 23 October until Monday 9th November we are returning to tighter restrictions on our movements in most aspects of our lives. You may have been surprised to learn that this includes not only a cancellation of public worship again but no opportunity of private prayer in our Churches or any other place of worship. We hope and pray that this will make a significant change in the spread of the virus particularly here in our part of Cardiff where figures tell us it is of the highest in Wales.

Since I was last writing to you I have taken services in our much loved church buildings in Roath, Grangetown and Llanishen. As a priest it is always a privilege and joy to do so whether it is for a few or many. We only exist to be there to do that for the community we serve. I must admit however that there are moments of quiet in our churches when my eyes stray to look at the stained glass, the statuary and paintings which have been given and treasured by former generations to beautify our buildings and give glory to God. Also when I am alone in Church or when there are only a few there I often think of and pray for those prevented from being with us for good reason at this time and also those who have gone before and are now at rest. I remember where they sat. Some reading this I know will not have been in Church or anywhere for almost a year.

If we had been in Church this Sunday we would have all heard a reading from St Matthew Chapter 22, v34-46 where Jesus is tested by a lawyer on the commandments. You may remember that our Lord tells the religious leaders that the greatest commandments are to love God and your neighbour as yourself, on these all law and the prophets hang. In the ongoing challenges of the pandemic we may have had our questions for God, just like many who came to Jesus did. This straightforward and simple answer is one that should resonate for every age and circumstance. Whatever may befall us we should love God for all his goodness to us, even though sometimes we are tested. Also we should love our neighbours. This is not always easy as it does not mean just the people we like or love but all those who we may come across. I have heard of countless acts of love and care that have been prompted by the

present crisis. Even when we are weary and weak we should try to do something that will bring a glimpse of God's love to others.

We may be physically prevented from being together but sending a note, writing a letter, a friendly text or email but above a phone call to someone who might not be expecting it can have gratifying results. We are constantly being challenged with a new way of living but sharing our time with others in whatever way we can helps build and maintain our community of Faith. Which way will you this week love your neighbour as yourself?

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday – October 4<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

Often at this time of the year our television screens, newspapers and wireless are graced with the delights of political party conferences. For decades Brighton or Blackpool and more recently more urban destinations have welcomed party delegates and supporters for an annual pep talk from their leaders and an unveiling of new exciting policies which will solve the nation's woes. As with almost everything, this year it is different. Conferences are going ahead I believe but online and obviously without the travel and time away. Our leaders have greater difficulties and challenges than they have had before which concentrate the mind and focus the attention. Whatever our political convictions we as Christians must pray for them and do what we can to help bring our communities together to face the current challenges.

It is also the time when we as a diocese have our conference, always the last Saturday in September. Woe betide the careless cleric who books a wedding that day! This year as last the conference is split over two days. Last year we gathered at the Cathedral in July for the business part of the meeting and then at St John's Church in Wales High School for the group discussions and debate. We then looked at various aspects of Diocesan life, looking forward to the Year of Pilgrimage, the 900th Anniversary Celebrations of Llandaff Cathedral and the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Church in Wales. What a busy year 2020 was going to be! Little did we know.

We also concentrated on the Diocesan vision for us all as we continue to grow the Kingdom of God, tell a joyful story and build our capacity for good in God's world. This vision may not have been expressed in the ways we envisaged last September. However we can see that the Covid

19 pandemic has made the Church react in all sorts of positive and encouraging ways. You may have read in 'Llandaff Matters' of several joyful stories from around the diocese. I hope too you have felt and experienced that we as a church locally have done things to enable ourselves to feel part of our Christian community and have kept in touch through various media. A good deal of our time we have been prevented from being in our Church buildings. Over the last two months that has gradually been relaxed although we must abide by the restrictions that I outlined last week if we are going to maintain this practice.

This year's Llandaff Diocesan Conference is also to be conducted on line. A potential gathering of 250 representatives laity and clergy from every parish on a Zoom call. It will be very different. We will not be traveling to one of our Church High Schools and spending a bit of time greeting old friends and making new ones but will be in our sitting rooms gazing into a screen. There will be opportunities for questions sent in advance as usual and breakout groups for discussion and individual work. It will be a fascinating and demanding experience. As well as looking at how the diocese has risen to the challenges of the pandemic we will also be looking to the future and the reorganisation of the diocese into Ministry Areas. Those of you on PCCs and Deanery Conference will be familiar with this. Some parts of the diocese have moved already into these groupings, Cardiff is not yet so arranged but we are assured that this to come. We shall be coming together as churches and congregations in new ways which we hope will support us and strengthen us in the coming years so we can be better equipped to follow our calling as the people of God in this place. Your representatives will be reporting to you soon on what transpires.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

My dear Friends,

This weekend in Roath we celebrate the life and witness of one of our parish patrons, St Edward, King and Confessor. He was reputedly a devout and godly monarch who cared for the poor and sick, he made himself accessible to his people and reigned over a period of twenty years of peace. He helped establish the great Westminster Abbey where his shrine lies undisturbed and revered to this day.

Since March many of us have been paying close attention to the buildings across the road from the Abbey to Parliament and 10 Downing St. We have heard the daily or weekly briefings given by our Prime Minister, his cabinet Colleagues and many of their scientific and medical advisers. Closer to home our First Minister of Wales and his team have given their regular updates and guidance. Sometimes their instructions have been very clear and direct, at other moments it has been less so. There have been differences between various parts of the United Kingdom and contrasts made with other nations in Europe and around the world. Some I know are feeling confused and uncertain as a result.

Many of us have to filter this advice and regulation into our daily lives, our workplaces, schools and colleges, shops and churches. We are all having to do things differently and adapt day by day to a so called 'new normal '. It is not easy and we may yearn for a return to the past. I am afraid that things will not be the same as they were before.

I wrote to you recently recalling how the Anglican Church has sometimes resisted change. We are not alone in this. I heard on the radio recently a leading Methodist minister quoting an old adage about his denomination that it was ideally placed for when the year 1958 occurred again! Change is happening and if we use Cardinal Newman's word and call it development then it can be seen as positive and life enhancing, if sometimes unfamiliar and strange.

At the time of writing all our parish officers, PCC, Committee members and clergy should have received the Llandaff Diocesan Ministry Area Handbook. We shall all be considering and studying this carefully to see how our churches and parishes will be working in the years ahead. In due course we will be meeting virtually or actually to discuss these measures. We shall also be receiving support and guidance from the senior clergy and officers of the diocese in how we can implement these changes.

Please continue to pray for our leaders in Church and State and all who support and guide them as we face the future together. Let us look to the positive aspects of what is set before us and share that hope that we as Christians should rejoice in, knowing that we will constantly have God's love and support alongside us, Jesus said "I am with you always"

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

My dear Friends,

One of the many things that I have missed during our period of lockdown and subsequent restrictions on our activities is our regular monthly healing Eucharists. I know these take place in Churches all around our diocese and are much valued by those who attend and by those who cannot be present but know that they are being prayed for and remembered. Two of the particular aspects of these services are the laying on of hands and the anointing with Holy oil, both practices firmly based in Biblical and Church tradition. Of course they are not now easily performed owing to the rules that we operate under at the moment.

Praying for the sick and showing practical support for those in need is an ancient and essential part of the Christian life. This Sunday is a red letter saints day as we remember St Luke, famous not only as the author of his Gospel and the Book of Acts but also as a physician. The medicine practiced in the first century would have been very different from that we benefit from today but the vital need for caring and curing the sick was present in the Gospels from the start. In our reading from St Luke this Sunday, we learn from Chapter 10 of how Jesus sent his followers out to proclaim his good news. He told them to dress simply and travel light and accept whatever hospitality was offered. Our Lord said to them, "Cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ' The Kingdom of God has come near to you.' "

The miraculous healings that Jesus made were mirrored then by some of his disciples and into the early days of the infant church. However as time went on they were not so prevalent. Nevertheless the Church did take Jesus command seriously and many of our early saints and church leaders established communities, abbeys and convents which devoted their time not only to education and spreading the Christian faith but also pioneering what we now know as our hospitals.

Today we are in need of healing and wholeness more than ever not only here in Wales but throughout the world. We are grateful for the wonderful work of doctors and nurses and all who work tirelessly in our health care services. We are also conscious of those who pray and care for the healing of our souls, our hearts and minds. Some are trained medically to bring us back to good health, others have a spiritual discipline which can help us find inward peace and tranquillity. It is not always possible to gain physical restoration. Searching for inward health and waiting upon God's will for us in whatever comes is part of the journey of Faith that we all share on this earth until we come to that Kingdom of God that Luke wrote

of in his Gospel. May the peace and wholeness that Christ shares with us be known to you and all for whom you pray.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

My dear Friends,

Last Sunday and through this past week many of you asked me 'what's happening about Church on Sunday?' Well I suppose you have all now heard that from Friday 23 October until Monday 9th November we are returning to tighter restrictions on our movements in most aspects of our lives. You may have been surprised to learn that this includes not only a cancellation of public worship again but no opportunity of private prayer in our Churches or any other place of worship. We hope and pray that this will make a significant change in the spread of the virus particularly here in our part of Cardiff where figures tell us it is of the highest in Wales.

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Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

My dear Friends,

Our Church calendar this coming weekend sees two very special days. Sunday 1st November is All Saints Day, a feast which has existed in the world wide church since at least the 4th century. All Hallows, as it is also called, recalls all, known and unknown who are redeemed and now in heaven. Early church communities particularly wanted to remember those who were martyred for their faith, often too many to be recalled by name. As the centuries passed and the Church grew in strength and number throughout Europe different countries marked All Saints on various days and with local customs. However by around 740 AD with the consecration of All Saints Chapel in St Peter's Rome 1st of November became the set date. The dedication of All Saints is the second most popular in Churches in England, we in Wales have so many of our own Saints to recall.

The other day we mark is the Commemoration of All Souls which falls on the 2nd November. This was first used to pray for members of religious orders who had died but was extended to include all the faithful departed. All Souls College, Oxford and All Souls, Langham Place are two famous dedications. Priests and people pray for the repose of those who have gone before us with thanksgiving and hope.

Normally on Sunday in our churches we would joyously be singing 'For all the Saints', with flowers at the Altar and white and gold vestments adorning our sanctuaries. We would remember the example and

perseverance of all those holy women and men who bravely brought the light of the Gospel to us in past times. The following day we would be in more solemn mood with black or purple vestments for our Services of Requiem. Many of us would be reciting the names of our departed loved ones and former worshippers and benefactors of our parishes. This year neither holy day can take place in the usual fashion.

I know many of you will turn to your prayer books and read the Collects and Bible Readings for these two occasions. Others will go online to do the same. Perhaps you might have your own tradition at home where you might light a candle to remind you of the Saints and your own loved ones. This I know has particular relevance to those who have lost loved ones in the past year and feel that you have not been able to mourn or grieve under our present circumstances. For my part on Monday I shall go through my diary of the last twelve months and recall all those whose funerals I have had the privilege to conduct. I shall pray for them and their families.

The world in Wales at this time is mainly oblivious to the real significance of these days. Halloween has in recent years become second only to Christmas in importance in commercial terms for our retailers. This year that will be different too. Those of you with children at home or grandchildren who you FaceTime or chat with on the phone might take the opportunity to tell them of the background to their celebrations and recall some of the traditional customs which can be done safely and happily at home

We know there is darkness and sorrow in the world but the message of the Saints is that the light and joy will conquer. We need to be strong in faith as those who lived the life of Christian discipleship before us. They often had great privations and opposition but nevertheless came through their struggles. In another hymn we sing,

'Jesu thy name we bless and humbly pray that we

May follow them in holiness who lived and died for thee. '

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Remembrance Sunday November 8th**

My dear Friends,

As I write this to you our news media is still full of coverage of the Presidential election in the United States of America. There are continuing questions about who will be president and when. By the time you read this it might be clearer, however with the prospect of legal challenges it may not. The US system does not see the new President take office until the inauguration in January so there is still time. To me it seems an age ago that we were electing a new UK Government, but it is less than a year and what a year! Next year on the 6th May we shall be called to elect members of the Welsh Assembly, now called the Senedd. It will be the first time that our teenagers of 16 and 17 will be able to take part.

Many I know are turned off by politicians and the debates that they have in our sight. We might be fed up of the wrangling that goes on in the parliaments and councils of our land. Nevertheless as some of you will have heard me say in Church it is very important that we use our votes carefully and wisely. We do not have to go back too far in our history to learn that women and those without property or privilege did not have the vote. It was a long hard struggle to gain the franchise for all.

Our right to vote was won and preserved in many ways, not least by those who sacrificed their lives in war. This year we have recalled on VE Day and VJ Day the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, still part of living memory for some of you. The cruel dictators Hitler and Mussolini and their supporters had corrupted the democratic processes of their countries and sought to eliminate all opposition. The murder of millions of innocent people in the Holocaust was only a part of this horrendous abuse of power. We may not always like or approve of what our leaders do today but thanks to the elections we hold we do get the opportunity on a regular basis to change our decision makers.

This coming weekend and particularly on Sunday and on the 11th of November we shall be making our annual Acts of Remembrance. We will as always give thanks for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war and pray for those who are bereaved and suffer loss. Our events will be very different this year and much reduced from what we normally do, both locally and nationally. The Royal British Legion has encouraged people to remember at home. We are not permitted to have our Requiems and parade services in our churches or in the usual fashion at our war memorials. In London there will be a scaled down event in Whitehall.

It has for many years been my privilege to conduct the Welsh National Service of Remembrance at our own memorial in Cathays Park. Some thought this commemoration would diminish as the years went by. On the contrary over the last 25 years I have seen it grow, some of the older veterans have 'faded away' as the saying goes but younger people have come in great numbers. There are the serving personnel and their families and cadets but also veterans of recent conflicts. Only one year since the end of World War Two was without British casualties, 1968. Owing to the present restrictions our ceremony this year will be massively reduced but nonetheless important, you can view it at home on YouTube, [www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil](http://www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil)

The world is facing a very different crisis from war at this time. Our armed services are still doing their part in medical and community support in these difficult days. It is good that we show our thanks and appreciation to them as well as their predecessors who have given everything so that we might have freedom to live and care for each other in the challenges that we all face today. Their duty and sacrifice can inspire us as we seek to do what we can in the current crisis in the months ahead.

Best wishes and prayers

Stewart

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## **Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup>**

My dear Friends,

I am sure that many of you are relieved as we come out of our firebreak lockdown. We are now permitted again to return to worship in our churches albeit under the restrictions that existed before. It is really good to see those who are able and feel comfortable about coming to our services. However we quite understand that there are those who are not ready yet, you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

One of the things that we have missed in our worship is the element of music. We are very blessed with choir leaders, organists, directors of music and choristers of all ages and levels of experience who use their gifts to enhance our Eucharists and Evensong. In doing so they continue to give glory to God. We are grateful for their dedication and contribution which I know helps us in raising our spirits and adding a valuable aspect to our time in Church.

Although we have had some excellent piano and organ playing and recorded music in Church in recent months, our singers have been patiently waiting for the time when they can again use their talents. We had a glimmer of hope this week in some new guidance that Welsh Government has shared with us. A very limited amount of choral singing may be permitted under strict regulations with up to six singers, who rehearse together and are distanced from others and have adhered to a detailed approved risk assessment. Perhaps it is fitting that in the month we celebrate the patron saint of musicians, St Cecilia (22 November), that preparations may tentatively go ahead for this reintroduction of choral singing. Sadly it does not mean that congregations can sing hymns yet, we have to continue to wait a while for that.

Our Gospel reading this week is the famous parable of the talents, Matthew, Chapter 25, v 14-30. Jesus tells of a rich man who goes on a journey and leaves five, two and one talents with three of his slaves. A talent at that time was a huge amount of money in our terms. The first two slaves invested the capital and worked to increase their master's wealth. The third buries the cash in the ground and returns it with no interest. He is chided for his laziness and inaction. The story is told, theologians believe, to make Jesus listeners be prepared for the coming of the Kingdom of God. It is also used on a simpler, more basic level to encourage us to use the abilities we have for God's purposes. Our use of the word 'talent' meaning our gifts and skills.

During this pandemic period many have I know used their talents in various ways that has challenged them to do new and unfamiliar things. We have to be innovative in our lives and our worship at this juncture. Things will not be the same as before for some time to come. Let us all hope and pray that in whatever we are called to do in our lives our Lord will find us worthy of the gifts he has shared with us.

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!**

# SUNDAY SERVICES RESUME

15th November: Holy Eucharist 9.30am at St Margaret's and 11am at St Edward's. Evening Prayer 3.15pm at St Edward's.  
Please inform the Vicar if you would like to attend one of the Eucharists.

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## National Service of Remembrance for Wales available to watch online

Arrangements have been made this year which will allowed members of the public to participate in the National Service of Remembrance for Wales, safely in their own homes.

For the first time, the service was available to watch live on the Cardiff Council YouTube channel. Coverage started from 10.50am on Sunday, November 8, and is available at [www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil](http://www.youtube.com/cardiffcouncil).

Broadcast from the National War Memorial in Cardiff, the coverage captured a small, socially distanced service, conducted by Reverend Canon Stewart Lisk.



The national service of remembrance was held at the Welsh National War Memorial, Cathays Park, Cardiff. Photo © Cardiff Council





## NEWS FROM THE LYCHGATE

We live in strange times. Some of us have all our lives, rejoiced in the passing of the seasons, shown not only in the natural world but also in the march of the church's year. It anchored us and gave us hope to a future that would carry on in the same way. And how we have faced a time when the church can no longer be open to us and even when it is, no voices can be raised to praise God "in their season". So we have had to find new ways to carry in our hearts and minds the church's year. In this we have been helped by the vicar's letter and fellowship of other churchgoers. So we will celebrate All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Sunday as best we might. But maybe we will be happy enough to jettison Halloween and even Guy Fawkes Night.

As we all stay in our homes there is not a lot to report. We remember those who have been ill or in hospital. Barbara Green has been in hospital but is now recovering at home and Wendy Bartlett is still in Llandough. We send them our love and prayers and to all others who are ill.

One of our long standing members Barbara Hodgson has now moved to Yorkshire to be near her son Malcolm and his family. We wish her every happiness in this new stage in her life and hope she will keep in touch with us. The choir and others, raised a sum of money as a gift for her.

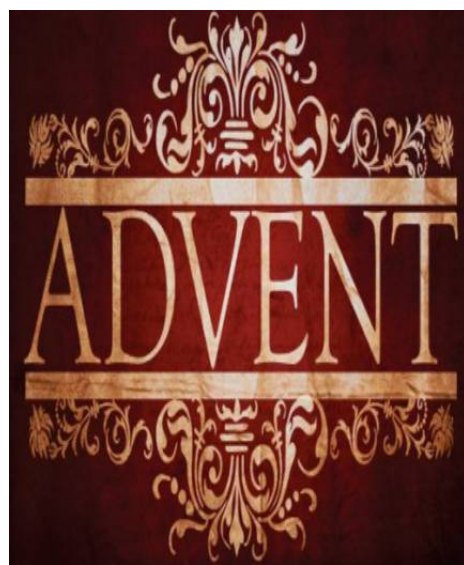
Someone will be very displeased with us for revealing her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. But we do wish our esteemed fellow member of the congregation Fenella Clapham happy birthday wishes. Helena Hyett,

another much loved member also has had a birthday. She is 88 and will also be cross with us for mentioning this.

Fenella will however be pleased that we report that over £400 was raised by her virtual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to everyone who supported this. On the topic of money £600 has now been raised by the "Free Books" at 4 Ninian Road. We will reopen as soon as the weather is more clement.

Sally reports that Stephen and I for our first year wedding anniversary we found a window of opportunity during the lockdowns decided to go for a week down to Paignton in Devon. We had a lovely time down there as we did some sightseeing. On the day of our wedding anniversary we went on a wildlife cruise which took us to Babbacombe, Newton Abbot, Torquay and back to Paignton, unfortunately on this cruise we did not see any wildlife such as dolphins etc. We also played some numerous games of Pirate Adventure Crazy Golf where every time Stephen beat me but I did surprise him as I scored a HOLE IN ONE in one of the holes. Stay Safe and strong everyone and God bless you all.

So we go forward in faith. As our vicar reminds us our best plan is to stay in touch with each other. And we need to look outside and see our beautiful Autumn going on its majestic way.



Advent blessings to each and every one of you  
Julia and Sally



*My Purse*

*I'm grieving for my wallet purse,  
I bought it at Trefeca.  
'Twas on the bring and buy stall,  
With bric a brac, etcetra  
I've had it now for several years,  
Everywhere it went with me,  
Soft black leather, good to touch  
It was a joy to see.*

*In it I kept my treasures,  
A pretty little cross,  
It came from Pat from Forget me nots  
I shall surely feel its loss.*

*A key ring too from Caroline,  
All the way from Venice came,  
It was to keep me blessed and safe,  
To lose it was a shame.*

*Prayer cards too, just fitted in,  
How lovely they have been,  
When I needed comforting,  
When no light was seen.*

*Photographs, addresses  
Special – private things,  
All fitted in so neatly,  
An Angel with folded wings.*

*On Friday I went to Tesco,  
Not my usual shopping place,  
And when I homeward made my way  
Of my purse, there was no trace.*

*Whoever picked it up that day,  
You are welcome to the money,  
But please send back my special things.  
Their loss, makes my eyes runny !!*

*By Hazel*

*Sub note: the purse was reunited with its owner ☺*

Our Diocesan Representative Chris Webb suggested that this report of the recent Diocesan Conference could be printed in full in this on-line version of *Roath News*.

The report was downloaded from the Web and is presented 'as is', so apologies for the small type.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN CONFERENCE 2020



Diocese of Llandaff Conference 2020

# Diocesan Conference Online

**THURSDAY 24 SEPT 7.30PM  
BUSINESS MEETING**



**SATURDAY 26 SEPT 9AM  
CONFERENCE**

ESGOBAETH LLANDAF  
LLE MAE FFYDD  
YN CYFRIF



DIOCESE OF LLANDAFF  
WHERE FAITH  
MATTERS

## LLANDAFF DIOCESAN CONFERENCE 2020

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September: Business Meeting

Members gathered online to attend the Diocesan Conference business meeting. Led by Bishop June, the Conference began with a Celebration of Eucharist service and opening remarks.

*Annual Report from the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF)*

Mike Lawley, Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance, presented the 2020 Annual Report from the DBF. The report outlined the DBF's core principles:

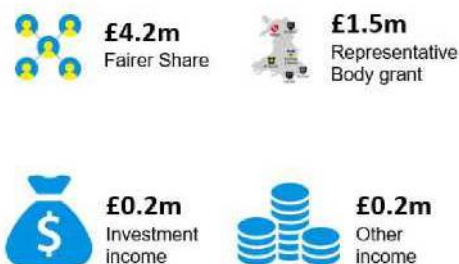
- Maintaining a balanced budget.
- Making £3m of reserves available to deliver the Vision.
- Maintaining prudent financial management and strong governance.

**Key takeaways**

- In the Financial Year 2019, against a deficit budget set at £(601)k, and despite operational deficit, we achieved a surplus of £693k due to investment gains.



- For 2020, the budget was set with a £(606k) deficit including increases in Fairer Share and stipends while we continue working towards a balanced budget over 5 years:

**BUDGET 2020: Income****Income****TOTAL INCOME:****£6.0m**



## BUDGET 2020: Expenditure

### Expenditure



As of June 2020, the deficit stands at £(418)k against a budget of £(303)k. This is largely due to investment losses, but has been offset by savings in a number of expenditure channels including office costs, vacancies, and pension scheme actuarial review.

The DBF drew attention to several successes over the past year:

- ***Young Faith Matters***: Successful funding bid of £3m which enabled Citizen Church to start
- ***Diocesan Vision Funding in place***, a £6m programme over five years
- ***Dramatic growth in digital output*** and lower Diocesan vision spending due to COVID-19
- Successful integration of two senior Diocesan appointments - ***Diocesan Secretary*** and ***Director of Communications and Outreach***.
- Realignment of Diocesan staff teams and DBF structure and committees to be more agile and focused on effective delivery of the Vision
- The DBF response to the COVID-19 crisis has been balanced and strong: saving costs, sharing experience and providing both universal and targeted financial support
- Parishes have been resilient and innovative, with a huge growth of direct giving and many parishes paying Fairer Share in full - some even paying the full year in advance

Moving forward into 2021, the DBF aims to:

- Deliver the Diocesan Vision
- Form and develop Ministry Areas
- Support in rebuilding reserves
- Support digital innovation

In 2021, the budget will be a cautious one with 0% increase in stipend, salaries and other expenditure, with resources made available for the above objectives, and a new scheme to share the cost of curate housing across the diocese.

Mike Lawley concluded with thanks to DBF Members, diocesan staff and clergy, lay volunteers and generous congregations.

Following the DBF presentation, Ven Mike Komor, Acting Secretary of Conference, presented the Annual Report from the Diocesan Standing Committee which is also available on the diocesan website. Key themes included development of Diocesan Vision, COVID-19 and lockdown, and the regular business of diocesan strategy and territorial arrangements - moving and merging parishes.

## Diocesan and Provincial Elections

Archdeacon Mike Komor announced the results of recent diocesan elections, which were held electronically and were efficient and cost-effective. Ven Mike thanked all who voted, and those who stood for election, and warmly congratulated those who have been elected.

- For the Governing Body, Anthony Mullins, Heather Jayne Temple-Williams, Hannah Burch, and Andrew Sims were elected as Lay Members, and Revd Peter Lewis and Revd Canon Steven Kirk were elected as Clerical Members while the supplementary list consists of Revd Rosemary Hill and Revd Maggie Thorne.
- For the Representative Body, Geoff Moses and Ven Mike Komor were elected.
- For the Disciplinary Tribunal, Revd Peter Lewis and Revd Canon Steven Kirk were elected.

## Communications and Outreach

Matt Batten, Director of Communications and Outreach, delivered a report on some of the 2019 - 2020 highlights of the Diocese's Communications and Outreach plans.

- Although COVID-19 was a shock, the Diocese has seen success in the following areas:

### Website

Our go-to resource for news, advice and inspiring content  
8K monthLy visitors.  
% increase on 2019

### Social media (monthly)

Facebook: reaching 20K people.  
Twitter: 158K people reached  
YouTube: 175 hours of watch time.

### Llandaff Matters

813 subscribers  
77% open rate (people who read each edition)

- Outreach activities - tackling food poverty was key theme this year with many churches involves in hosting foodbanks, uniform exchanges, and food delivery
- As a Diocese we've been sharing stories of faith in action which have been widely reported, and we are not short of inspiring and joyful stories. We set up a [Where Faith Matters blog](#) to share these stories.
- Day of Prayer took place online in the early summer and is still widely viewed. It was agreed that a Day of Prayer will happen more frequently, either seasonal or quarterly.
- Generosity Matters - Received well online and a package of supportive resources for parishes has been developed around the project. Llandaff has accounted for over 25% of new Gift Direct sign ups (230 out of 816) and generated an additional £120k per year.
- Eco Diocese: 25 churches registered, 9 bronze, 5 silver.
- Ryan Forey, Lead Pastor, introduced Citizen Church and its vision by showing its new video.



## Questions

### ***What support is available in 2021 to help parishes recover?***

- Mike Lawley replied that in 2020 with the assistance of additional grant funding by the RB the DBF was able to provide financial support to all parishes. The various support funds should provide some element of replacement income for Ministry Areas from that which has been lost as a result of the pandemic.
- The DBF is grateful to the RB for its financial support to allow the Board to do this. Anyone who is still concerned should contact the diocesan office.
- The DBF will review the 2021 budget for approval at its November meeting. Although this means a delay in the production of Fairer Share information at a Ministry Area level, this will allow the DBF to assess the overall diocesan financial picture and the continued impact of Covid-19.
- The DBF continues to budget significant deficits which we need to reduce in coming years, however it was felt that this year a "standstill" approach should be adopted to assist parishes. The proposal is currently for a 0% increase in cash terms for the share requested to Ministry Areas.

### ***When will recruitment for clergy vacancies start?***

- Bishop June replied that we are starting now: we have started with Vision resources and will recruit clergy as soon as we can - but this must be done well and correctly, bearing in mind the importance of meeting a parish priest face to face interview to get to know them and their suitability for a post.

### ***Will the Year of Pilgrimage continue in 2021?***

- Revd Mark Prevett replied that although our year has gone in unimaginably different ways from what we had expected, we have all been on a pilgrimage. The Year of Pilgrimage itself was always specifically tied to 2020 and so will not continue into 2021 - but pilgrimage remains one of the central expressions of our faith and all are encouraged to continue on pilgrimage as part of personal spirituality, parish ministry, and engaging with others.
- Revd Mark particularly recommended the book ***Britain's Pilgrim Places***, and the excellent resource ***A Home Pilgrimage*** created by Revd Marc Walford, available on the website.

## Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September: Diocesan Conference

The Conference reconvened with morning prayer led by the Rev Dr Angela Cooper, Assistant Curate in the Benefice of the East Vale.

Archdeacon Mike Komor introduced stories of encouragement and hope from communities in lockdown, from food deliveries to online worship, wider community contact to deeper spirituality and prayer, Citizen Church launching their new coffee shop and other expressions of outreach across the Diocese.

Bishop June's Presidential Address called on the Diocese to accelerate Ministry Area plans if parish life is to continue. Bishop June spoke of the need adapt to the financial challenges and change the way we organize ourselves in order sustain our rich Anglican tradition and successfully deliver the Diocesan Vision. Listen to the [Bishop June's full address](#) on our website.



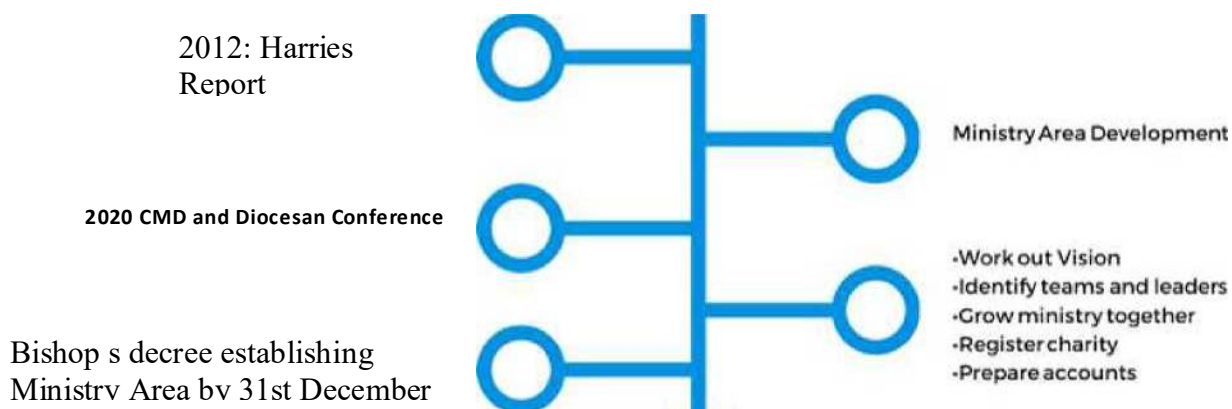
## Ministry Areas

James Laing, Diocesan Secretary, outlined how we will deliver our Vision through Ministry Areas. Each Ministry Area will be united under one mixed lay and clerical leadership team, with a lead cleric and a lead layperson. Resources can be pooled for better effect, and individuals' complementary skills can flourish as each fulfils their own calling.

Ministry Areas will be managed by a Parochial Church Council which is responsible for governance. The PCC should be 10-15 Members in total, with more lay than clergy, led by a leadership team or standing committee. It consists of some appointed members (clergy, lay chair, churchwardens, treasurer, secretary), some elected (from the electoral roll), and some co-opted (to complete any skills gaps). Each MA will have a name which has local resonance and will be a registered charity with a single set of accounts - and the Diocesan staff team will provide support to establish the MA, as well as ongoing liaison to help the MA in its mission and with delivery of Vision resources.

The PCC can be grouped either by geographical area or by activity - such as worship, children's work, property (and church buildings), finances, discipleship, or outreach.

Ministry Areas have been discussed for some years and will be formalised by Bishop's decree by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 at the latest, following the timeline below.



Telling joyful stories, Building our capacity for good, and growing the Kingdom of God together in our communities

## Ministry Areas: Shared Learning

Facilitated by Archdeacon Mike Komor, John Gambles from St Asaph Diocese and Ven Andrew Jones from Bangor Diocese shared their experience of implementing Ministry Areas.

### *Diocese of Bangor*

Following the Harries Report in 2012, by 2014 Diocese of Bangor reduced 193 parishes to 27 Ministry Areas. Bangor defined five qualifying factors to decide parity across the Ministry Areas:

- Population.
- Number of church buildings.
- Parish share
- Secondary school in each Ministry Area
- Potential: Is there a uniqueness in the Ministry Area? E.g. tourism, pilgrimage, etc.



### ***Diocese of St Asaph - Mission Area of Valle Crucis***

St Asaph Diocese gathers 7000 members in 216 churches into 21 Mission Areas, as a means of:

- Deepening Discipleship
- Increasing Participation
- Identifying and developing future leadership
- Extending God's Welcome

Mission Areas emerged from facilitated consultations, and are responsible for governance (as a registered Charity), church buildings, finance, strategic planning for worship and pastoral care.

Under a shared mission, local activities are delegated, and smaller churches protected.

***Diocese of Llandaff - our own experience so far*** The Conference heard from the Parish of Pontypridd and the Benefice of Eglwysilan and Caerphilly of their experiences of establishing Ministry Areas. They both spoke of the benefits of collaboration, building on individual passions, and a growing lay voice in leadership and ministry. The workload is shared, bearing fruits in growth and supporting a variety of ministries, community projects and diverse congregations. Central governance and finance are supported by a dedicated administrator, local church teams, a growing tendency towards task or ministry-focused teams (rather than geography), an investment in flexible, generous relationships and a lot of prayer.

A Q&A session then began with members of Conference asking questions mainly on the practical implementation of Ministry Areas. The main points raised in this session focused on:

Question	Answer
<u>Communication around what qualified as a Ministry Area and who were or were not consulted on this topic.</u>	<u>Area Deans were consulted about drawing the boundaries. Geography, demography, socioeconomic and the number of clergy were also considerations.</u>
<u>Concerns around increased or decreased workload for laity and clergy.</u>	<u>Wellbeing of our clergy will always be a priority and pastoral care will be available to clergy.</u>
<u>Concerns expressed around the protection of distinctive traditional within individual churches.</u>	<u>We have a rich diversity of worship which remain is important to the Diocese and the Ministry Areas will not mean homogenisation.</u>

All questions asked in the chat box will be answered directly in writing and will be included in a forthcoming FAQ page on the Diocesan website.

Conference members then went into breakout rooms by Ministry Area, to discuss what opportunities are presented to their Ministry Areas. Themes emerging from discussions included:

- Opportunities to build wider relationships, pool resources and share ideas.
- Recognising that Ministry Areas are at different stages along the journey, so some may need more support and guidance, others may need assistance in facilitating conversations and building relationships, while others have identified potential ministry to schools and other areas of growth that the MA will make possible.

The Conference ended with Revd Dr Angela Cooper leading the closing prayer.

### **Further information**

Reports, Presidential Address and presentations are available on the Diocesan website.



**Copy date for the next magazine (Christmas / Epiphany) is 10<sup>th</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)

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

### **November 9<sup>th</sup> update**

Broadly, places of worship and community centres can re-open in a similar way to before the firebreak but there are some detailed changes that should be noted:

- **Numbers of people:** The number of people attending a service, wedding or funeral inside a church/place of worship remain dictated by the safe capacity of the building to keep people at 2 metre physical distancing. There is, however, a limit of 15 people attending any organised activity within a community centre (which would include a church hall or church used as a community centre). The limit of 30 people, physically distanced, remains for organised outdoor services.
- **Singing:** Congregational singing is not permitted, as before. There are provisions for limited, organized choral singing set out in the Welsh Government guidance. Where churches already have a choir, you should review carefully the restrictions to consider if you would like to start choral singing in connection with services again. This activity should have a specific risk assessment to show compliance with the guidance. Singing outdoors is permissible with strict social distancing.
- **Funeral and Wedding services** can continue as previously but these remain by invitation only. There is a limit of 15 people attending any reception or wake after such services which should be held in Covid-19 secure premises such as a hotel or community centre.
- **Activities in community centres:** there is greater clarity over the range of activities that can be held in community centres (church halls). Any activity can legally be undertaken as long as it is organised by a club or recognised body within the legal limits on numbers attending (15) and does not include the sale or consumption of alcohol. Social gatherings including parties cannot take place.

**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.**